
Is Armenia's Economy Free?

Marlena Hovsepyan

"Radiolur"

17/01/2007

Guests of the Friday Club ex-Prime Minister Khosrov Harutyunyan and MP, economist Tatul Manasaryan spoke about the annual report worked out by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal. According to the report, Armenia's economy is the 32nd freest in the world.

The Heritage Foundation is a respected non-governmental structure, and many countries build long-term policies based on such reports. Considering all this, Khosrov Harutyunyan supposes that the report is not far from reality.

Economist Tatul Manasaryan considers that the data issued by such organizations are mainly provided by Armenia, and these do not go far from statistical data of the Soviet Union.

"Isn't it paradoxical that European states, the US and Japan register 1-4% economic growth, while the number is a double-digit one in Armenia?" the Deputy asks. He made a rather curious statement. "The senior leadership of Armenia receives misinformation about real state of economy. RA President is not informed about the reality.

Khosrov Harutyunyan agrees that our reality is not perfect and will still keep to be imperfect for a long period of time. However, according to him, one should not neglect the fact that on behalf of the Heritage Foundation the international community registers that Armenia has greatly advanced as it regards institutional reforms, democratization of public life and provision of guarantees.

"If Bulgaria is 62nd and Romania is 65th, it does not mean that the living conditions are worse there. The question refers to the guarantees provided by economic institutions to secure normal public life and dynamic development," he said.

In Khosrov Harutyunyan's words, this report should be considered as a serious assessment and should be taken as a basis for elaboration of a long-term policy.
