
Increase of budget expenditures and the world economic crisis

By Hasmik Dilanyan
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Still at the end of 2008 people in Armenia were predicting that 2009 would be hard economic year. This time the world crisis is guilty. It becomes clear from the words of our officials that there is no need to worry. Moreover, they say 2009 is going to be a year of an 'ambitious budget that will combine the wishes and the opportunities.' In 2009 the judges and MP will be more secure. If everything proceeds according to the predetermined scenario, at the end of the year corruption risks will reduce in Armenia and better laws will be worked out.

At the time when the world financial crisis was storming all over the world, our senior officials were saying Armenia was not concerned. Moreover, upon his return from Washington Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan noted during his meeting with reporters that we could even draw benefits from the world economic crisis. There is no more financial stability on the world economic market. How will it affect the financial stability on the Armenian market? In this regard PM Tigran Sargsyan said: 'We need to maintain the trust in our financial institutions without expectations that are far from reality.'

Latter the main financial document 'the State Budget' was put on discussion. According to officials, it is socially targeted. Right at the moment when the world was searching for ways to overcome the world economic crisis, the expenditures of our state budget increased. Opposition leaders were continuously stating that the budget included no concrete steps for overcoming the world crisis. Instead, it envisaged raise of judges' salary, for example.

Again due to budget allocations, for the first time every MP will have an assistant with the salary of 80 thousand AMD. Chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance-Credit and Budgeting Issues Gagik Minasyan compares the salaries and expenditures of Armenian Deputies with foreign MP, and considers that the opportunities of Armenian MPs are very poor. 'The countries with smaller budget create more favorable conditions for Deputies. In this regard, the adoption of the Law on assistants to Deputies was very fair,' he said.

Will the high salaries and Assistants to MPs contribute to the reduction of corruption risks in our country, elaboration of practically applicable laws, overcoming the world crisis? It's hard to say now.
