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# Preference Will Be Given to Macroeconomic, Financial Stability

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According to the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, in conditions of the global financial and economic crisis, the Armenian government has chosen the following strategy: to give preference to ensuring macroeconomic stability which will raise the country's resistibility to various ordeals, as well as to ensuring financial stability which creates an opportunity to attract investments from the private sector and promote the economic growth by using all the possible instruments. The prime minister stated this at the discussion of the 2009 draft state budget at the National Assembly.

In his words, "we have presented to you an unprecedented list of instruments which have not been used by our government in the past 17 years: to encourage national producers and exporters by giving state guarantees, participating in capital of private enterprises, subsidizing them, and to help them develop business plans".

The prime minister gave his assurance that the government has a definite schedule of implementing these measures, and those responsible for it. He said that the first program that he announced at the National Assembly has already been implemented: the government has allocated 17 billion drams to the Armenian-German Fund for crediting of small and medium business. This money will enable to create thousands of jobs in Armenia in 2009. Besides, all those large-scale projects that the Armenian president announced at the National Assembly recently have also been launched, in particular, the government approved the bill on All-Armenian Bank that will be submitted to the NA soon. The budget of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) envisages resources for establishment of the All-Armenian Bank, and investment and mortgage funds.

The prime minister said that the design of the new nuclear power plant's construction has already begun, and in December the government will report on the first results at the National Assembly. "The railway-related work also started, and we have presented this project to all of our partners and discussed it with international financial organizations," he noted.

Speaking about the preferences of the government, he attached special importance to development of infrastructures, first of all, in energy and agricultural sectors and in water industry. With this aim the government plans to spend at least 900 million dollars and it conducted negotiations with the World Bank, the European Bank and the Asian Development Bank. "We will receive long-term credits on preferential terms for infrastructures. Naturally, by spending money on infrastructures, we will create favorable conditions for economic development," the prime minister underlined.

He pointed out reconstruction work in the earthquake zone as another important measure, on which 77 billion drams will be spent. "Work will start in 2009, tenders for choosing construction firms have been announced. The first stage is over, and the construction organization which won the tender has begun preparatory work," the prime minister announced, adding that nearly 5,000 jobs will be created in Gyumri.

"Our actions will be complex and effective, it means that in 2009 we will hold consultations with international and Armenian NGOs and deputies of the

National Assembly," the prime minister said, noting that the purpose is to "involve them in the implementation of anticrisis measures".

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