ILHAM ALIYEV CONFIRMS STATE PROGRAM ON FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

BAKU/06.09.04/TURAN: President Ilham Aliyev has signed instruction onconfirmation of the "State program (2004-2006) on fight against corruption".
In conformity with the document, the central and local executive organs should submit within six months the information aboutfulfillment of measures on fight against corruption to the Cabinet ofMinisters and to the Commission for fight against corruption. The stateprogram notes that her main task is to strengthen fight against corruption and creation of conditions for the improvement of social economic situation.
The state program provides legality and transparency of the activity, responsibility for corruption and control over the state organs. The document provides also improvement of legislation in accordance with the international norms. In particular, supplements and amendments will bemade to the Criminal Code, the laws determining responsibility ofjuridical persons will be adopted; the legislation on the arrest andconfiscation of property get as a result of corruption will be improved;the laws determining responsibility for violations of the law, connectedwith corruption for the heads of private enterprises will be adopted. Thedocument reads that the function of the specialized organ in the sphere ofprevention of corruption carries out the Commission on fight againstcorruption attached to the managerial board of the state service. The Commission includes the members of the executive, legislative and courtpower.
In accordance with the state program, criminal persecution connectedwith corruption should be carried out by the Department for fight against Corruption attached to the General Prosecutor. Creation of the structuresof internal control in the system of the executive power and in the lawenforcement bodies on fight against corruption is provided. The state program provides free access to information what is very important factoron providing of transparent activity of state organs. Among the measureson fight against corruption is the control over the use of finances by thepolitical parties. The document provides continuation of the court reformfor the increase of the independence and effectiveness, improvement of thesystem of election of judges. The reforms will be carried out inaccordance with the recommendations of the UNO and CE.
According to the state program, the international obligations ofAzerbaijan provide limitation of the immunity of judges. For this purposethe legislative acts on elimination of immunity will be brought inconformity with the international practice. Besides, the document providesstage by stage rise of the wage of the servants in the law enforcementbodies, improvement of their social providing. The state program providesadoption of anti-monopoly code, the measures for regulation of competition, transparency in the sphere of privatization. The programcovers also the question on improvement in the sphere of state purchasing,in the financial and bank affairs, improvement of bank services, faircompetition and transparency in this sphere.
Sometimes corruption is connected with organized criminality and money laundry. For this purpose the measures against legalization of income from criminal activity will be taken: registration, registration of financial operations, rise of transparency in accounting and financial reporting.
The state program provides improvement of the auditory service, legislation in the budget system and in the system of financial control.The document contains an Article about the improvement of the activity of tax and customs organs and providing their transparency.03B04

OPINIONS

IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM TO NEED AMENDMENT TO LAWS, SATTAR SAFAROV

BAKU/06.09.04/TURAN: "The implementation of the State Anti-Corruption Program for 2004-2006 will let implement the law On Anti-Corruption Struggle efficiently," Sattar Safarov, Chairman of the Permanent Commission for Economic Policy of the Parliament, told TURAN, commenting on President Ilham Aliyev's order of 3 September 2004.

Mr. Safarov said implementation of the state program and the law would need certain amendments to the laws concerning monetary control, money laundering, financial discipline, crediting, etc.

He said it was high time for state employees to begin to declare their incomes and property. A law on declaring incomes and property should be passed for that. The draft of this law is already ready. "But another problem occurs here. We have to make efforts to prevent the outflow of capital from Azerbaijan. That means we have to set up a well-balanced system to prevent this outflow and make the incomes transparent at the same time," Mr. Safarov stressed.

He also said he was sure that the implementation of the state program would be fruitful and efficient, as structural reforms were being arranged in state management simultaneously.

** The law On Anti-Corruption Struggle will come into force on 1 January 2005. --0--*