



WEEKLY NEWS

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approved today the macro-economic and fiscal framework over 2010-2012 period. Premier Berisha highlighted the fact that Albania has not been affected by the global financial crisis. *(continues page 2)*

Albanian Government to present application for EU membership candidate country status

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Government approves establishment of Institute for research of communist regime crimes and repercussions in Albania

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- Premier Berisha: We will offer expropriations funds for Tirana big ring road construction

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Prime Minister Sali Berisha and his wife began the New Year 2009 with the best wishes for the newborns at "Queen Geraldine" Maternity Hospital



The Minister of Health Anila Godo was accompanying the prime minister on this visit of extending congratulations. While greeting the young mothers who delivered babies in the first minutes of the New Year 2009, Premier Berisha wished for a year of good fortune of children getting grown up happily with their parents; he also wished them good health and well-being.

"I began the first day of the New Year with a wish for the newborns of this year.

The child is the fortune of the family and society. Hence, I take this opportunity to congratulate the families of the mothers who delivered the first children today and to wish all the Albanian families a year of good fortune, joy, a year of successes and naturally a year of victories because victory is part of the good fortune."

Accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Liri Berisha and Minister of Health Anila Godo, Premier Berisha visited further the maternity ward of abandoned children in the premises of the "Queen Geraldine" Maternity Hospital and he inquired about their health and treatment.

Press Statement of Prime Minister Spokeswoman, Juela Meçani

Premier Berisha is continuously following the situation caused by bad weather in the north, northeast and south of the country. Premier Berisha has ordered the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of



Public Works, as well as Ministry of Defense to take all the necessary measures to guarantee the movement of vehicles in key national axes and offer the necessary help to cut off communes.

Likewise, Premier Berisha has ordered several well-equipped units of Rapid Intervention Forces, Engineering and Civil Emergencies to deploy in the blocked areas and national road axes to guarantee the

vehicles movement. The situation in these areas is under control.

Strategic Planning Committee approves 2010-2012 macro-economic and fiscal frameworks

Prime Minister Sali Berisha chaired the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee that approved today the macro-economic and



fiscal framework over 2010-2012 period. Premier Berisha highlighted the fact that Albania has not been affected by the global financial crisis. Further on, the premier focused on some guidelines imposed by the new conditions.

The premier evaluated that Albania is in the right track about these trends and he demanded these are also reflected in the macroeconomic and fiscal framework 2010-2012.

During the discussion of the macro-economic and fiscal framework 2010-2012, the premier demanded from the Ministry of Finance to work on the basis of the indicators provided by the Institute of Statistics, the legal relevant body for their estimation. While drawing the attention of the Ministry of Finance that it is not the institution that calculates the economic growth, Premier Berisha said that this government department should make use of the data INSTAT has provided.

Premier Berisha: We will offer expropriations funds for Tirana big ring road construction

During the meeting of Strategies Planning Committee, Prime Minister Sali Berisha said that Tirana city hall will be offered the possibility to carry out expropriations for construction of Tirana big ring road, and if the municipality fails to provide a loan due to its miserable fiscal performance, government will deal with its construction.

Considering Tirana ring road extremely important for the capital, Premier Berisha stressed that the construction project, worth about 300 million euro, will not be postponed.

Government proposes to Parliament project on a museum about communism crimes and atrocities

The Council of Ministers is set to forward to the Parliament the project on building the museum about communism crimes and



atrocities. Prime Minister Sali Berisha said that building of such a museum would help the Albanian society to memorize the terrible tragedy it suffered. Likewise, Premier Berisha demanded from the minister of culture to organize at the venues of the National Museum an exhibition on the communist violence in Albania.

Premier Berisha: An obelisk to remind thousands of Albanian citizens martyred for freedom we enjoy today

The Council of Ministers approved in its routine meeting the draft law about forwarding to the Parliament the project on erection of an obelisk in honor of the



communist regime victims. Premier Berisha ordered the minister of culture to hold an international competition for employing the greatest European and world architects to build the obelisk which, as the premier put it, will be placed in front of the pyramid of the former dictator.

Premier Berisha: February 20, a day in honor of communist regime victims

During the meeting of the Council of Ministers, Prime Minister Sali Berisha said that February 20 will be marked as the Day of commemoration of the communist regime victims. While forwarding this initiative at the meeting of the government, Premier Berisha said that February 20 is the day of triumph of courage to really topple the alive and dead busts of the dictatorship.

Premier Berisha considered February 20 as the day that made Albania have a real opposition.

Government approves establishment of Institute for research of communist regime crimes and repercussions in Albania

Prime Minister Sali Berisha presented today at the meeting of the Council of Ministers the draft law about establishment of the Institute for research of communist regime crimes and



repercussions in Albania. Premier Berisha considered this initiative an effort to remember and not forget the violence, suffering and pain that this regime caused to the Albanians.

While referring to article 4 of this draft law, Premier Berisha unveiled the main tasks this institute will have:

- It studies and objectively assesses the communist regime period. It identifies the legal and sub-legal acts, secret and non-secret, drafted and approved by all the institutions, the state and constitutional authorities which have served as the basis of organization and functioning of all the repressive apparatus of the communist regime;
- It studies and objectively assesses the institutional, organization and building as well as the anti-democratic and criminal activity of the state structures of the communist regime, especially of the state security organs;
- It analysis the reasons and ways of establishment of the communist regime, documents which confirm involvement of Albanian citizens, but even of the foreigners, in support of introduction of this regime and of the people who staged a resistance against it from the historical viewpoint;
- It collects data, documents and evidence that cast a light to the activity of state security, the different ways of persecutions and resistance to it as well as all the activities that have led to violence of fundamental human rights and freedoms during the communist regime;
- It identifies the responsible persons who have been part of the relevant decision-taking organs and authorities for the communist propaganda, the administrative acts and decisions which have directly or indirectly taken to repressive actions in the social and cultural life, the class struggle included, collectivization, fight against religion, isolation from the West, the impossibility to get informed, censorship of art, culture, science as well as restriction of food supply, food-ration cards, the starvation provoked and its consequences;

-To inform the public about the crimes and the other repercussions of the class struggle, to systemize and publish memoirs of the political prisoners in the jails and concentration camps, to process electronically all the documentation and communist regime crimes;
- To publish and spread the materials in writing through an electronic way and to organize exhibitions, workshops, conferences and discussions on communism crimes and its repercussions in Albania;
-To cooperate with the research, cultural and educational institutions and other institutions targeting to exchange information and experience about the target of the activity of the Institute;
-It cooperates with the relevant education institutions about involvement into the school educational curricula of sufficient information on communism crimes and its repercussions in Albania.

Premier Berisha emphasized that the Institute has an academic and educational aspect targeting to educate and help the society to memorize one of the greatest evils it lived through its history, an anti-national, anti-human and anti-democratic system that cost to the Albanians in modern times an extremely high price for their life and human dignity.

Premier Berisha calls on Albanian citizens to start applying for ID cards

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers Prime Minister Sali Berisha appealed to all Albanian citizens over the age of 18 to apply for the new ID cards. "Receiving the ID cards is a very special moment for each of us, because we receive the most modern document like all European citizens", said the Premier. PM Berisha stressed that receiving the ID cards is also a contribution the citizens themselves can give to the conduct of free and fair elections. Further on, Premier Berisha said that, "The prices for the ID cards are low while for the passport it is somewhat different". GoA will forward Albania demand for the candidate status into the EU.

Albanian Government to present application for EU membership candidate country status

Prime Minister Berisha received today the ambassador of Czech Republic to Tirana, Marketa Fialkova, on occasion of receiving EU rotating Presidency by Czech Republic for the period January 1- June 30, 2009.



Heartily welcoming her, Premier Berisha expressed to Ambassador Fialkova his personal and Albanian government gratitude for the special importance shown by EU Czech Presidency to Western Balkans and its European Perspective. Cordially thanking for the reception, Czech Ambassador to Tirana informed Berisha that in the 2009 first six month period the Czech Presidency will pay special attention to European integration of Western Balkan countries, considering the EU enlargement one of the key priorities of the Presidency. Later on, the Czech Republic Ambassador to Tirana praised the important reforms and achievements of Albanian government during this period, particularly during year 2008, which were reflected also in latest EC Progress Report.

Premier Berisha: Today marks end of transition phase of Albanian economy

The government of Albania (GoA) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed today the letter of good understanding to approval of the sixth and final review of the 3 year arrangement with IMF.



The document was signed at the venues of the Council of Ministers by Prime Minister Sali Berisha, Minister of Finance Ridvan Bode, and Governor of the Bank of Albania Ardian Fullani and in the presence of Ms. K. Ann-Margret Westin, Resident Representative of IMF to Albania.

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund in Washington is expected to approve this document by the end of January as the 3 year arrangement of Albania with IMF concludes. Following signing of the document, Premier Berisha said that today marks the end of transition phase of the Albanian economy.

Premier Berisha praised the signing of this document at a special moment that successfully concludes a program to promote a new cooperation with the IMF. On this occasion, Premier Berisha expressed thanks for the very worthy assistance of the IMF to consolidate the best practices in the institutions, thus encouraging the government of Albania toward big privatizations.

Ms. K. Ann-Margret Westin, Resident Representative of IMF in Tirana said that Albania has actually joined the developing countries through assuring further continuation of support.

On his part, Minister of Finance Ridvam Bode highlighted that the progress made during



Premier Berisha pays a visit to Kuksi hospital

implementation of the recent 3 year arrangement with the IMF paved the way to transfer into this higher level of relations with the IMF.

The Governor of the Bank of Albania Ardian Fullani appreciated the building of the necessary structure and infrastructure for a democratic state as an important achievement in the framework of the close cooperation with the IMF in Albania and he pointed to the exchange rate systems in the Bank.

Premier Berisha: We shall help every citizen all over Albania

Prime Minister Sali Berisha held a visit today at the Northeastern areas of the country to get acquainted from very close with the created situation



because of bad weather and the measures taken to handle with this situation.

The premier stopped off in Peshkopi in the beginning and met with numerous residents and listened to their concerns. The premier held a meeting at the municipality premises with the local leaders and representatives of the local emergency staff and got to know the situation of road movement, the supply with food articles and the medical emergencies of these areas.

The premier said there should be envisaged the food and the medical reserves as well as the movement along the roads and the emergency aid. But, he drew the attention that the life of people should be the top priority.

The premier congratulated the local citizens for the job done to cope with the situation and keeping the normality of life over these areas. He added that the government has been following with great attention and constantly the situation. I have constantly followed the created situation in Dibra, Kuksi and other regions that faced problems. The central Emergency Staff headed by Deputy Prime Minister Genc Pollo has been created and we are constantly following the situation, said the premier.

Premier Berisha said that the Emergency Staff will provide funds for every commune so that these winter difficulties to be overcome. However, the premier also pointed to the other positive benefits regarding rainwater. Speaking about the school attendance, the premier suggested transportation in groups of the pupils in the blocked areas.

During his stay in Kuks town, Prime Minister Sali Berisha paid a visit even to the local hospital to see from very close the condition of the patients admitted to this



hospital. The premier praised the great job of the doctors of this hospital during these difficult days because of the created situation from snowfall and rainfall. Premier Berisha assured that the government is making all efforts to facilitate the life of the citizens in these areas. But, snowfall in wintertime has also great benefits.