Will “Panorama Tbilisi” endanger the city’s ecosystem? Is the Gama Consulting conclusive report flawed?

NGO “Green Alternative” is against carrying out the “Panorama Tbilisi” project (initiated by the “Co-investment Fund”) on the Sololaki ridge. According to our environmentalists, the project will upset the ecological balance in the region; however, this important issue has not been covered in the Environmental Impact Assessment document prepared by the scandalous “Gama Consulting” Company.

Manana Kochladze, Head of the “Green Alternative” NGO: the Panorama Tbilisi Environmental Impact Assessment document was prepared by LTD “Gama Consulting” that once gauged the environment impact of Dariali hydro power plant, Bakvi hydro power station as well as other slumped business projects. Precisely their reluctance to foresee environmental risks doomed these projects to failure. These risks had not been outlined in their assessment, which is why it was confusing to me that the initiators of Panorama Tbilisi commissioned Gama Consulting to prepare the document.

Our people know perfectly well how seriously last year’s disaster damaged the Dariali power plant, which is why no one can say that we simply dislike the Gama Consulting Company. We have nothing against this company but we certainly don’t like the bungled and half-hearted job it does. On top of that, this company does imperfect surveys that end up hurting our business. We have already filed a claim in court and urged representatives of Europe’s Reconstruction Bank’s special department to look through the Environmental Impact Assessment Document that has already been proven to be completely flawed numerous times.

According to Georgia’s legislation, the hotel is not listed among high-risk projects for our environment and the project’s drafter is not obliged to present us with an environmental impact assessment report. The initiators of Panorama Tbilisi never had to bother with that document.

When it comes to Panorama Tbilisi, we should point out that no one can force an investor to submit a report; however, it should also be emphasized that the survey from Gama Consulting cannot be labeled as comprehensive, since it does not give us a detailed account on the possible impact the project can have on the environment.

Anyway, there is no doubt that the Panorama Tbilisi project will disrupt the ecological balance and hurt the environment. If this project is seen through, traffic flow will increase and fumes will pollute the air in Sololaki and the entire region of Mtatsminda even further.

Therefore, we strongly maintain that their decision to build a huge multi-functional project in the center of the city is outrageous.
The woman who found happiness in Georgia’s Pankisi Gorge

For much of her life, Devi Asmadiredja was a housewife in Germany - but then her husband told her to pack her bags and leave the country. She ended up 3,000km (2,000 miles) away living in a remote mountain hut among the Chechens of Georgia's Pankisi Gorge, BBC reports.

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