



WEEKLY NEWS

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Premier Berisha congratulates Albanian teachers on occasion of March 7

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During his address at a meeting organized in the premise of Palace of Congresses on this occasion, Premier Berisha said that school is the second warm family, hearth of knowledge and professional education of our children. *(continues page 2)*



Premier Berisha: Albania gateway to EU is open to a candidate status requirement within Czech presidency

Premier Berisha said he supports the opposition proposal for lifting coercive measures for providing ID cards to citizens in possession of a passport. Speaking about the Municipal Council failing to approve Tirana draft budget...

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Premier Berisha: Legalization issue solution, a decisive condition of property reform

Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended today the ceremony of legalization permits issue for several formalized objects.

In his speech delivered on this occasion, Premier Berisha said that the government has built the friendliest legal approach to this phenomenon.

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Premier Berisha proposes Ardian Turku in the post of Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports

Prime Minister of Republic of Albania, Sali Berisha proposed Mr. Ardian Turku in the office of Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports ...

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address at a meeting organized in the premise of Palace of Congresses on this occasion, Premier Berisha said that school is the second warm family, hearth of knowledge and professional education of our children. He expressed the deepest respect and admiration of Albanian government for teachers, professors, who contributed in education of Albanian children. Focusing on the kept of promise of doubling the salaries for teachers within the first mandate of this government, Premier Berisha said that every teacher of this country was sure that on May 1, 2009, his salary will be twice higher than in 2005. Likewise, the Premier pledged that during the second mandate, teacher will be on the merited pedestal and our motto will be increase of salaries and other job opportunities, qualification, housing. "In the next four years, salaries will increase as much as in the first mandate", the Premier said.

Premier Berisha: This is a week of trust of international business community in Albania economy

Prime Minister Sali Berisha said today during meeting of the Council of Ministers that the positive developments of the recent week, the privatization of the Albania's power distributor; the sale of government 12% of AMC stake and getting of Euro 250 million credit by the big international banks-all these imply a great trust of the international business community in Albania economy. "This has really been a week of trust of international business community in Albania economy," said the premier while emphasizing that the completion of two major privatization acts over 7 days is a unique act in Europe. The premier said that the government approves today the final contract with the Czech "Cez" utility which will acquire the majority stake of Albania's power distributor. Meanwhile, yesterday the Minister of Finance Ridvan Bode announced the Euro 250 million credit that big international banks provided Albania with. Likewise, on Monday the Ministry of Economy successfully finalized another privatization process, i.e. the sale of government stake for Euro 48 million. The premier pointed out that while the world is living through the culminating point of the

financial and economic shock, while the crisis has provoked restore of nationalism, in Albania is successfully realized the privatization of the Albanian Power Corporation, AMC and the credit offer to the country is 25% higher than to one of the 5-6 biggest countries of Europe and which is far more developed than Albania.

Premier Berisha: Legalization issue solution, a decisive condition of property reform

Prime Minister Sali Berisha attended today the ceremony of legalization permits issue for several formalized objects. In his speech delivered



on this occasion, Premier Berisha said that the government has built the friendliest legal approach to this phenomenon. In this context, the premier emphasized that the solution of the legalization issue is a decisive condition of property reform. "The property reform is the cornerstone of the system we are building. Hence, no other reform assumes that importance," emphasized the premier. The premier said further that the process was obstructed by the corruption cancer especially in Tirana city hall – the ugliest model of blocking the legalization process of the additional floors to the apartment blocks, but even Tirana town-planning. The process of issuing the Legalization Permits will proceed countrywide in all the regions and districts of Albania according to an approved schedule of the Agency for the Legalization, Urbanization, and Integration of the Informal Zones/Buildings (ALUIZNI). The self-declaration process of the illegal buildings was completed by September 2008. It resulted with establishment of a database on 270 595 self-declared illegal constructions.

Premier Berisha proposes Ardian Turku in the post of Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports

Prime Minister of Republic of Albania, Sali Berisha proposed Mr. Ardian Turku in the office of Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. Actually, Mr. Ardian Turku is head of Elbasan District, former Mayor of Elbasan Municipality, and former vice rector of Elbasan University "Alesandër Xhuvani". He holds the title Associated Professor.

Premier Berisha discharges Ylli Pango from the post of Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports

Prime Minister Sali Berisha has communicated with Prof. Ylli Pango, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and told him that the episode shown on the media is unacceptable to the moral and the standards of the government that he heads. Premier Berisha has decided to remove Mr. Pango from the office of the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. Mr. Pango said to Premier Berisha that the TV episode is an actual media montage. Premier Berisha said that Mr. Pango's stand cannot be clarified while in the post of the minister.

Premier Berisha: Improvement of services to citizens-Albanian Postal Service included-is an important goal of government

Prime Minister Sali Berisha received today a delegation of the Italian Postal Service headed by its Executive Director



Massimo Sarmi. Attending the meeting was also Italy's ambassador to Albania Saba D'Elia. Mr. Sarmi expressed congratulations to Premier Berisha for the successes the Albanian Postal Service has achieved and presented several other potential services that the Albanian Postal Service can offer while it enjoys the assistance of the Italian Postal Service especially via services of the e-government type. Also he expressed trust that the agreement of cooperation due to be signed between the Albanian Post Office and the Italian Post Office would be finalized with consolidation of the relations between the two relevant institutions, a better service to the citizens and improvement of the quality. In this context, Mr. Sarmi presented to Premier Berisha the e-services provided via post and mobile telephony such as money transfer, the social assistance provide and other government services like getting the certificate service and other consular-type services. Premier Berisha expressed thanks for the interest and proposals on increase of the number of services and improvement of their quality for the citizens. The premier also assured for further cooperation between the Albanian Post Office and the Italian Post Office. Premier Berisha said that although the Albanian Postal Service has implemented structural reforms over the last three years, it has increased the number of services and its network; the assistance and cooperation with the Italian Post Office

would serve for its further modernization. Premier Berisha emphasized that the improvement of the services to the citizens- Albanian Postal Service included-is an important goal of the government of Albania. The extension of the e-government in all the kinds of services and countrywide, - said the premier – is part of the reforms the government has implemented.

Premier Berisha: Albania gateway to EU is open to a candidate status requirement within Czech presidency

Prime Minister Sali Berisha said during meeting of the DP Parliamentary group that Albania gateway to the



EU is open and it is going to forward requirement for the candidate status into the EU within the Czech presidency. The premier considered normal a little postponement of the process, but he expressed assurances that Albania will present within the EU Czech presidency the application for the candidate status. "We have the good understanding of the friends, but within the Czech Presidency of the EU we shall submit an application. We fully deserve that in the context of the Stabilization Association Agreement fully completed", said Premier Berisha. In this context, the premier emphasized that European Commission Report gives the green light to Albania next step in its EU integration process. While considering this an historic moment, the premier said that the application for the candidate status is an extremely big step ahead toward implementation of the other major project of the nation for this century, Albania EU membership.

Premier Berisha sends condolences to family of distinguished producer, Viktor Gjika

The message of Premier Berisha says:

"The death of Viktor Gjika, the greatest personality of the Albanian cinematography is a grave loss not only for you and the friends of Viktor but for the whole cultural world of the country. Viktor Gjika, with his genius creativity, gave a very precious contribution to the development of the Albanian cinematography. Offering my deepest condolences for this grave loss, I pray, together with you, for soul of Viktor Gjika to rest in merited peace.

Respectfully
Sali Berisha"

Premier Berisha receives Avni Mustafaj, Executive Director of National Albanian American Council

Prime Minister Sali Berisha received today Mr. Avni Mustafaj, Executive Director of National Albanian



American Council. Accompanying Mr. Mustafaj to the meeting was Mr. David Scotton, the Financial Director of the Council. Welcoming Mr. Mustafaj, Premier Berisha appreciated the very good Albanian-American relations in all the domains.

Further on, the premier acquainted Mr. Mustafaj with the concrete results of the reforms the government of Albania has implemented for the Euro-Atlantic integration of the country.

In this context, the premier pointed at the progress made for the economic development of the country while focusing on the successful fight against corruption, the creation of a favorable climate for the foreign and domestic business, the facilitation of all the procedures for the business, the movement toward the nationwide e-tax and e-procurements, the on-line business registration via the “one-stop-shop” etc. The premier said that the foreign direct investments are welcome to Albania especially in exploitation of the prime potentials of the country like in energy, tourism, mineral resources and modernization of the infrastructure.

Premier Berisha emphasized that the work of the government is already focused on intensification of the efforts and reforms to accelerate meeting of all the standards which require the further steps of the European integration of the country. On his part, Mr. Mustafaj said he was impressed at the reforms and developments in Albania and encouraged Premier Berisha and the government of Albania in this direction. Mr. Mustafaj emphasized that during the recent years Albania has undergone substantial changes in all the fields.

He highly assessed Premier Berisha’s visit to the USA with its highlights and considered this visit as an expression of the relations and cooperation between the two countries. Albania achievements in its integration process had a positive echo while the U.S. support was confirmed. Both interlocutors shared the same view for further cooperation, especially in the economic field, between Albania and the USA.

Draft Laws and Decisions approved at Council of Ministers meeting

I. DRAFT DECISIONS:

1.1. “On some amendments to law No. 8366, dated 2.7.1998, “On Albanian Geological Service, amended”, as proposed by Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.

1.2. “On some amendments to law No. 8530, dated 23.9.1999, “On Postal Service in the Republic of Albania”, amended, as proposed by Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications.

1.4. “On some amendments to the concession agreement of the “BOT” type for the construction and exploitation of oil, gas and their sub-products wharf in the coastal zone of Porto-Romano, Durrës, as ratified by law No. 9298, dated 28.10.2004, amended”, as proposed by Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications and Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration.

II. DRAFT DECISIONS:

2.1. “On approval in principle of the agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the government of the Czech Republic about cooperation in fight against crime”, as proposed by Interior Minister.

2.15. On approval of the foreign invasive procedures; their entrance into the customs points”, as proposed by Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration

2.16. On allowing the transit passage of three Italian military motorcades via the territory of the Republic of Albania”, as proposed by Minister of Defense.

“2.18. On some amendments to decision No. 862, dated 20.12.2006, of the Council of Ministers, “On creation of the “Electricity Distributor Operator, amended” as proposed by Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.

2.19. “On approval of the final list of the public, state immovable properties which are transferred into property or use of Kruja municipality, Durrësi region”,

2.20. “On approval of the final list of the public, state immovable properties which are transferred into property or use of Rrëshen municipality, Lezha region”,

2.22. “On approval of the preliminary list of public, state properties which are transferred into property or use of Dhivër commune, Vlova region”, as proposed by the Interior Minister.

2.23. “On approval of the inventory list of the state immovable properties in Rrape commune, Shkodra region”, as proposed by Minister of Interior.

2.24. “On approval in principle of the finance agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Commission of European Communities about project “Revival of Gërdec infrastructure under instrument of the pre-election assistance for Albania,” as proposed by the Integration Minister.

26. “On expropriations, in public interest of the immovable properties, private property affected by the road segment “Korçë ring road, Lot II”, as proposed by Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications

2.27. “On expropriations, in public interest of the immovable properties, private property affected by building of Kashar 400/220/110KV electricity sub-station,” as proposed by Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.

2.28. “On some amendments to decision No 84, dated 3.2.2008, of the Council of Ministers, “On expropriations, in public interest of the owners of the immovable properties, private property affected by building of Kalimash-Morinë” road segment”, amended,” as proposed by Minister of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications

2.30. “On defining the criteria for opening and closing of the hospitals”, as proposed by Minister of Health.

2.32. “On approval of the final list of the public, state immovable properties which are transferred into property or use of Lower Devoll commune, Gjirokastra region”, as proposed by Minister of Interior.

2.34. “On an amendment to decision No. 1703, dated 24.12.2008 of the Council of Ministers, “On setting the standards of services and interim/season activities for the ministries and the budgetary institutions”, as proposed by Minister of Education and Science.

2.36. “On an amendment to decision No. 115, dated 2.2.2009 of the Council of Ministers, “On setting the number of employees, on interim contract, over 2009, in some ministries and central institutions”, as proposed by Minister of Finance.