
Where Is The Secret Of Corruption Hidden?

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Speaking about the anti-corruption struggle initiated by the government Tigran Sargsyan pointed out two spheres.

"In my view the stem of corruption from where we must start if we want to be a success is the sphere of tax and customs bureaucracy. This is the sphere where all the secrets are hidden. Here is the secret of the construction of a democratic society; here is the secret of the ability to hold free and fair elections, issues connected with free rivalry, issues connected with the formation of a normal business atmosphere.

All the bases nourishing corruption are hidden in the spheres of tax and customs bureaucracy. And it is a very profound problem. Therefore we have targeted these two spheres. I believe if we record success in these two spheres during the coming 3 years, believe me after 5 years we will live in a qualitatively different society. It is an illness.

How are we going to solve this problem? How are we going to get rid of this sickness in the tax and customs spheres? We have elaborated a clear program.

The best specialists of the world have participated in the elaboration of this program, for example from New Zealand, a country, which is considered a champion for the low level of corruption. They have already examined our program, our approaches.

What do we need? Firstly this program must be a complex program, which means it must cover all the issues.

Second: this program can't be implemented eclectically, which means we must put into effect all the points of the program.

Third: this program must be a public program and you must follow the process of the implementation of all the points. If we are late in something then we must make a public report and explain the reason why we are late in the implementation of this or that point of the program.

The program that we have already submitted includes certain norms, which will give us the opportunity to exclude corruption risks in tax and customs spheres. They are new rules regarding the behavior of the employees of the tax service, it is the creation of a counter-balance inside the tax service, it is the council formed under the Prime Minister, it is the function of monitoring, which will be implemented in the office very close to the Prime Minister.

The formation of the before mentioned counter-balances, the exclusion of risks and the publicity gives us an opportunity to have qualitative changes in this sphere during the coming 3 years."

As we know one of the requirements of GREKO is to reduce the number of the persons with immunity right. What are we doing in this regard?

According to the Prime Minister: "The clear attitude of the President is to reduce the number of the persons with immunity right, everyone is equal in front of the law. Only a small group of people will enjoy this right, based on political requirement and taking into account the international practice.

Unfortunately in our reality the list of the persons with immunity right is too big. According to the clear stance of the country's President and international experts we must review this list. We completely agree with the position of GREKO regarding this issue.

Can we consider satisfactory the work of the law enforcers in fighting corruption?

"If we say that at the moment corruption is the most serious problem in the Republic of Armenia, this means the problem still exists and we didn't manage to solve this problem together with the law enforcers.

But if we speak about the future, then we must say that the program and the work implemented by the law enforcers at the moment really inspires great hope. I strongly believe very soon our society will see that these steps are really productive."
