

**INFORMATION DIGEST OF**

**PRESS OF UZBEKISTAN # 188**

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## **the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan In order to secure publicity and transparency of electoral process**

*On September 21, 2016, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed bilateral agreements with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan National News Agency, Information Agency "Jahon", the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, the Information Agency "UzReport" on covering the preparation and holding the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

Mass media are critically important in the efforts to organize the elections in accordance with democratic principles of publicity, openness and transparency.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Law “On Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, and the Program of main events on the preparations and holding the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved by the Central Election Commission, mass media widely cover the electoral process.

At the ceremony of signing the agreements, the chairman of the Central Election Commission, M. Abdusalomov, underlined that during the election campaigns of previous years extensive experience has been gathered in cooperation with mass media in informing the wider public on all stages of preparations and holding the elections.

The agreements aim to effectively organize work to raise awareness among the population about the national electoral law, namely, the pertinent provisions of the Constitution of country, laws “On Guarantees the Electoral Rights of Citizens”, “On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, “On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and other normative-legal acts regulating the electoral process, to organize interviews with members of the Central Election Commission, scientists and experts in the field of electoral legislation, rise the legal culture of voters, timely inform the public on the implementation of the Program of main events on the preparations and holding the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, instruct the population on a regular basis with the views of public figures, experts and analysts, representatives of foreign mass media.

Within the framework of the agreements signed, special attention is to be attached to the consistent coverage of the activities of election commissions, creation of broad and equal opportunities for candidates to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the use of mass media in the purposes of election campaigning, including by providing them with equal amounts of air time and print space in bringing their election programs to the voters and the public, containing their views and positions on the socio-political and economic development of the country.

*(Source: Republican Press Center on Covering the Elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan)*

## **investments**

### **Mubarek Gas Processing Plant (GPP) is getting prepared to launch a new production of granulated sulfur within the next three months**

*The plant will produce up to 80,000 tons of marketable products per year. At the same time, it will concentrate on bringing its products in conformity with international standards, as a significant part of it will be exported. The project's total cost exceeds \$9.4 million.*

Many customers, primarily foreign ones, pay attention to the packaging, which should be convenient for transportation and subsequent storage. Therefore, the plant will launch a virtually fully automated process, so the finished products were packed in strong sealed bags. Among other things, this promises a serious environmental impact.

Sulfur has been turning into an extremely popular product, especially among mineral fertilizer and construction material producers. These two areas are currently boosting in Uzbekistan, while manufacturers still have to use imported raw materials, which increases the cost of the final product. However, soon they will have an alternative of granulated sulfur by the Mubarek Gas Processing Plant.

In the coming years, the company is also going to implement a major project on the construction of a new sulfur production plant from acid gas totaling more than \$260 million. Specialists are finalizing the design documentation. The plant will produce 280,000 tons of sulfur per year.

To date, the company is capable of cleaning and drying 33.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year, producing 186,000 tons of stable gas condensate, and 258,000 tons of liquefied gas.

*(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)*

## **International cooperation**

### **Meeting with US Ambassador at Large**

*On September 21, 2016 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, who is in New York to participate in the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly, met with David Saperstein, the US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.*

During the conversation the sides exchanged views on the issues of cooperation in the field of religious freedom.

The sides confirmed their readiness to continue the dialogue in the spirit of constructivism and mutual understanding.

*(Source: Press Service of the MFA of the Republic of Uzbekistan)*

## **On the Uzbek-Polish consultations**

*On 19-21 September, 2016, Warsaw hosted consultations between the legal services of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Poland.*

The Polish delegation was headed by the Director of the Legal and Treaty Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andrzej Misztal.

The parties made an inventory of signed bilateral documents, reviewed the progress of work on projects of the Uzbek-Polish documents, and discussed prospects for the development and expansion of the legal framework of interaction.

During the talks, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also exchanged information on the law of the parties, which regulate legislative drafting and implementation of international agreements.

*(Source: Press Service of the MFA of the Republic of Uzbekistan)*

## **REGIONS: Tashkent region**

**Over the past four years, the volume of gross regional in Tashkent region has almost doubled, and industrial production increased 2.2 times. \$2.2 billion of investments empowered 1,465 projects, contributing to the creation of almost 48,500 jobs**

*The Okhangaron district ranks among the centers of such dynamic growth. Construction, energy, engineering, textile, food processing and furniture industries have been boosting there in the years of independence owing to modernization, technical and technological renovation.*

The establishment of Angren free industrial zone helped to channel large investments from some developed countries. For example, the Uzbek-Bulgarian joint venture Uz-Prista Recycling produces polysynthetic oils, bitumen and fuel for the furnaces by recycling household and motor oil. Worth \$15 million, the project created jobs for over 50 young specialists. Employing more than 1,400 people, enterprises of the Angren industrial zone produced industrial output for a total of 272 billion soums (*currency rates of CB RU from 22.09.2016, 1\$= 3005.11 soums*) and exported goods for \$2.1 million in the first half of 2016 alone.

The creation of a favorable investment environment, implementation of promising projects and stimulation of small and private businesses have ensured the growth of the export capacity in the region. The range of exported goods has been expanded with foods, chemical and agricultural products, ready-made garments. Exports of transport and logistics, tourism, marketing, and banking services have been expanding as well. In 1991, only 10 companies exported their products and services, while today their number exceeds 200. The number of joint ventures in the same period has increased by 80 times.

Tashkent region, with 17% of the country's industrial output, is also famous for vegetables and grapes. More than 25,000 hectares of cultivated areas in the region are occupied by gardens, and more than 15,000 hectares – by vineyards. Fertile lands were allocated for the development of vegetable production. Farming has been growing dynamically: the number of farms has exceeded 20,000. Fruits and vegetables, milk and meat, grains and eggs are delivered to local markets in abundance, and are uninterruptedly supplied to processing plants.

The development of small business and private entrepreneurship has been a considerable contribution in the dynamic development of the economy, particularly in the introduction of latest

high-efficiency and energy-saving technologies, job creation, strengthening of the region's export capacity and improvement of its infrastructure. To date, the number of business entities has exceeded 40,000.

*(Source: «Uzbekistan Today» newspaper)*

**Reference to the source is a must in reproducing materials**