

## The Parliament Supports President's Nominees as Members of the National Bank of Georgia Council

By Liza Mchedlidze

At the plenary session of the Parliament, MPs voted in favor of the President's nominees for the Board of the National Bank of Georgia: Nana Keinishvili and Teimuraz Khomeriki.

Georgian Dream Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze stated that he had 'heard' that the candidates for membership on the board of the National Bank were summoned to President Salome Zourabichvili and asked to decline their candidacy.

According to Kobakhidze, the "Alliance of the President and the Radical Opposition" is attempting to pull everything and everyone out of the constitutional framework and engage in deliberate sabotage. To prevent this, the majority decided to support the candidates.

"Furthermore, according to our information, these candidates were summoned to the President yesterday and asked to submit statements of refusal. What could be more concerning than such sabotage and pressure? One of the two candidates has a history, and I have been informed about this history... When you hold the position of President in Georgia, you should not stoop as low as Salome Samadashvili. I won't list the names of others," said Kobakhidze.

Archil Talakvadze, a member of the parliamentary majority, also commented, stating that the



Georgian Parliament made the best decision in the interest of citizens and the state by approving the President's nominated candidates for the National Bank.

According to Talakvadze, the expected crisis in the board of the

National Bank of Georgia has been practically prevented.

"The bank continues to operate stably and normally. Yesterday, we saw the United National Movement exerting pressure on the President of Georgia regarding candidate withdrawals. I

want to assure citizens that there is no mechanism for candidate withdrawals outlined in the law and regulations. When the President nominates candidates to Parliament, her role in the process concludes. In full compliance with the law, two

new members were appointed to the Board of the National Bank. I urge citizens to remain calm; there is no reason to panic. The National Bank and the banking system continue to function normally," stated Talakvadze.

## Kakha Kaladze: Sanctions Do Not Restrict Partskhaladze's Property Transfers

By Liza Mchedlidze

Former Chief Prosecutor Otar Partskhaladze, sanctioned by the USA, has transferred 12 properties to his son. These property transfers, as gifts, were completed swiftly on September 20 and included apartments, stores, land, and even a church.

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze was asked for his opinion on this matter, and he stated that, based on his information, the sanctions imposed on Otar Partskhaladze do not restrict property transfers.

"The National Bank has provided explanations, and Turnava has spoken about the decision several times, making everything clear. Above all, we must respect our constitution, our state, our laws, and the people living in this country.

As for the transfer or non-transfer of property, I'm not a lawyer, so delving into those details might be challenging for me. However, to the best of my knowledge, he has the right to do so, and the mentioned sanctions do not restrict property transfers. He could do this at any time. These sanctions were primarily related to financial matters and bank accounts," noted Kaladze.

As for the question of why the procedures related to the termination of citizenship were not initiated earlier and whether it is appropriate to suspend Partskhaladze's Georgian citizenship now, Kaladze responded: "I don't know. The relevant agency is investigating this and it will be analyzed as part of the ongoing investigation."

"In the initial days, the relevant agency made an official statement confirming the initiation of an investigation. Within the scope of this investigation, a decision will be made in accordance with the law and the constitution," Kaladze added.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili met with Jake Sullivan, the National Security Advisor to the President of the United States, to discuss national security matters.

According to the information from the Government of Georgia, the parties reviewed a wide range of issues related to bilat-

eral relations and discussed the steps to be taken in the direction of strengthening the strategic partnership.

"The conversation touched on regional security issues. Irakli Gharibashvili emphasized the importance of united efforts in the face of global challenges.

Furthermore, Gharibashvili and Jake Sullivan discussed Georgia's process of European integration. The Prime Minister stressed that the country's European integration is the top priority of the Georgian government's foreign policy, and the management team is fully committed to achieving

this goal. During the meeting, Gharibashvili also highlighted the significance of the timely arrival of the new United States Ambassador to Georgia. He expressed his welcome for the appointment of Robin Dunnigan as the new ambassador, with whom the Government of Georgia plans to actively and closely cooperate to deepen and strengthen bilateral relations," according to the government's statement.

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze Accuses President Zourabichvili of Pressuring Acting National Bank President Natia Turnava

The Secretary General of Georgian Dream and Mayor of Tbilisi Kakha Kaladze have accused President Salome Zourabichvili of pressuring Natia Turnava, the acting President of the National Bank, after Zourabichvili called on Turnava to resign.

"This is direct pressure on an independent institution, Natia Turnava. The person who should be the first to defend our country's constitution is actually doing everything to insult our state. She disrespects our laws, and there are, of course, many

questions about this individual. The statements we've heard are very serious. You can call it whatever you want.

The population of our country sees how the President of the

country is acting in relation to the constitution and an independent agency. This is a sad reality. However, everything will be sorted out as our country needs," said Kaladze.



EU, EBRD and Sweden boost female entrepreneurship in Georgia



The European Union, together with the European Bank for Re-

construction and Development (EBRD) and Sweden, is unlocking fresh funds for Georgian women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

A US\$20 million EBRD loan to TBC Bank, one of Georgia's larg-

est banks, will further expand TBC's lending to women-led firms, with a focus on financing companies outside the capital city. Borrowers will be able to access funds in Georgian laris or US dollars.

This loan is part of the EBRD's Women in Business (WiB) programme, supported by

the EU and Sweden. WiB aims to boost women's access to finance and entrepreneurship through loans and business advice. As part of the programme,

female entrepreneurs will also benefit from advisory services, mentoring, and training series.

TBC Bank successfully joined the WiB programme back in

2017 with a US\$20 million loan, which is now fully utilised.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, September 22

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 25°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 18°C

Saturday, September 23

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 25°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 15°C

Advertisement for the XV International Festival 'Night Serenades' featuring various artists and orchestras across different dates and locations.

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