
Kashatagh Region Of Strategic Significance For Armenian Nation : President

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A three day (March 28-30) conference took place in the Berdzor district center of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Kashatagh region, which was devoted to the development of the region.

"This conference, which is devoted to the development of the Kashatagh region, is the first sui generis, and I hope that it will become a basis for holding similar events in the future. It will promote effective solution to the problems existing in the region, as well as realization of programs aimed at its further development", NKR President Bako Sahakian said in his speech made at the opening of the conference.

Meanwhile, he noted that the "Kashatagh region is a unit of strategic significance for the Armenian nation".

"It is no coincidence that within nearly 70 years our enemy turned this territory into a wedge between Armenia and Artsakh. The region's role has deeply changed since May of 1992, and the narrow section liberated in that period became a real "lifeline" for the people of Artsakh. Realizing both political and economic significance of Kashatagh and all the responsibility for its future we have to undertake the region's development, create stable and competitive economy, increase the level of the people's welfare, and improve the people's living conditions. It is today's imperative required by the interests of our national security", Bako Sahakian said.

The head of the Karabakhi state also mentioned that "the existence of strong, developed and populated Kashatagh will create stable background for reinforcement of positions not only in the negotiation process on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, but also on the front line making it more protected and secure".

"This year and in the following years the amount of means assigned for the region's development will considerably increase. The budget of the Kashatagh region in 2008 is 3.7 billion drams, which exceeds the previous year's index by 40% per cent. 1 billion drams is provided for capital construction, 400 million drams is provided for the sphere of capital investment. These tendencies of proportional development will be maintained in the future as well", Bako Sahakian noted.

Meanwhile, the president informed that together with the economic development of the region reforms, aimed at improvement of the population's social condition, were also provided.

Representatives of 40 organizations of the Armenian Diaspora and independent entrepreneurs and benefactors participated in the work of the conference in Berdzor.

Various programs which are to stimulate the complex development of the region, secure stable economic growth, solve education and health care problems, improve demographic situation etc. were presented during the conference.

The attendees visited the region's villages and familiarized themselves with the situation in site.
