

Say a good word about the budget

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At the end of last week in the first reading, the draft budget of Ukraine for 2020 was adopted.

It got the loud name „budget without skinning.” Prime Minister of Ukraine Oleksiy Goncharuk assured that the interests of oligarchs and political groups would not be lobbied in the document.

As you know, everything in this world is measured in money. Therefore, cost items better than any experts will demonstrate the planned direction of development of the state.

You should not expect from the project the realization of fantastic promises of economic growth of five percent. The main sources of income include the sale of land and the legalization of gambling. Great expectations are also placed on IMF loans. It is worth noting that, unlike his on-screen character Goloborodko, President Zelensky, like his predecessor, behaves in a very ingratiating manner with representatives of the mission.

The draft of new budget provides for more than modest amounts for social programs. The increase in salaries, pensions and social benefits is planned only within the limits of official inflation, which certainly will not allow for the foreseeable future to improve the financial situation of the vast majority of the country's population. Yes, and the planned reduction of 8.5 billion hryvnias of spending on subsidies for housing and communal services does not add optimism.

The president's promises to improve the living conditions of civilians in Donbass are also not destined to come true in the coming year. The budget of the relevant department will be

only 400 million hryvnias. But a few budget items involve financing of the purchase of housing for participants in a military operation in the east of the country. Based on this, we can assume that the theme of Donbass will remain just a political tool.

The Ministry of Education and Science is also unlucky. Despite the overall increase in funding, a number of directions are expected to be curtailed. Such as specialist training programs and the Small Academy of Sciences.

But the cost of maintaining the president increased by 36 million hryvnias and will amount to about a billion hryvnias (this is two and a half times more than for all migrants, ATO veterans, the restoration and reintegration of Donbass).

The ideological line of the state also has not changed. The funding of the Institute of National Remembrance has been increased by 25%. And this means that Vyatrovich's dismissal from the post of director of the institute will not affect the institution's policy.

The funding of the national television and radio company will also increase. For the development of cinema, it is planned to allocate 1.3 billion hryvnias.

As one would expect, the most significant part of the costs will be the financing of power structures. So, the budget of the National Security and Defense Council will increase 158 times and amount to 28 billion hryvnias. The General Prosecutor's Office, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the State Bureau of Investigation will not remain offended. Financing of the latter will double.

Thus, the general tendency is very disappointing. The country's population is unlikely to live better. This cannot be said about the security forces and the structures providing ideological cover. And to interpret this trend except as a course towards the police state is very difficult.

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