
Corruption Volume Of 450m USD Is Inadmissible For Armenia Having Budget Of 2bn USD, Deputy Head Of RA National Security Service General Department Asserts

Noyan Tapan - 9/6/2008

As RA Prosecutor General evaluated, the results of fighting corruption are insufficient in Armenia. "I do not think there will be someone, who will make an attempt to prove that corruption crimes indeed make 1-1.5 percents among general crimes in Armenia: they are considerably more, the fact that we do not disclose and discuss these crimes and people committing them is evidence of our insufficient work," Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepian stated at the consultation on the subject Prevention, Disclosure and Discussion of Corruption Crimes held in Vanadzor.

According to the data of Tigran Aghajanian, the Deputy Head of the RA National Security Service General Department, according to the analysis of international experts, corruption makes 5% GDP in Armenia that is among countries with transitional economy, according to official data, in 2007 GDP made 9bn USD, the above mentioned 5 percents made 450m USD. "In a country, the budget of which makes 2bn, the above mentioned corruption volume in drams and percentage is inadmissible proceeding from elementary economic principles," T. Aghajanian stated. He also said that the main factor contributing to corruption is shortcomings in legislative norms, which permit unconscientious officials to act to the detriment of state interests.

Legislative loop-holes are a legal obstacle and directly impede crimes' disclosure and prevention. In the process of distribution of budget resources, in particular, the sphere of state purchases is not free of corruption phenomena, either, moreover, analyses show that there are post-financial phenomena in the sphere, the rates of which fluctuate between 7-10 percents, as well as monopoly organizations acting under patronage have been formed. The representative of the National Security Service said that comparative analyses show that the state purchases volume has a tendency of growing: the volume made 55bn drams in 2006, 100bn drams in 2007, while in 2008 it will exceed 100bn.

A. Osikian, the Deputy Head of the State Tax Service under the RA government, said that after introduction of practice of declaring RA citizens's property and incomes 5000 people have been called to account for violations of requirements of law. According to the representative of the Tax Service, the law does not ensure inclusion of proper circle of people introducing a declaration: not all officials introduce a declaration, a state official can register property got as a result of abuse of state position by the names of his relatives, friends, other people, who are not to introduce a declaration by the law.

The representative of the Tax Service also said that an official examination to 160 tax servants was held in 2007, 132 were held in 2008. By the results of the examination, 292 tax servants were called for disciplinary liability, 58 out of which were called for material liability, 5 were dismissed from job.

In the words of the RA Prosecutor General, according to the data of the first quarter of 2008, 51 cases connected with corruption are examined: 11 in the Lori region, 2 cases in the Tavush region, 2 in the Gegharkunik region, 1 in the Vayots Dzor and Shirak regions, no case connected with corruption has been instituted in the Kotayk, Armavir, Aragatsotn regions.
