

Country's renewal — the way

ferred it for rent and received income from this. Then why we helped these people if they don't need housing?!

From now on, the state support in housing construction will be targeted and will be strictly controlled what concerns its target use.

From this year, housing is built in line with a state order for those who are on the waiting list. At first, a house will be constructed and then ready-made accommodation will be allocated to citizens on prices which are formed on the date of the house commissioning (with a privileged bank loan issues).

The opportunities are also widened for citizens to independently solve their housing issue.

We're forming a sector of rent housing while increasing the share of individual housing construction.

Moreover, in the nearest time, the responsibility of developers in the shared-equity construction will be made more rigorous. The terms of cost of construction, stipulated in the contract, will be rigidly controlled and strictly observed. God forbid someone doesn't hear my instruction!

In case these are violated due to the fault of developers all additional expenditures will be covered by them. Moreover, they will also pay a significant penalty to equity holders.

I'm confident all these measures will create a civilised construction market, enabling us to advance in solving the housing problem.

Moreover, I warned Ladutko [Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee] and others that responsible developers should construct. It isn't normal when developers themselves have only a table and a stool in their own kitchen, come and take resources in our banks as intermediaries, hire our construction firm which builds for them and then sell housing at the highest prices on the market. You should take this money in the banks, come up to developers, oblige them to build — these are primarily state enterprises and even private companies on which you have a considerable influence — and then sell on a normal price and put money into the state pocket.

We've agreed on this and there shouldn't be such charlatans on the construction market. They don't understand anything in construction; only specialists should construct.

There're also other investors. For example, Russians have arrived and are construction near the Lebyazhy market. They've brought money and technology, order our builders and are building housing. They're welcome. Why shouldn't we reject their money? Another situation is when someone brings foreign credits. A Qatar company is constructing near the Football Manege; they've brought money, employed our people and construct. You're welcome! You should remove all these charlatans; otherwise, I'll suspect you of corruption and this won't be merely a suspicion.

I underline again: we have such prices because of this situation. Today, one square metre in good flats costs \$3,200-3,500. I ask these people who own this construction organisation what is the real price and they don't name the price higher than \$2,000-2,200 but sell at \$3,500. Then why

don't you want to take this profit?

In our country housing should be affordable and comfortable. Today, I hear these issues from our citizens more and more often. People primarily complain of absence of parking places and notorious urban densification.

Meanwhile, these two issues are inter-dependent. Yes, we need to 'pack' somewhere and to construct parking places somewhere but everything should be done in the interests of people and the state rather than those who come up to you today and propose a project. There's no need to make people steamed up. Is it not enough land in Minsk, within the boundaries of the ring road, to build parking places and housing? There's enough!

We need to agree for urban densification only in extreme cases. We've agreed on this and corresponding decisions have been already made on this issue.

I demand from the Government and local authorities to reconsider the existing norms of designing as concerns both urban densification and the number of parking places. It's necessary to more actively construct many-level and underground parking areas. Moreover, it's necessary to adopt additional measures aiming to expand grounds for temporary parking areas of passenger cars at building surrounding grounds. This should be done immediately. Today, you see that sometimes a family has two cars. That's good; rich people are happiness for us. However, you should create normal conditions for them and they will pay in order their cars are kept where it's necessary. Maybe, there's no need to lay concrete and cover with asphalt; you should at least cover with road metal and make the preliminary preparation, allowing people to park their cars there. We'll become richer and if the demand is we'll definitely cover them with asphalt.

Dear friends!

The major goal of the development of the national economy is new and better quality of life of Belarusian citizens and this is the greatest sense of the state policy.

I'd like to remark that the quality of life should be measured not only in Roubles, US Dollars and Euros, but also in general comfortable conditions at work, in the family and in relations with other people. The happiness of the nation is more than the size of the gross domestic project.

Special attention is being given to maintenance and strengthening of health in the notion 'quality of human life'.

In recent years, emphatic successes have been reached in our medicine. We've almost completely re-equipped healthcare institutions with contemporary equipment. Moreover, we conduct high-tech unique operations both in the capital and at the regional.

I primarily refer to the modernisation of the social sphere and the same can said about education. We're modernising the healthcare sites for the second five-year plan.

Nevertheless, whatever paradoxical this may sound, we have problems which of great concern to our people:

high prices and medications, lack of narrow specialists and affordability of medical service.

These issues should be solved.

I won't repeat about strict control over price formation. Moreover, it's necessary to foremost master the production of mostly socially important medicines in Belarus

The task for the Government hasn't been abolished on annual increase of the share of domestic medicines on the internal market. By 2015, it should total at least 50 percent and don't conceive the idea to boggle with re-packing. I'll ask for the result from you very strictly.

If there's lack of narrow specialists, expand the targeted enrolment of alumni into medical educational institutions of our country, since all medical institutions should be ensured with staff. The Minister will report personally on each non-employed young specialist in the sphere.

If young people come to university and study there at the state expense, they should become doctors and then work as doctors wherever their mandatory work placement is. It may sound unpopular but this refers to all specialists and specialities. I ask the ministers to make a corresponding decision if someone hasn't made it yet. Don't stand near my door and don't wait that the President will do it.

Moreover, it's vital to continue the course for further development of out-patient care.

This is the core line of development of our medicine.

Only having contemporary qualitative education we'll be able to achieve a strategic goal of renovation — set before the country — while solving the tasks of modernisation, informatisation and the development of human potential.

The authority of the Belarusian education is high in the world: from kindergartens to doctoral programmes.

This year, we first need to concentrate our efforts on the solution of three major problems of the education sphere:

- firstly, we need to renew the content of school education by strengthening the preparation in the sphere natural sciences and foreign languages;
- secondly, we need to reduce the gap between the professional education and requirements of the life and practice;
- and thirdly, we need to attract strong, talented and enthusiastic people into schools and to put at ease the initiative of teachers while releasing them paper work and enhancing the prestige of pedagogical labour.

Mr. Maskevich [Education Minister], make schools really work and bear responsibility for children. The same refers to the whole Government.

I think that in order to solve these tasks the Government should:

- create domestic multi-media textbooks of new generation for schools, primarily covering natural sciences and foreign languages;
- renew the list of specialities and areas of preparation in line with real needs of the economy;
- modernise higher educa-

tion directing it to have the maximum connection with production, significantly modernise educational programmes and renew the material base for universities while using the enterprises' resources to the uttermost.

Our major tasks in the sphere of cultural policy are to maintain the patriotic line in the Belarusian culture, create conditions for the development of its traditional and contemporary areas and to strengthen the country's international prestige while sing this potential.

In order to solve these tasks:

- the Government and regional executive committees need to adopt measures aiming to restore unique Belarusian crafts while setting up a contemporary souvenir industry on their basis;

- the Culture Ministry and Minsk's City Executive Committee need to open the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War with a large-scale exposition — which should be the best in the world — by the 70th anniversary since Belarus' liberation;

- the Culture Ministry should fill international festivals will new content while turning them into trend-setters of creative fashion within the CIS space;

- the Government and Minsk's City Executive Committee need to solve the issue of the establishment of an art centre of acute art in Minsk taking into account the world experience in a short time and organise on its basis a large-scale exhibition in 2014 which will become a part of the cultural programme of the Hockey Championship.

Sports

There're enough issues in this sphere. We inject huge money into sports while we're still far from tangible results. As a result, we had to adopt extreme measures and replace the leadership of the branch and make a range of decisions on the clubs.

I expect from the new leadership to build up clear priorities of sport development which should rely on the major principle: any reward should be received only for showing the result.

The most important sporting event for Belarus — 2014 IIHF World Championship — is very close, and we should prepare the whole infrastructure of the forthcoming forum for perfect work. Today we need to think about the preparation of the qualified personnel of communal and private catering facilities, hotels and sport facilities. They shouldn't be worse than in other countries. This should be done not just to spend a couple of weeks and then to report. We should make so that these arriving people — and these mostly will be the pioneers — say on returning home that Belarus is a completely different country than they thought of it, inspiring others to visit us. This is why we create all these infrastructure sites.

This is an exam for the Government and the Minsk City Executive Committee.

The sporting broadcast on state TV channels leaves much to be de-

sired. It's necessary to move more actively in the issue of creation of the Belarusian national sport or cultural-sport channel. Using a correct approach, this is the most powerful resource for the development of Belarusian sport, especially competitive sport varieties, and for the attraction of attention of advertisers, sponsors and fans. However, the reduction of sport broadcast on other TV channels is inadmissible, as there can't be too much propaganda of healthy lifestyle.

I don't want to speak much about the decisions which have been made in the sport industry, as these are known. Start working here! The problem is in coaches who should work at least like teachers in schools, who have programmes, schedules and people. Today parents are ready to pay for the training of their children. They do pay but where's this money? We'll answer this question in the nearest time, and it will be very sad and painful if this is done through a detention facility. Don't do this.

Improvement of state management

I'd like to say immediately that the model of state management should meet the real state of public relations, so we're now pursuing another stage of improvement of the management system.

Of course, on the one side, there're not many state officials in our country. The number of officials is double in Austria, Slovakia and Bulgaria — the countries which can be comparable with Belarus in terms of population and size.

On the other side, when calling the population to save resources we can't allow overspending for the state apparatus, and we don't need this today. Saving should be demonstrated in one's own example and we have reserves for this.

In this respect, on April 12th, I signed the decree envisaging the reduction of the number of state officials by 25 percent, or by 13.617. Moreover, we'll 'cut' central authorities by 25 percent, regional executive committees — by around 29 percent and district executive committees — by 17 percent.

Meanwhile, the reduction shouldn't be senseless and mechanical. We can't allow losses of initiatives and responsible workers who are the core of the state apparatus. First of all, those should go away who accidentally found their way to the state apparatus or who don't see themselves on the state service.

Alongside the reduction of the state personnel, it's also necessary to revise the functions of state authorities.

The departments complain that there's much work and they can't cope up. However, if we look closer, half of functions should have been already rejected. As a result, they burden themselves and the population, and enterprises also suffer.

I'd like to say that all money — saved on the reduction of the state apparatus — will be given to raise salaries for state officials. A person, who devotes themselves to servicing the state and is deprived of other opportunities to earn, should be able to