
Slush Funds Are Being Raised

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The Armenian economy is going through a recurrent stage of a total rise of prices. Almost everything is getting considerably expensive.

Logically, in this period when less than 5 months are left until the presidential election, the rise of prices does not seem logical because it might cause social protests. In reality, however, a thought-out and calculated combination has been launched. Everyone knows that almost all the branches of the Armenian economy are monopolized. In other words, the economy is divided among a few major businessmen. These businessmen also have to cover the costs of the election campaign of the government's candidates. The peculiarity of the current period is that the presidential election is held a very short period past the parliamentary election. Meanwhile, in the parliamentary election those businessmen spent both on the government and for their own election purposes. In other words, they spent tens or even one hundred million dollars when a few months later they again have to spend. Meanwhile, they now have hardly a few months to get that money back and accumulate more for new costs. In other words, now the consumers are squeezed twice, for the past and the future. This squeezing will last until December because in January the contrary order will be given to the market - to cut the prices.

When the pre-election fund of the government will have been accrued, and the government will be set on the populist mode. Something similar took place last year. An unjustified and illogical rise in prices in December, which the fair economic competition committee suddenly started to attend to in January. The prices were made stable in January and were even pushed down. However, the major businesses had already accumulated slush funds by that time.

Most probably, the same scenario is being performed now. The businesses will be accumulating until New Year. After New Year the fair economic competition commission will wake up. And naturally the government's candidate will wake it up, most probably Serge Sargsyan, who will probably voice concern regarding the rise of prices, and will say it is necessary to make efforts to define and prevent the unjustified tendency of the rise of prices. These efforts will be taken right away, and the prices will go down four to six weeks before the presidential election, considering that the consumers who will become voters in six weeks will appreciate the government's effort. In addition, the same will probably happen to the exchange rate of the dollar. It will probably start going down towards New Year, and after New Year the dollar will start revaluating when the oligarchs will have collected so much cheap dollars from people that it will be enough to hold two presidential elections. As to what will happen to prices during the four years following the presidential election, it should not be even tried to imagine now, not to shatter the country's demography.
