
ARF Launches Anti-Emigration Campaign

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Campaign called "We Will Live in Our Country" aims to curb depopulation of Armenia.

YEREVAN (Arka)-Rampant emigration from Armenia is depopulating the country, putting the country's national security in jeopardy, Armen Rustamian, the head of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's Parliamentary bloc, said Tuesday at a press conference. The press conference was being held to present the party's new campaign called "We Will Live in Our Country."

Rustamian pointed out that the most immediate threat of depopulation is the shortage of conscripts in the Armenian army.

"There are gaps also in other areas," he said. The program consists of 11 parts, targeting various areas, including economy, politics, and education.

In its program, the ARF proposes to separate business and politics, to pursue a just human resources policy, to make officials' activities more transparent and accountable, to provide young people with room for putting their ambitions into reality, to create new jobs, to make tax and customs policy more predictable, to spur investments, to carry out a transition from social to industrial agriculture and to increase the quality and availability of education.

Rustamian said the Armenian Revolutionary Federation embarked on this program a few months ago.

"We have held a series of substantial discussions on various professional platforms, and we need to start a new phase now," he said, adding that discussions will continue and stressing that this campaign is not an ordinary project of the party, but rather the party's national plan.

The party leader also said that the ARF is willing to cooperate with all parties in implementing this program.

"The authorities should understand that the continuation of this situation means self-destruction, and we hope there are people who understand this among officials," he said.

Armenia's population has contracted by 15,000 people since the beginning of this year. Armenian citizens crossed the country's borders 702,525 times, 298,146 times arriving in it and 404,397 times departing.

It means 106,233 Armenians remained abroad in January to June, 2013, compared to 73,451 in January to June, 2012.

According to June 2013 reports, there were 3,011,900 citizens in the country then, of which 1,904,400 lived in cities and 1,107,500 in rural areas.

<http://asbarez.com/113973/arf-launches-anti-emigration-campaign/>

Dashnaktsutiun: Armenia's National Security Jeopardized By Growing Migration

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YEREVAN - Migration has loomed large and diluted Armenia creating threat to the country's national security, Armen Rustamyan, the head of Armenian Revolutionary Federation / Dashnaktsutiun party's faction in the National Assembly, said Tuesday at a meeting with journalists held for presenting the party's social program called We will Live in Our Country.

He also pointed out the shortage of conscripts in the Armenian army.

"There are gaps also in other areas," he said.

The program consists of 11 sections targeting various areas, including economy, politics and education.

In its program, Dashnaktsutiun party proposes to separate business and politics, to pursue a just human resources policy, to make officials' activities more transparent and accountable, to provide young people with room for putting their ambitions into reality, to create new jobs, to make tax and customs policy more predictable, to spur investments, to carry out a transition from social to industrial agriculture and to increase quality and availability of education.

Rustamyan said the Armenian Revolutionary Federation / Dashnaktsutiun embarked on this program a few months ago.

"We have held a series of substantial discussions on various professional platforms, and we need to start a new stage now," he said adding that discussions will be continue on other platforms and stressing that this document is not an ordinary project of the party - it claims the status of the national program.

The head of the faction also said that the party is willing to cooperate with different, not only opposition parties in implementing this program.

"The authorities should understand that continuation of this situation means self-destruction, and we hope there are people understanding this also among officials," he said.

Armenia's population has contracted by 15,000 people since the beginning of this year. Armenian citizens crossed the country's borders 702, 525 times, of which 298,146 times for arriving in it and 404,397 times for departing it.

It means 106,233 remained abroad in Jan-June 2013 against 73,451 in Jan-June 2012.

According to June 2013 reports there were 3,011,900 citizens in the country then, of which 1,904,400 lived in cities and 1,107,500 in rural areas.

http://arka.am/en/news/politics/dashnaktsutiun_armenia_s_national_security_jeopardized_by_growing_migration/

Rethinking Migration: Dashnaks Say National Security At Risk; Introduce Measures To Stop Outflow

By GAYANE MKRTCHYAN

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The new project "We Are Going to Live in Our Country", developed by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dashnaktsutyun, aims at suspending the alarmingly growing migration rates, which experts say threaten the national security of Armenia.

Armen Rustamyan, Armenian Revolutionary Party (ARF) faction member, says Armenia has always had high migration rates, however, the dynamics has changed over the years, causing serious demographic issues.

"Migration is a complex issue, reflecting all the shortcomings, failures, mistakes we have made since independence and have been unable to solve them. It would be wrong to wait for power turnover then take up that issue. Urgent steps have to be made today, now.

Migration is like hemorrhage for the body, it has to be stopped right away, so that the body can start recuperation," says Rustamyan.

The project consists of 11 main points embracing all the fundamental spheres of life.

ARF MP Artsvik Minasyan says the project suggests that first of all business and politics be separated, new employment opportunities be created with fair payment system, predictable tax and customs policies, shift from social to industrial agriculture. It also provides for making education more affordable and turning its management system apolitical, introducing compulsory medical insurance, raising the level of national security.

"We suggest that those officials be replaced who exhibit anti-Christian, anti-humanity behavior, stirring obvious negative public sentiments; restrictions be set for public servants, such as - a public servant has no right to show up at a casino, purchase real estate or make any other investments outside the country during his/her tenure; in the personnel policy appointments by party affiliation be ruled out, with the exception of separate state positions," details Minasyan.

To the question who among the officials they see as deserving of replacement, Dashnaks say they have decided not to disclose any names, because the main responsibility for the project implementation is on the authorities and the authorities tend to start protecting those people whose names get voiced. "For that reason we have left that part to wait until the last stage of discussions of the project drafted on the basis of common sense. Then we will submit it to the authorities along with a package with names and positions of those evoking negative public sentiments in Armenia," says Minasyan.

It takes cooperation to carry out any project, they say, which does not mean, however, they are returning to coalition.

"If we set a goal to raise the governance efficiency in the country, and levers of supervision have to be handed to the opposition, then that's cooperation too - cooperation for the sake of the development of our state,

however, not guided by the principle of coalitional administration," explains Minasyan.

Dashnaks say the government has to assume liabilities in the project implementation, while the opposition, media, civil society, the church, Diaspora, intelligentsia, the youth - all have their share of work to do.

The State Migration Service data for the first term of 2013 shows that the number of those departing from Armenia exceeded that of the arrivals by 95,000. The greater share of departures (617,411) and arrivals (563,931) was by automobile transport, the negative balance was 53,480. The respective numbers for air transport was 390,996 and 350,342, with the negative balance being 40,654. The numbers of arrival/departures by buses and minibuses were 8,574 and 7,696 respectively, hence the negative balance made 878 people.

http://armenianow.com/society/48564/migration_armenia_dashnaksutyun_armen_rustamyam
