



WEEKLY NEWS

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Premier Berisha: Government decision for providing loans for 3 000 families living in former-owners houses ready

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Premier Berisha meets President of Slovenia, Danilo Türk

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exhibition, an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, unveils documents and shocking photos which testify persecutions, manipulated court processes, barbarian executions and endless sufferings of former-inmates and politically persecuted. The premier evaluated the great job the curators of the exhibition made and highlighted that these materials are just small pieces on the rivers of pain and sacrifice of the Albanian citizens for the free speech and initiative, trust in God, the divine and human values of the individual and of the society. Premier Berisha said that on this day we remind the resistance of tens and thousands of Albanians who kept alive the flames of freedom and its hope in the prison cells, in the graves without epitaph. February 20 was chosen not by accident to honor them because that day marked their triumph; it was the crowning of their victory over the dead or alive “monuments”. The premier underlined that in several aspects, Albania is just at the beginning of a process of condemnation of the crimes against humanity.

Premier Berisha: Government decision for providing loans for 3 000 families living in former-owners houses ready

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government is preparing to keep one of its promises to provide 3000 families living in the houses of the former owners with credits for house buying .The Premier said that this electoral promise has been realized. All measures are undertaken and the implementation of this decision will begin as soon as possible, because all the respective documentation is ready. Likewise, the Premier informed that the law on sites in use will be brought in parliament soon. The Premier said that through this decision, the government was trying to give solution to the complicated property problems in Albania.

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undertaken in Albania. Albania has now passed the transition period and is experiencing Euro-Atlantic integration, as a necessary process, where you will have all the support and help of Albania. Slovenian President voiced the support for all the reforms and efforts of Albania for integration and coming closer to EU standards.

Premier Berisha thanked President Türk for support of Slovenia in ratification Albania’s NATO Accession Protocol, considering it a very historical moment for Albanai. European Union integration is another historic project for our country, and government has undertaken deep reforms to realize this goal, said the Premier. During the conversation, Premier Berisha made a panorama of the efforts and achievements in fight against organized crime and corruption, informality and creation of a favorable business climate.

Premier Berisha added that government has made deep investments in infrastructure and in three-four years aims at creating a new road network of highest European standards. Further on, Premier Berisha focused on the potentials that Albania offers to investors, especially in the field of hydro energy, where in 18 months were invested 3, 5 billion euro for 50 signed contracts. The Premier focused also on the field of tourism, where Albania offers numerous possibilities. Every investment of Slovenian businessmen will be welcomed and supported by the government, assured Premier Berisha.

President Türk said that Slovenian business must be very present in Albania, due to the good climate created by the government. Thus, in this visit I am accompanied by a big delegation of Slovenian businessmen, Turk added. Slovenian President showed interest for project of Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), as the most efficient and profitable project for gas supply. He got interested also for the project of construction of a nuclear regional plant. Premier Berisha expressed full commitment of government for realization of these two important projects in the field of energy.

Council of Ministers approves decision for transfer into property of the lands in use

During the routine meeting, Council of Ministers approved the decision “On transfer into property of the lands in use”. During the meeting, PM Berisha considered this decision very important in relation to property reform. Further on, the Premier stressed that this has been an absurd standard, and this decision gives a quick solution to this issue.

Premier Berisha: NATO Membership Protocol Ratification testifies greatest trust and estimation toward Albanians and their government

Premier Berisha held today a news conference, where he hailed the completion of process of Albania’s NATO protocol membership ratification by 26 member countries. He considered it a culminating act of the Albania’s relations with free world.



Following is the statement of Premier Berisha at the news conference:

“I am here to hail a culminating act of the Albania’s relations with free world, an act which after the Independence of a country consists of the greatest event for a nation in the field of security, act of completion of process of Albania’s NATO protocol membership ratification by 26 member countries. In a short period of time, the Parliaments, Senates and Governments of 26 NATO member countries ratified the Protocol of Albania’s Accession into NATO. I want express the deepest gratitude and most cordial thanks to governments, parliaments and nations of these countries for the great trust and great estimation testified to Albania and Albanians, results, their efforts in building a free society, market economy and a deep reform of Armed Forces. Albania’s NATO protocol membership ratification and completion of this process at a record time testifies an unprecedented level of trust to Albania from most powerful and developed countries of the planet. NATO is the alliance of freedom, alliance of free nations. The fundamental criteria of this alliance are criteria of rule of law, free society, and market economy. The finalization of Albania’s NATO protocol membership ratification within a period of 6 month and 10 days, it is testimony of great estimation for efforts of Albania in establishment of rule of law, market economy,

estimation for its role for peace and stability in the region and in the world, estimation for its loyal cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance. In 2005, none, even the most optimistic person, could predict that Albania, within my first mandate, would complete the NATO Membership Protocol. In my electoral program I promised to Albanians the NATO membership, but not the finalization of the process, because there were certain walls hampering this process for Albania. There is no doubt that this process would have been completely impossible without the extraordinary support of President George Bush and U.S. government, Senate and Congress of the greatest nation of freedom gave to Albanians, without the support, trust of other NATO allies. But, there is no doubt that this process of invitation to join NATO and the quick ratification would have been completely impossible without the success of reforms of my government in all the fields. The NATO invitation for Albania and the finalization of the Albania’s NATO protocol membership ratification was made possible thanks to all-sided reforms of this government. The success of these reforms was made possible thanks to fight with zero tolerance against organized crime, fight without compromises of the system of cleptocracy, loyal cooperation with opposition and respect for freedoms and human rights in Albania, fight against corruption, success of reforms in business climate, enlargement of participation of Albania in peacekeeping missions in Asia, Africa and other areas, as well as fundamental change of Albania. Thus, I emphasize once again, Albania’s NATO Membership Protocol Ratification by 26 member countries testifies greatest trust and estimation toward Albanians and my government, and I want to guarantee them that I take it as the highest responsibility, I transcript it as the highest scale of responsibility to further deepen the reforms and to continue to consolidate in Albania freedom and its values, to further reform and modernize our Armed Forces, so that they could successfully face all the obligations deriving from NATO membership in order to further extend regional cooperation, as an extraordinary important factor for peace and stability in the region and to participate in all the necessary NATO operations and to meet with dignity all the obligations deriving from this membership. Once again, I would like to congratulate every Albanian for this great historic achievement, I congratulate Albanians wherever they are for the trust and great estimation that free nations, their governments, parliaments testified with the ratification of the Protocol of Albania’s Membership into NATO. I want to express my gratitude to all member countries, North Atlantic Alliance, NATO Secretary General, Scheffer, all the teams that with devotion helped Albania in realization of deep reforms, which enabled this major act”.

Premier Berisha: In one year, Kosova has been a factor of peace, stability and regional cooperation and wider

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Congresses. Premier Berisha conveyed to all Kosova citizens the friendliest wishes on this great day, whereas highly estimated the work and dedication of Kosovar citizens in the course of this year. In one year life, the independent state of Kosova has been a state of equal citizens before the law, whereas Kosova institutions have been committed to freedom and rights of the minorities, said the Premier. The Premier stressed that Independence of Kosova has made the Balkans more stable, has made Europe more stable and it is a great contribution to peace, stability in the Balkans and Europe.

Premier Berisha receives British Minister of State for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing at the Home Office, Vernon Coaker

Premier Berisha received British Minister of State for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing at the Home Office, Vernon Coaker.



Welcoming the guest, Premier Berisha thanked minister Coaker and through him Premier Gordon Brawn and government of United Kingdom for the help and great support given to Albanian government and Albania in establishing rule of law, market economy, as well as Albania's membership to NATO and EU. Likewise, Premier Berisha thanked Home Ministry for precious help given to Albanian police in delicate fields, such as modern laboratories of criminological analyses, including DNA identification, treatment and storing of sequestered narcotics, cooperation between two countries in extradition and repatriation, cooperation in the framework of PAMECA and SOCA. Minister Coaker praised the excellent relations and close links of cooperation between two governments.

He emphasized the evident achievements of Albanian government in fight against crime. Minister Coaker informed Premier Berisha that his visit aims at confirming these excellent relations, and re-expressing to Premier Berisha the full support of British government for reforms and full NATO membership, as well as further steps toward EU integration. During the meeting, Minister Coaker was interested also in law on lustration. Premier Berisha underlined that law on lustration aims at distancing us from this painful past, but yesterday a grave event happened.

Premier Berisha congratulates Premier Thaçi on First Anniversary of Independence of Kosova

On occasion of First Anniversary of Independence of Kosova, Premier Berisha sent today a congratulations message to Prime Minister of Kosova, Mr. Hashim Thaçi.

"Honored Mr. Prime Minister,

On occasion of First Anniversary of Independence of Republic of Kosova, I have the special pleasure to convey my most heartily and sincere congratulations to You, Your government, and Kosova citizens.

In his first year, the new independent state of Kosova has made great and admirable steps towards strengthening of the rule of law, equality of Kosova citizens before law, respect for freedom and rights of minorities, development of market economy and consolidation of regional and international cooperation. The free and independent Kosova has been recognized and has earned the respect of all countries of the free world, and other friendly countries in all continents are planning to recognize its independence. I avail myself of the occasion to express my deepest estimation and gratitude to Your contribution in successful consolidation of the independence of Kosova, its transformation into an important factor of peace and stability in the region. I believe we share same opinion that after February 17, 2008, fraternal relations between Albania and Kosova have entered a new stage of cooperation in the interest of the two countries and our nation, consolidation of cooperation in the region, as well as in the interest of our common vision for the integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures. On this occasion, I personally and the government I head will stand by you to jointly faces challenges ahead. Albania will stand with its all capacities by Kosova, as it has always done, despite of the challenges it may face. We have already undertaken a series of measures so that our cooperation serves to the major goal that Albania and Kosova both confidently move ahead towards consolidation of democratic institutions, economic development, and regional and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Confirming my maximal support and will for a closer cooperation with you, accept Mr. Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration”.

*Most cordially
Sali BERISHA”*

Premier Berisha: We shall wage constant battle until Albania separates from communism crimes in framework of rule of law principles

During the meeting of the Democratic Party parliamentary group, Prime Minister Sali



Berisha spoke about the Constitutional Court ruling to suspend Lustration Law enforcement until the ruling would go in force.

The premier considered the ruling as “extremely grave” as the Constitutional Court judges took a decision while being in open conflict of interest, in flagrant violation of all the standards of a free country.

The premier said that the law was subject of discussions with the international institutions and it was agreed that modalities should be found so that the Constitutional Court, beyond any conflict of interest, would have a say about the law.

The Constitutional Court, said the premier, personalized the case, while the government had as its target the condemnation of the crimes committed against humanity under communism. Speaking about the stand the ruling majority adopted in the face of the Constitutional Court ruling, the premier said that it will never give up the condemnation of crimes against humanity.

But, on the other hand, emphasized the premier, the ruling of the Constitutional Court will be observed, as it cannot be turned down, although it is absurd and taken in open conflict of interest.

Premier Berisha chairs Task Force meeting on Regulatory Reform

Premier Berisha chaired the meeting of Task Force on Regulatory Reform. Collection of local taxes and



acceleration of e-tax payment procedures, completion of city planning for the country's largest cities, and cooperation between the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency and the Real Estate Registry Office were on the focus of a meeting of the Task Force on Regulatory Reform chaired by Prime Minister Sali Berisha. Premier Berisha urged the Ministry of finance issue new orders on collection of local taxes only through e-tax system. The Premier asked also the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications to urge Tirana Municipality authorities submit the city planning of Tirana at KRTSH for approval, as well as called also on local authorities of the country's largest municipalities to accelerate preparation of the city planning designs for their cities, as a key condition that will considerably contribute to an improved business climate in the country. Likewise, Premier Berisha urged the Ministry of Justice to review all the procedures of the co-functioning of Immovable Properties Registration Office and Agency of Property Restitution and Compensation, as well as to intervene in Civil Code in order to precise the implementation of contracts.