
The Most Important Tool In Fighting Corruption

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Prime Minister, Head of Anti-corruption Council Tigran Sargsyan answered the questions of the journalists, during the break of the conference aimed at the discussion of Armenia's international anti-corruption obligations.

"The second stage of the anti-corruption program is the stage of actions. What are you planning to do, what will you start with?"

"First of all it is very important for us to have a program that will be perceptible for our people. We have already elaborated the first part of that program, which has been discussed during the session of the anti-corruption committee. At the moment we are working on the second part of the program, by the participation of the international experts, to bring this program in conformity with the best international practice.

It is very important for us to involve a wide layer of society, opposition representatives in the elaboration, realization and control of this program, to have trust and involvement in this program and the government's activity. This is the only way to gain the trust of our people and to show real results in this field."

"What conditions will be created for the opposition?"

"We have invited the opposition to participate in the works of the monitoring group, which is very important. It is the monitoring group that controls this program, controls the government. All the documents will be accessible for those opposition representatives who will agree to participate in the realization of this program."

"Is this anti-corruption struggle imposed upon Armenia by the West, or it is a personal initiative?"

"I have already announced today that we initiated this anti-corruption program because we are well conscious that it is an evil for our country.

Because it hinders the normal social developments, our economic growth, and jeopardizes the future of our nation. This is the reason why we started this struggle.

I strongly believe we must find our way to fight corruption. A method that will be perceptible for our society, to make a wide layer of society participate in this struggle. This is the only guarantee for success.

It is not a secret that every nation, every state has got its own perception of corruption. The latter is manifested in different ways in different countries and different spheres. We must take into account our peculiarities, the illnesses that we have in the Republic of Armenia; we must be able to give right diagnosis and prescribe the right medicine.

In my view the monitoring that we are going to realize by the participation of the social organizations will provide an opportunity for us to reveal all the ailing spheres and make it a matter of public discussion, to make the society see all the existing problems. By revealing these problems, we will be able to fight corruption by joint efforts. In my view publicity is the principal tool for fighting corruption."

"How do you imagine the participation of the journalists and the Mass Media at the second stage of the implementation of the anti-corruption program?"

"You see there is one very interesting thesis, that I have voiced many times: "if you want to have responsible Mass Media, you must firstly have a responsible government. This means we must be very attentive towards the issues raised by the Mass Media. Naturally it is impossible to solve any issue without Mass Media."
