

Annual address
of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon
to Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan
Dushanbe, April 15th, 2009

Dear compatriots!

Distinguished members of Majlisi milli and the deputies of Majlisi namoyandagon!

Dear audience!

This year the message of the President is offered to the highest legislative authority in the context of severe global financial and economic crisis which is affecting the development of countries all over the world, including Tajikistan.

In this regard first of all it should be noted that Tajikistan had entered the sustainable economic development stage and had succeeded considerably in the improvement of standard of living of the people before the crisis started in the global economy.

Particularly in spite of the prolonged frosts, unprecedented winter, shortage of water and electricity, as well as increase in the fuel and food prices we have positive growth of national measures, Gross Domestic Product's growth compared to 2007 is 8% and GDP growth over the past five years is 46%. Gross Domestic Product per capita's growth in 2008 compared to 2007 is 35%, direct investment increased by 77% and foreign investment by 15%. Inflation declined to 1,7 times and amounted to 11,8%.

At the same time it is necessary to mention that annual income of the people has increased to 34%, average wage to 28%, average pension to 2 times; increase in wages in public health amounted to 60%, in cultural and social security institutions to 50%, in educational institutions and other government-financed organizations to 40%, the average wage in the security, defense and law enforcement agencies has been increased almost by 2 times; more than 104 thousand new jobs have been created over the past year and these figures over the past 5 years have amounted to more than 510 thousand.

The implementation of the tasks and goals mentioned in the statement of the last year laid a foundation for the sustainable socio-economic development of the country over the period.

A number of certain measures have been taken under the aforementioned tasks as well as required macroeconomic stability, social security, priority areas development, support of the real sector and entrepreneurs and creation of the favorable conditions for investment have been ensured.

To ensure socio-economic development of the country more than 5 billion somoni have been spent from the budget over the past year which exceeds the figures of 2007 by 1 billion 600 million somoni or by 47%.

We are well aware of our potential and we recognize the efforts we are to take as well as the obstacles we are to remove in order to perform the defined tasks.

Therefore in my current address I would like to consider and to analyze the current state of affair in the national economy and the measures which should be taken to reduce the effect of the global financial and economic crisis.

Signs of the impact of the financial crisis on our economy became visible back in the last quarter of the past year.

Slowdown in the world economic growth as well as decline in demand for our export products (including cotton and aluminum) has led to falling prices by 30-50% and to the decline in foreign exchange income.

The impact of the global financial crisis on our economy became more visible in the first quarter of current year. The first failure of the budget revenue over the past eight years is one of the outcomes of the crisis.

In spite of the fact that the volume of the Gross Domestic Product over the first quarter of 2009 has increased by more than 3, 5%, the preliminary studies show that we will have a considerable slowdown in the real Gross Domestic Product's growth this year compared to the forecasted figures.

Starting from the very beginning of the impact of the crisis on national economy the Government of Tajikistan has taken a number of timely measures and still efforts are being taken to find urgent solutions for the existing problems.

The Crisis Committee of the Government has worked out the plan of urgent measures and has already started its implementation. These measures provide for the attraction of 280 million somoni as a grant from the international financial organizations this year to support the state budget and talks on the attraction of some additional funds are being conducted.

At the same time 300 million somoni is scheduled to be attracted from the International Monetary Fund to support the balance of payments and monetary system of the country as well.

To boost economic reforms and to ensure sustainable socio-economic development of the country the Government of Tajikistan and the National Bank are obliged to boost their cooperation with the international financial organizations including The International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, The Asian Development Bank, The Islamic Development Bank, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial organizations.

At the same time the Government of Tajikistan, given the fact that the financial crisis is going to continue and to turn into overall economic crisis, is obliged to work out an additional short-term action plan based on existing capabilities. It is also obliged to perform following tasks:

- Sustainable macroeconomic stability maintenance, including necessary measures on monetary and fiscal policy;
- Real sector development, including small and medium business;
- Creation of favorable climate for more investment;
- Job creation, labor market support and engagement of jobless people;
- Obligatory ensuring of measures aimed at social security in the context of economic crisis.

The head of the ministries and agencies, including, first of all, the Ministry of Finance, Tax Committee, Custom Service, local authorities in the regions, districts and towns are obliged to take timely measures, given the current state of affairs in national economy, to ensure all kinds of tax income and other compulsory fees. At the same time they are obliged to consider and analyze the current privileges and to submit to the Government of the country a well-grounded opinion letter on their efficiency.

The current state of affairs urges the Government of the country to reconsider the reallocation of material and financial funds to finance priority areas, as well as to submit

their proposals on the corresponding amendments to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On the State Budget for 2009» to Majlisi Namoyandagon.

I would like to stress that the state commitments on social security, payment of wages, increase in wages in such sectors as education, public health and other social sectors, payment of pensions, scholarships, compensations and other social grants will be fully provided irrespective of the current situation.

To ensure exact financial discipline and targeted use of budgetary funds, the Ministry of Finance is obliged to define together with ministries and agencies, local authorities and budgetary institutions the real expenditure of the central and local budgets, as well as to take control over them.

At the same time the head of all executive authorities and other government-financed institutions are instructed to take necessary measures to prevent such secondary expenditure as repair, purchase of equipment and vehicles, travel, increase in staff as well as misuse and other unnecessary expenditures under the current state of affairs.

Monetary policy needs to be seriously reformed and it should be done under a special program. State financial management reform, transparency, efficiency and strict control over the outcome and income of the state budget as well as tax reform are to be ensured on its basis.

With this in mind the implementation of the integrated Strategy of the state financial management is to be boosted.

A number of measures have been taken by the Government in recent years to improve attractiveness of the real sector of economy.

Particularly, income tax rate and social tax have been reduced from 35% to 25%, as well as sales tax for cotton from 25% to 10%. Moreover, hydroelectric development, construction of cotton ginning factories, import of cutting edge production technology and facilities, agricultural machinery are exempted from custom duties and tax as well as income tax rate for individuals has been reduced from 25% to 13%.

A great number of privileges are provided to attract investment and develop small and medium business; a unified taxation has been introduced for farms. All permissions in cotton sector have been lifted.

At the same time the issue of increase of productivity in production, social security and job creation depends on the efficiency of real sector of economy as well as small and medium business development that require state support.

To prevent the negative impact of the financial and economic crisis, create favorable environment for internal and foreign investment as well as to diversify the export for local producers and small and medium entrepreneurs we consider appropriate to propose some additional tax privileges.

Therefore, the Government of Tajikistan is ordered to work out and submit corresponding legal regulations on the decrease of Value-added Tax (VAT) rate from 20% to 18%, the income tax rate from 25% to 15% as well as to remove other tax obstacles. Moreover the total gain limitation for taxpayers working under the simplified taxation should be fixed at 800 thousand somoni compared to the previous 600 thousand.

As the banking system plays an important role, it should be further supported via economic means.

To implement effective monetary policy and ensure banking system development it is necessary to improve legal acts on strengthening control over the credit agencies in the

field of the assets and liabilities monitoring, ensuring financial solvency, reduction of the risks in the banking system which all lead to the sustainability of the banking system of the country.

To ensure small and medium business development and import of cutting edge technology, to boost local production export capability and to create jobs thereupon the National Bank as well as commercial banks should continue offering more credit facilities and increasing their amount this year.

The amount of the credit facilities which has been offered over the past two years has been increased from 2 billion 300 million somoni to 4 billion 800 million somoni and the number of receivables has amounted to 400 thousand compared to 180 thousand two years ago.

The amount of the credit facilities which has been offered to develop small and medium business over the last year has been increased by 62% and tends to be increased in the first quarter of the current year.

During the meeting which I had with the head of the National Bank as well as the commercial banks of the country several days ago the head of banks expressed their willingness to increase credit facilities by 25% compared to the last year regardless of the consequences of the global financial crisis, and of course, we support these steps.

Commercial banks and non-bank lending institutions are recommended to review the interest rates according to the decrease of inflation as well as to give more priority to the real sector of economy including, first of all, production when offering available credit facilities. At the same time it is recommended to simplify the procedure of offering credit facilities.

With the aim of further support of the banking system the National Bank is obliged to reduce the interest rate from 12% to 10% and to reduce required bank reserve from 10% to 8% as well as to take necessary measures to ensure financial solvency of the banks.

At the same time it is obliged to take daily control over the financial performance of the commercial banks and take necessary measures, if required.

The commercial banks should focus on investment attraction and increase of the amount of credit facilities including first of all, provided for production development as well as on the payment of credits.

To strengthen economic potential of the country it is of vital importance to improve investment policy and to attract more investment. Under the implementation of the joint investment projects more than 60 projects at the amount of 6 billion and 400 million somoni are being implemented in the country now.

Under the state investment projects as well as direct investment the priority will be given to hydroelectric power security and electric power development.

Therefore, it is necessary to define the terms of participation and the ways of attracting citizens as well as the local institutions to hydroelectric development in the country. The Government of the country is obliged to take special measures aimed at improvement of the international ratings as well as creation of favorable environment for investment. It is also obliged to take necessary measures to take control over well-timed implementation of the measures.

At the same time given the increase in foreign investment to the national economy the Government and the Parliament of the country are obliged to take a look at the

possibility to join corresponding international legal regulations on the protection of the rights of investors.

Under the proposals of the Advisory Council under the President on investment climate improvement such draft laws of the Republic of Tajikistan as «On introduction of amendments and changes to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on «Joint stock companies», «On introduction of amendments and changes to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On bankruptcy» and the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On the registration of legal persons and private entrepreneurs» have been adopted by the Government of Tajikistan and submitted to Majlisi Namoyandagon for consideration».

It is notable that the adoption of the three Laws will contribute to the improvement of the international performance of Tajikistan on business development as well as to the attraction of foreign and internal investment.

With this in mind I call on all of you – the deputies and members of Parliament for urgent consideration of the aforementioned laws.

At the same time the corresponding governmental agencies of the country are obliged to boost transparent management of the state property, to work out a list and a unified database on the state property.

Moreover, a new effective and transparent system of privatization of every object and organization is to be worked out in order to improve the work of enterprise which has gone private as well as to monitor and take permanent control over the obligations of the investors and new owners.

The support of small and medium business is a priority direction of the economic policy of our state. Therefore with the aim of support and further small and medium business development as well as removal of groundless inspection and creation of favorable environment for attraction of investment a two-year total inspection moratorium for small and medium business has been declared since July 2008 to the order of the President.

Moreover the Agency on state financial control over and fight against corruption has been instructed not to inspect the financial work of private sector.

At the same time we have to keep in mind that this support shouldn't be considered as a privilege, financial incentive or aid only. Sometimes it is necessary; however it is more important to remove artificial administrative obstacles and corruption as soon as possible.

First of all, we should consider the simplification of the procedure of starting and developing business.

Therefore it is of vital importance to simplify the administrative procedure for business entities. In this regard we should change both legal basis and the mentality of bureaucracy.

We are to recognize that small and medium business development is an efficient way to create jobs and settle social problems as a whole. Research shows that we still have complicated license procedure.

A «Single window» principle in the relations with entrepreneurs is a call of the times and conditions are required under which citizens interested could register their business documents within short period of time and start doing business.

With the aim of further simplification of the state registration procedure of current business entities the introduction of a new registration procedure – notification is considered appropriate. This kind of registration procedure will build bilateral confidence for both governmental institutions and business entities.

Moreover, it is time to regulate all-kind permission procedure via adopting a special law and lift all permissions except those that are to ensure public health and security of the people as well as the economic security of the country.

Therefore the Government of the country is obliged to work out as soon as possible together with wide range of representatives of the private sector, nongovernmental organizations and the Social Council a special program to improve conditions for doing business as well as to ensure the implementation of the program.

At the same time, given the global financial and economic crisis, all businessmen and patriots of the country are required to be responsible and to ensure their commitments to the state and nation through creating competitive products, importing cutting edge technology and creating jobs as well as ensuring timely tax and other social fees payment.

Dear audience!

The global financial crisis urges us to renew and to reform our economy.

The world experience in real sector development requires a system providing constant increase of a product with high percent of added value share in GDP.

Under these circumstances we shouldn't rely upon the potential of market only. The Government is to focus on the development of the real sector of economy and to take active efforts to diversify the economy.

In the first quarter of 2008 the industrial output was reduced by 8.2 percent in comparison with the same period of the last year.

One of the main reasons of reduction of industrial output is the electric power shortage because the industry as the energy-dependent sector should function in the energy saving mode.

During this time the volume of production in the light industry, food and chemical industry, nonferrous metallurgy has decreased, and also the volume in industrial engineering has reduced. At the same time capacity utilization of the available enterprises is on a low level. It is necessary to note that 12 percent of the industrial enterprises did not function last year.

Regarding reformation of the industrial sector the programs of development in separate sectors have been elaborated last years, such as extraction and mining of precious metals and stones, development of the light industry, complete processing of aluminum and ginned cotton. The last year more than 140 industrial enterprises started working and 3700 new jobs have been created, however the above-stated programs have not been implemented in full so far.

In this regard, the Ministry of Energy and Industry, executive local authorities should take necessary measures for remedial action in this sector.

At present, to develop metal mining and light industry, particularly complete processing of aluminum, ginned cotton and other agricultural goods, as well as to increase production of export goods in the country, construction of several enterprises is under way which will be equipped with modern technology and know-how.

In the first quarter of the current year more than 90 enterprises have started working, including those that stopped their work long before. Now these enterprises have the opportunity to provide 14 000 jobs.

During the past five years, more than 7 billion somoni have been allocated from all sources of state financing in order to develop the strategic sectors of the country, including energy, transport, communications, agriculture and food security.

In addition, in coming three years it is expected to increase the financing by 50 percent and to allocate more than 10 billion somoni.

Sustainable economic development, implementation of socio-economic programs in the framework of the National Development Strategy – 2015 depends on solving power system problems of our country. In this regard, it is necessary to implement the following tasks:

First – construction of small, medium and large hydro power stations, construction of electricity transmission lines and creation of the integrated power network of the country.

Second – systematic development of energy sector and usage of energy saving technologies through hydro-power development and reconstruction as well as construction of gas pipelines and transmission systems.

Third – using all opportunities and reserves and attracting internal and external investments, provide during the next three years the country with own natural gas, as well as during the next four years provide the country with electric power and, on this basis, achieve energy independence of Tajikistan.

At present, the Government of Tajikistan undertakes all necessary measures for restoration of energy capacities and construction of new hydroelectric power stations, as well as attraction of foreign investments for realization of energy projects.

At present, the construction of the Rogun and Sangtuda-2 hydro-power stations is under way at full speed; in May of the current year the Sangtuda-1 station will start to function. In 2011 the construction of Sangtuda-2 station will be over.

During the past years 150 small hydro-power stations have been constructed and given to use which brought about the improvement of electro-energy supply to the remote mountainous regions in Tajikistan. Within the State program on construction of small hydro-power station 15 stations have been constructed in the course of the first three months of this year and presently given to the usage whereas the other 26 small stations are being constructed speedily. So 50 small hydro power stations will start working by the end of this year.

Alongside with this, the working wheels of the Nurek Hydro-Power Station's generating set that has been remained unrepaired for 36 years are being changed and this work will be fully accomplished for the next five years and 450 million somoni is to be spending for this purpose.

It should be stated that the full reconstruction of the Nurek and Qayroqum hydro-power stations and Yovon Electric and Heating Center will enable us to achieve 400 megawatt additional electric power.

At present, with a view to reconstruct a number of stations at the Vakhsh and Varzob rivers the preliminary works have begun and the productive forces of these stations are supposed to increase 70 megawatt additionally.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan, Barqi Tojik Enterprise together with local and foreign enterprises are studying the issues of construction of *Nurobod*, *Nurobod-2*, *Sanobod*, *Fondaryo* and *Shurob* hydro-power stations, as well as a new Power and Heating Center in Dushanbe and are preparing their technical and economic documents.

With the purpose of establishment of a common energy system in the country the construction of the 200 kW power transmission line "Lolazor-Khatlon" completed in 2008, and construction of a 500 kW power transmission line "South-North" will be completed one and half year before the planned term, i.e. by the end of this year.

As for the prospects of natural gas sector development and usage of gas resources we continue cooperation with 15 domestic and foreign companies on 87 gas and oil fields.

At present two cities – Kurghonteppa and Sarband and three districts in Khatlon Oblast are provided with domestic natural gas. In cooperation with the domestic and foreign companies in gas and oil zones around Dushanbe and Kulob region research and exploration works are actively under way.

To meet the needs of the country in gas and improvement of the gas sector, relevant institutions together with the domestic and foreign investors have to take necessary measures for rehabilitation and exploitation of existing gas deposits and geological exploration of other gas fields.

Another important direction of ensuring energy security is comprehensive use of unconventional and renewable sources of energy.

This issue has been mentioned in my last year message to the Parliament and I reiterate it today that for the purpose of effective activity of all national economic spheres and to meet the demands of consumers in electric power and heat, the Ministry of Energy and Industry, the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management together with other relevant ministries and institutions of the country should take concrete measures for comprehensive use of energy sources, including coal, which is broadly available in Tajikistan, as well as the usage of other renewable energy sources.

We will try and do our best to reach our strategic goal, energy independence of the country, in order to make a good use of the hydropower resources for the benefit of our people and the people of the region.

Under the conditions of market economy, especially in conditions of the global financial and economic crisis, it is necessary to take steps for rational and economical use of energy resources, first of all electricity and natural gas.

Therefore, it is time to take all necessary measures to prevent misuse and loss of electric power, natural gas, heat and water.

Life and today's conditions urge us to save our resources.

We have to pay serious attention to the culture of use and saving of electric power and natural gas. In the developed countries, including European countries, "energy saving culture" is taught from childhood.

For example, in the United States of America and the countries of the European Union special laws have been adopted to stop production and sale of electric lamps with high electricity consumption.

The use of modern power-saving lamps decreases the electric power consumption up to 5 times and their life time is 8 to 10 times longer than conventional lamps.

I would like to mention here the experience of Denmark. During the last two decades by means of implementation of the power-saving program and advocating "power-saving culture", this country managed to increase its GDP two times.

Most of you are aware about the energy crisis of 1970's in countries of Americas, European Union, Canada and Japan. Those countries managed to reduce consuming of electricity from 4 percent to 14 by raising public awareness campaign.

Taking into account the experience of developed countries it is necessary to attract skilled specialist to power saving activity, and to apply the use of modern and less consuming electric appliance and technical devices for production and transmission of electricity in Tajikistan.

That is why it is necessary for the Ministry of Energy and Industry, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to submit to the Government of Tajikistan a program on proper use of energy resources and power-saving for 2009-2015 for the purpose of reducing wasting electric power, natural gas and water.

It is well known that another aim of our State is to release the country from communicational isolation, because the development of communicational infrastructure is considered as one of the prerequisites of economic development.

In this regard, the Government of Tajikistan has initiated in recent years many activities using budget funds and foreign investment. Now in total 1 thousand and 200 km of automobile roads, 14 km of tunnels, 93 bridges and 5 km of anti-avalanche protection structures are being constructed and repaired.

For the purpose of construction of automobile roads, bridges and tunnels the investment projects for 2 billion and 200 million somoni are under implementation. In the framework of those projects the repair works of 354 km of automobile road of Dushanbe-Buston-Chanak have been completed this year before the deadline, construction and repair of 400 km of automobile road from Dushanbe to Kyrgyzstan border is under way.

At the same time, preparatory works are going on regarding implementation of the five projects on reconstruction of 380 km of highways.

Generally, in coming three years it is scheduled to finance highway engineering with 2 billion somoni and by 20th anniversary of national Independence our country will fully break down the communication deadlock.

Therefore, the Government of the country is to take necessary measures on development of infrastructure that will allow Tajikistan to break down communication deadlock, achieve international standards, to ensure their maintenance, as well as to introduce the mechanism of self-financing.

The current situation in the global economy urges us to use fruitfully modern mechanisms in order to improve the level and the quality of transportation and communication service. In this regard, aviation development should be boosted as well.

Therefore, last year under the reform of this sphere, its structure was updated. We also need to make airports infrastructure and aviation meet the national economy demand and international standards.

Moreover, it is necessary to increase the routes for international and local air companies as well as to ensure conditions for higher quality service, security and lower prices in this sphere.

With this in mind the Ministry of Transportation and communication and the Unitary State Enterprise «Dushanbe International Airport» are obliged to finish the construction of the new terminal with the overall cost of 140 million somoni by 2011.

Level of the railway service also needs to be put in line with modern requirements, passenger and freight should be improved and their tariffs should be affordable.

Therefore the Government is obliged to work out a reform plan of the Unitary State Enterprise “Tajik railway” and ensure its implementation. The Ministry of Transport and Communication and the State Unitary Enterprise “Tajik Railway” are obliged to boost the process of strengthening its technical and material basis and construction of 46 km of Dushanbe - Kurgonteppa railway which was started on the eve of Navruz holiday.

Dear audience!

Another important sphere of national economy is agriculture and food safety of the country mostly depends on its development. Last year the total volume of agricultural production compared to 2007 was increased by 8%.

But despite that, some producing performances of the sphere, like food safety and job creation are still unsatisfactory and the fruitful usage of water and land need to be improved.

The local food market still greatly depends on the import. To ensure food safety, it is necessary to increase the production of products as well as to strengthen material and technical capability of the farms in order to meet demand on products.

About 2 billion somoni has been spent over the past 5 years in order to ensure fruitful implementation of development programs in this sector, the reconstruction of infrastructure, irrigation and water management system as well as to purchase agricultural machinery and fertilizers.

More than 700 million somoni from the state budget and through investment projects will be spent for these goals.

The agricultural production has been increased as a result of urgent measures and the implementation of the programs in various fields in agriculture.

Despite the fact that the country's total export of dry and fresh fruits and vegetables has amounted to 1 million tons over the past five years we still have potential to increase the figures. The export potential of the agriculture in the country has not been fully used so far.

Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Academy of agricultural sciences and local authorities are obliged to take concrete measures as well as to ensure implementation of timely correspondent governmental programs on the usage of high-yield crops, vegetable and potato, as well as to ensure development of gardening and grape cultivation to meet local demand and increase the import potential of the country.

In this regard it is of vital importance to set up leasing centers in all districts of the countries.

At the same time the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade together with the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management are to consider seriously the issue of production of the exporting agricultural products as well as to work out a program aimed at broad cultivation of such products. The program is to be submitted to the Government.

Despite the fact that our farmers have succeeded considerably in some directions we still have decline in production of cotton which is one of the major part of our agricultural production year by year.

The main reason for the low level in cotton production is the fact that financing mechanism doesn't meet the requirements and as a result farmers are not motivated. There are some other reasons for that like a low quality of seeds and crop-yield, bad conditions of the soil, worsening of melioration and irrigation quality. Farms including, first of all those that cultivate cotton, were provided with 140 million somoni from the budget sources through local banks in 2008. About 180 million somoni is planned to be provided as privileged loans for the same purpose from budget sources in 2009.

At the same time the Ministries of Economic Development and Trade; Agriculture and other corresponding ministries and agencies are obliged to consider the possibility of tackling the issue of farms loans as well as to take measures aimed at further support of farmers.

At the same time the Ministry of Agriculture, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences together with corresponding ministries, agencies and local authorities are obliged to take necessary measures to increase cotton production as well as to find out the ways making this field profitable.

Moreover the head of local authorities are obliged to refrain from groundless interfering to the internal affairs of the farms. They are also to take measures to provide farmers with necessary agricultural machinery, seeds and fertilizes.

The reclamation of new land is the one of the means of creation of job for the rural population and reduction of the level of unemployment and poverty. At present, there is 57 thousand hectare of uncultivated land in the country. For the reclamation of new land we should, together with the assignation from state budget, also involve widely the local budget and national and foreign investors.

In addition, we should arrange the land using right market and its successful activity to provide the rate and quality of reforms in private sector, the efficient use of water and land and the range of agriculture's repeated sowing.

Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Melioration and Water Recourses, The Agency for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences together with the concerning ministries and institutions and the local state executive organs of regions and districts have to take the necessity measures for the strengthening of legitimacy basis of new reforms in agriculture sector and its performance, the entering of new land into agricultural turn and the enlargement of area for repeated sowing to 200 thousand hectare every year.

It should not be forgotten that the abovementioned measures are the one of the means for the provision of food security.

It should be noted that the steadiness of agricultural production in our country depends on rational and efficient use of water resources.

Taking into consideration the current situation of water deficit in the region, the consequences of drought and water shortage and the influence of climate change to the main sources of fresh water in the Central Asia– the glacier of Badakhshan, we have learn the new principles of water resource management in the base of basin and integrated management and consider the possibility of their implementation.

With this view, the Ministry of Melioration and Water Recourses, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management have to prepare the investment projects on the reclamation of new land, the improvement of irrigation condition of the land and prudently use of water and to take acting measures for the involvement of national and foreign investments.

Taking this opportunity, I would like once again to call on all noble people of Tajikistan, including first of all business people from the agricultural sector, farmers, people from rural places and those who have irrigated area under the global economic and financial crisis and given the short of water allover the world for rational land and water resources usage as well as for cultivation of various crops thus taking part in ensuring their own need and as a result the food security of their country.

Dear Deputies!

The state's potential on implementation of social security based on sustainable economic development of the country is being increased in discrete steps. Over the past

several years using available potential we have succeeded to settle a number of social problems as well as to reduce poverty rate by 30%.

The amount of 4 billion and 900 million somoni has been spent for social needs. These figures are one of the most important results of social policy of our country over the past years.

These days regardless of the fact that the potential of the state is being limited by the global financial crisis we are focused on the creation of favorable environment for the development of essential social sectors including first of all education, culture, public health, social security and we **would like to stress once again that we will give priority to these spheres regardless of the current difficulties.**

2 billion 600 million somoni or 44 % of the current budget envisaged for the social and pension spheres. In compare with 2008 it has been increased by 1 billion 300 million or 56%.

The current salaries of the healthcare, social protection of the population and cultural spheres workers have been increased in the framework of the envisaged resources from 1 of July by 30 %. From the 1st of September the salaries of scientific and educational spheres workers have been increased by 15%.

The reconstruction and growth of the economy cannot be put through without scientific and educational support and development.

The issues of using the international standards in the teaching system, educating qualified personnel, according to the requirements of the labor market should constitute the nature of the governmental policy in the sphere of education.

The level of any countries development depends, first of all, on the effective activity of highly skilled workers in the different spheres.

Education as a determining sphere of the society in the social policy system of the country was declared as a priority sphere. Special attention and primary concern were given to the reform and the development of the educational sphere since the first days of independence.

Substantial changes take place in the educational system in the construction of new, as well as, renovation and reconstruction of existing teaching institutions. 854 secondary schools were built and renovated. As a result 253 thousand new seats were created.

Today there are 145 lyceums, gymnasiums and schools for talented children functioning in Tajikistan, 25 of which are private. More than 67 thousand learners are studying there. The number of higher education institutions was increased from 13 to 28. The number of students has reached 160 thousand from 70 thousand which is correspondingly 2 and 2,5 times more compared to the pre-independent period.

According to the Computerization Program of Higher Education Institutions more than 3100 schools were provided with 25 thousand computers. Relevant conditions were created for 675 thousand students to learn computers. **The computerization of the educational institutions of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, some cities and regions of Sugd, Khatlon oblasts and Dushanbe were completed under the mentioned Program.**

The level of computerization in 7,5 thousand high schools of the country is being increased gradually. Currently we have 1 computer per 17 students in high and higher schools of the country and this figure amounts 1 computer per 9 students in the State Medical University of Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Education must accelerate the process of accession to the world educational programs and use modern technologies in comprehensive schools.

The Government is accelerating and gradually implementing the process of reforming of the educational sphere, directed at educating skilled and qualified generation, worthy of glorious traditions of ancestors, and drawing the teaching system close to the international standards.

The State Program on the Construction, Renovation and Reconstruction of Schools for the years 2008-2015 with the budget of 590 million somoni was adopted for these purposes. More than 800 schools will be built and renovated until the year 2015 in the framework of the Program.

The international scholarship of the President of Tajikistan was formed to educate skilled personnel abroad.

In general, 1 billion 140 million somoni was allocated in 2009, four times more than five years ago and 33 times more than in 1995.

Moreover, 6 investment projects with the overall budget of 300 million somoni are under the implementation.

In spite of such support the level and quality of studies, teaching and educating skilled persons in the country leaves much to be desired. The issues of non attendance of school by boys and girls are of great concern. Therefore changing the teaching system is a call of the times.

In this connection, I suggest to transform the principal schools from September 2010 into obligatory ten-year and comprehensive schools from September 2014 into a new comprehensive system thus to create basis to join the global educational area.

The Ministry of Education, other line ministries and state executive bodies of the regions and cities in order to provide the transition to this system of teaching are obliged to take necessary measures in the construction of new schools and additional classrooms.

The Ministry of Education should pay major attention to forms and contents of teaching books and materials, teaching quality in all phases of education, educating skilled personnel abroad and professional development in accordance with advanced modern international requirements.

As you know, today the issues of technical sciences development in the world society and using modern technologies are of great importance. But in our country exact sciences are developing in the framework of humanitarian sciences. Therefore, our scientific and technological thinking is in a relatively low level.

Certainly, high level of humanitarian thinking, aimed at directing people towards self-knowledge, patriotism and proud of country, statehood and rich civilization of the nation is very important.

But only on the bases of humanitarian thinking we will not be able to fully benefit from scientific, technical and modern technologies.

Therefore, the main task of the Ministry of Education, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan today is to direct their capabilities along the development of the humanitarian sciences towards the technical and mathematical sciences, with the aim of strengthening the technical and economical skills of the society.

The goal of our state policy in the issues related to youth is to educate personnel and well educated specialists, generation of open minded young people with patriotic behavior.

In this regard the development sport aimed at public health care and protection of the national genofond is of vital importance. The average age of the population in Tajikistan is 24, thus we belong to the one of the youngest nations in the world. We pay a special attention

towards the health care issue of our people as of the prioritized direction of our internal policy.

In the past years, the Government of the republic with the aim of accelerating the health care system's reform, adopted several laws, the main goal of that is to be adapted to the modern request of the health care system and to bring better condition to this sphere in general.

During the independence years all over the country more than 700 health care facilities have been established, repaired and renewed, the health care system's equipments have been bought for the amount of more than 400 somoni. In upcoming three years 400 medical facilities will be established and renewed.

With consideration of the future tasks in the budget of this year for the health care system 400 million somoni is foreseen, which is 140 million somoni or 55 percent more than previous year's budget.

For the development of the health care system, especially to make better the condition of the hospitals, updating their technical basis, providing modern medical service together with the state funds additional investment's funds and grants are used. Today to balance the condition of the medical facilities of the republic 30 investment projects with the total amount of 450 somoni is being implemented.

To level up the health care quality of the society, providing healthy competitiveness, development of the service system with the use of modern technology and preparing the professional specialists in this sphere are the main issues of the day.

To implement these goals we need to clearly evaluate that which group of the medical service will be guaranteed by the state and which of them could develop private medical service. We must provide more possibilities for the development of the different types of the medical care for people.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health along with guaranteed state funds must also pay close attention to the development of private medical service and individual funding for the sanitary and medical assistance agencies and take additional measures in this direction.

In the direction of social security of people the issues of development of modern reliable system, providing pension, increasing the effectiveness of the social assistance policy for low-income groups by the state and establishment of workplaces are in the main focus of the Government.

The measures taken by us in this direction show that the state sector programs are gradually implemented, the level and the quality of life and social security of people will be increased to a possible level.

Today the strict observance of the Law on the regulations of national customs and traditions became of a vital importance. Moreover it is notable that a number of Muslim countries are implementing our experience.

The trust support of the indigent people by addressing assistance and social services is the main priority of the social policy of the state, the general reform of which need a serious snatching.

The establishment of the new workplaces is another direction of the social policy. In this sphere, first of all, for the jobless people the relevant condition for learning new professions must be provided.

The present labor market needs the involvement of the state in normalizing the issues of creation of new workplaces and providing jobs for people.

During the past five years as a result of providing workplaces more than 360 thousand jobless people found jobs. Only in three months of this year around 40 thousand new workplaces have been established and more than 31 thousand job seekers were provided with workplaces.

As a result, the increasing process of the level of jobless people, that was registered in the past years, has been stopped and in 2008 this indicator with compare to 2007 decreased by 15 percent.

It should be mentioned that the world financial crisis affected the labor market. In this regard, the heads of all ministries and agencies, executive authorities of the state government in the regions and towns and districts, state and private enterprises must create more new workplaces in order to decrease the negative affect of this crisis.

To this end, the Government of Tajikistan and the heads of the executive authorities of the regional governments are obliged to create 180 thousand new workplaces this year and 100 thousand workplaces in each upcoming year.

In order to decrease possible negative effects of the world economic crisis to labor market the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection must as a soon as possible to establish the data base of workplaces and through the mass media and labor exchanges inform the job seekers about the available workplaces.

Nowadays effective labour-market regulation promotes further expansion of facilities of the state employment authorities.

In this connection, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population is obliged to submit substantiated proposals on establishment of employment guaranteeing system and self-employment support center in the form of state unitary enterprises.

Absence of profession and proper specialties of the separate groups of the people is another reason of unemployment in the country.

That is a majority part of labour forces of the country are those who unable to be engaged in varied sectors of economy, especially in industry and construction spheres.

With the objective to adjust this situation, a network of adult professional training centers is established and important works have been done to bring their specialties into labour-market and construction sites standards. However current training capacity of these centers consists of 10 – 12 thousand people per year, which we can not be satisfied of that number.

In this respect, with the view of resolving existing problems, particularly in term of world economic crisis, the Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Protection of Population in cooperation with employers should elaborate professional specialties standards and are to organize short-term courses on professional trainings, professional development, industrial training of important professions for the unemployed part of the population.

I am confident, that the implementation of these measures will broaden the opportunities of the country in the direction of efficient employment and ease labour market tension as well.

With a high sense of responsibility we realize that we still have many problems of socio-economic protection of the people which are to be resolved. Thereupon, the Government and regional public authorities have to reinforce their activity in this crucial direction and focus all facilities towards timely solution of those issues.

Dear audience!

Culture is undoubtedly a mirror of national spirit, customs, traditions and the history of any nations. Humanity doesn't have more effective means than culture and art in order to unite and bring the peoples close together.

With the aim of facilitation of cultural development of Tajikistan and support of scientists and cultural workers, the Government annually sends a lot of money to this sector which it has been increased for two and half times during last three years.

Today we are under way of developing our national state. In this crucial time, to apply to the memory of famous Tajik ancestors and world-known culture is a constructive mean in intensification of forming thought and national self-consciousness, strengthening the basis of civilized civil society and moral ground of sovereign state of Tajikistan.

In this respect, our cultural policy today is focused on study and evaluation of honored sons of Tajik nation, revival and use of their human values in the favor of the interest of society.

We have declared year 2009 a year devoted to the great theologian, a founder of a *mazhab* of Islam Imomi A'zam, which it is one of the measures embracing a cultural life of the people. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to some aspects of religion in the country.

Recently, people are saying that allegedly we disregard secular values in our state policy and giving first priority to the religious values.

Actually, when 99 percent of our population is Muslim, it is a usual thing to respect Islamic values as a great source of morality and ethics. Along with this, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, variety of ideology, freedom of conscience, equality of all religions and *mazhabs* are guaranteed in the Republic of Tajikistan.

These natural valuations of state attitude to religion are clearly reflected in the new recently adopted Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On freedom of conscience and religious organizations».

With the great respect to the will of the people and reaffirming again the constitutional norms of our country – independence, democracy, rule of law and secularism, I categorically declare that we will never turn out of the way which we have chosen.

I consider it necessary to emphasize about one more issue in my annual address this year, which I was previously mentioning about it several times. This year we celebrate 20th anniversary of adoption of Law on the language of the Republic of Tajikistan.

We have made a significant contribution and took a number of measures to strengthening and expanding of official language. But there are too many works still to be done in this direction.

In view of the facts, that the Law on the official language was adopted before Tajikistan's independency and does not meet up-to-date requirements, so, in cooperation with philologists and lawyers we worked out a new draft of Law on official language which is expected to be finalized very soon.

I am convinced that present document will significantly promote the strengthening of official language status and lay down a solid legal ground of its further improvement.

We should not to forget, that without official language development which is a substantial element of national self-consciousness and statehood, we can not be a sovereign state in its full sense.

Therefore, observance of literary language norms is first of all, the responsibility of every government official, public servant of state structure and mass media. It has to be understood by each honored citizen, who stands for the prosperous future of his Motherland and wants his state to be more developed and sovereign.

Present century is the age of information. Being closely bounded with economics, advancement of science and engineering, nature protection, industry and politics, information favor the development of them.

Along with this, it should be considered that the word could be creative and harmful at the same time. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention on issue which today is under the serious consideration. If you have paid attention, a whispering campaign against Tajikistan continues to spread in the web pages of Internet.

It is obvious, that there are some defined circles, which are opposed to sovereign state of Tajiks and our multilateral policy. Even if we will look to these compromised materials, it seems that our state could not reach any political, economical and social achievements and its future growth is unknown.

For example: According to the research of the specialists almost 30 thousand news and articles were spread in the web sites in 2004-2007.

More than 80 % of them are full of compromised, inadequate information and unfounded prediction. Nowadays this undesirable tendency has been increased. Information warfare, which has been started since 90th of the last century against us, has only one aim: to destroy the image of Tajikistan on the international scene, to demolish the name of Tajik nation and to weaken public confidence for their future.

In the near future Tajikistan will celebrate its 20 Independence anniversary. During these years our state has found its own place between other countries of world and became an equal member of world society.

Of course, there are a lot of problems which need to be solved in our society. We know it very well and we provide for every eventuality for the solution of these problems. The achievement of the people of Tajikistan despite of all internal difficulties is well known and ignorance of all of them is unfair.

The most important thing is that a peace and stability, political achievement, national unity, creativity and progress, which have been established in our country, are not in the interest of foes.

The people of Tajikistan have to be aware of the bad intension against the state, should not lose the political conscious and courage. On contrary, we have to be thankful for being a sovereign state and to be more eager to make the future of our country better.

The national interest demands a Mass Media not only to be an instrument of reformation but also to be a guard of the state in this information warfare and be able adequately give an answer to the provoke articles for the stability of society and strengthen the faith of people for a good future.

In order to be able to provide the realization of the strategic aims during the world economic and finance crisis, a political parties, social associates, non-government organizations and mass media have to put the sovereignty, national unity and state prosperity upper then personal interests.

Dear guests!

One of the main responsibilities of the state is the protection of the human right and freedom, supremacy and rule of law. Therein, we have completed a lot of things.

Moreover, it is very important to continue improving the principles of law based on social development. Therefore, adoption of a New Housing Code as well as improvement of the Criminal Code on imposition of fine for economic crimes if a caused damage is repaired voluntarily is required.

The important mechanism of the human right protection and facilitating the rule of law is the arm of law. In June 2007, the program of legal and juridical amendment was confirmed. Due to this program step by step the juridical branch was improved.

In order to strengthen judicial branch, to elevate the status of judges in protection of human rights, the legislative privileges of the state, government structures and organizations, which serve to this goals and a new improved program have to be created.

In this regard, Supreme Court, Supreme economic Court and Justice Council of the Republic of Tajikistan must remedy a deficiency in judge's elections and transfer also take a necessary measure to raise the qualification and experience of the judges and court staff.

The law enforcement agency in facilitating of national security, stable and favorable life of society and struggle against the criminal has done been completed a lot of things.

In result commission of crime relatively reduced, clearance of crime became better. The level of qualification and professional training of specialists has been increased, the material and technical possibilities of the Agency have been improved.

Corruption is one of the negatives sides which weakens the basis of the state and society and bring sufficient damage to the economy and moral aspect of the nation.

It is necessary to say that for the short period the Agency for State Financial and Corruption Control hold a number of actions in the field of prevention and detection of corruption offences as well as brought to account persons committed in such crimes. However, there are numerous current system shortcomings.

Thus, I consider essential for Agency State Financial and Corruption Control jointly with other respective structures to take appropriate steps on the strengthening the counteraction in this sphere.

The security insurance of the state and prosperity of society depends on successful activity of all structures of military forces of the country. We have taken related measures for enforcement of military security of the country, defense of state border, rising up the level of battle-worthy possibilities of the Army, improvement of material-technical condition and professional qualification of the personnel of Military Forces.

Remind you, that the activities of law-enforcement and military structures of the country have been overviewed in details during the session of Security Council of the Republic of Tajikistan in January 2009. In the session we have made decisions on the elimination of current defects.

Once again I entrust the leadership of law-enforcement and military bodies to take appropriate actions for increasing the level of all battle-worthy possibilities of the Army, the perfection of the experience and practical skills of military personnel, development of training programs and more intensive patriotic involvement of officers and soldiers as well as maintenance of call of duty and civil responsibility, observance of the rules of etiquette and proper personnel policy in this field.

**Distinguished Members of Majlisi milli and Deputies of
Majlisi namoyandagon!**

External and internal policies of our country being interconnected actively foster the economical and social development.

We have made a choice for the achievement of principle of “open doors” in our foreign policy, which demonstrates on the international arena the protection of sequence and pragmatism of national interests of Tajikistan and we still proceed in that direction.

Thus, our primary task is to protect the national interests of the country applying all available means within the framework of international legal principles.

I would like to focus, that the Republic of Tajikistan relying on the relationship with all nations of the world widely collaborates and operates on the international level.

For our country, as well as for all UN member – states the prior goal is the provision of sustainable development.

Tajikistan has made a decision to lead the negotiation with its partners in a search of ways of overcoming the challenges as basis of its foreign policy.

Therefore, the Republic of Tajikistan supports close cooperation and reform initiatives of the UN as an independent and universal organization which forms the world system.

Our country is an adherent of the mutual beneficial integration and equality among former Soviet Union Republics. Euro-Asian Economic Cooperation could be an effective mechanism for the integration in the region.

We give essential emphasis for the maintenance of favorable atmosphere for regional collaboration with neighboring countries. This position is determined by common history, economical interaction and cultural unity of our nations.

Nations of the region are linked by thousands threads which bring together our cultural relationship. However, despite to our efforts and signed bilateral and multilateral agreements the level of cooperation is still insufficient and does not comply with the potential of the region.

We will proceed to pursue our inspirations in the improvement of regional initiatives on the strengthening and development of friendly relations with neighboring countries since we can not imagine the successful perspective of Central Asia without such cooperation.

The prosperity of Central-Asian nations depends on mutual cooperation of regional economy which should foster the freely crossing of the borders by citizens, liberal monetary turnover, trade relations and labor forces.

For today, in the situation of world crisis, mentioned opportunities are not achieved and led to significant downturn in the economy of our country. Tajikistan always was and still devoted adherent of economy integration as a factor of stable development of the region.

Dear friends,

Recently between the states of the Central Asia on the water and energy issue many discussions and dialogues are taking places. It seems that this process is supported by some interested forces for the concrete aim.

For example, they insist that somehow the implementation of hydro energetic projects in Tajikistan will negatively affect the neighboring states. In this regard, I would like to state one more time that these ideas are totally baseless.

Because, the construction of the hydro energetic facilities in Tajikistan will never cause the water to decrease in the lower reach rivers of the region and will not affect its ecology.

Even during the Soviet Union, while planning the constructions of the great hydro power stations in the upper reach states two goals were taken into account: first the

generation of cheaper electricity for the region and second providing new irrigating lands in the lower reach states, since the upper reach states are mountainous states and have no lands to irrigate.

Therefore, without establishment of the new water dumb that are constructed in the upper reached states, to provide with water the irrigating lands and discover of new lands are impossible.

This point was made by the independence and respected scientists of Europe.

From the other side it is known that hydro energetic power stations like irrigating lands do not swallow 80-90 percent of water of the rivers.

The Republic of Tajikistan in implementation of its hydro energetic projects is conducting transparent policy and respects all interests, including the interests of its neighbors. The establishments of the hydro energetic facilities in the internal rivers of Tajikistan are directed towards the balanced solution of the water and energy issues of the region in general.

At this stage we should pay attention that we can not continue to see the suffering of people of our country, which occurs for past 15 years during the winter time due to the shortage of electricity.

Clearly and firmly I want to address one point to the brotherly nations of Central Asia that people of Tajikistan, who are the ancient people of this region, during the centuries lived in peace and mutual understanding with its neighbors.

To continue with this good tradition we will not in any circumstances leave our neighbors without water supply and will always follow the well sayings of our great ancestors, which is based on the Prophet's Hadis indicating that "The share of the neighbor is equal to the share of God"!

The problem of the clean water for the entire world is becoming more challenging year by year. Because it has different directions, especially legal, social, economical and ecological and more or less affects all the states of the world and this was proved during the comprehensive discussions and dialogue of Fifth water forum, which took place in Istanbul.

We are confident that the United Nations and other international organizations will assist more and seriously the states of Central Asia.

In contrary, in the near future the water problem in the region may become one of the main difficult issues.

For the usage of clean water of the Sarez Lake in the interest of people of the region and permanently providing drinkable water to them we invite the states of the Central Asia to be more prosperous and participate in the international consortium.

We do hope that our foreign partners and neighbors will support our efforts in this direction.

Dear friends!

Today, the mankind faces new threats, like international terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime, global warming, and infectious decease.

Tajikistan is a reliable adherent of the international community in the fight against international terrorism and makes its contribution to it.

At the same time, we do not consider elimination of the causes and factors feeding terrorism, like poverty, world order being far from justice, low level of consciousness, national discord, cultural differences and selfish acts of some states in the international arena.

The Republic of Tajikistan will further continue its activity against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations and antiterrorist coalition.

In this direction we will strengthen our cooperation with international organizations, like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), CIS and Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Tajikistan will actively continue international cooperation in fight against illegal drug trafficking.

In our opinion, establishment of an integrated information centre under the aegis of the UN will benefit to effectiveness of the fight against drug related crimes.

Tajikistan will continue to make efforts to increase the volume of investment from Russia, China, US, Europe, Muslim countries and other states, and in favor of strengthening sustainable mutual and bilateral interstate relations based upon economic pragmatism and mutual understanding.

Naturally that in the future also we will straighten our beneficial cooperation with Persian speaking countries, and will comprehensively contribute to economic development of brotherly Afghanistan.

Important directions of the Tajikistan foreign policy remains and will be providing protection of rights and interests of citizens and labour migrants abroad, strengthening positive image of the country in the region and in the world, providing information security, strengthening humanitarian diplomacy.

Hence, the Republic of Tajikistan conducts its foreign policy in a manner that could actively assist in solution of vital issues as well as tackling new challenges faced by the state and the nation.

Dear fellow-citizens,

Distinguished members of Majlisi milli and the deputies of Majlisi namoyandagon!

Basic directions of the Tajikistan Government's domestic and foreign policy at this period, when the impact of world financial crises gradually increases, mainly includes maintenance of existing level of country's socio economic development and strengthening and widening mutually beneficial cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and all countries of the world.

Till present the history of mankind witnessed many crisis and their impact in compare of current crisis were much more severe, but all of them were eliminated with coordination and cooperation of nations around the globe.

Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan in this direction could play an effective and important role.

I would like with satisfaction to mention that present members of Majlisi Oli during past years worked effectively and adopted and ratified laws, programs and strategies as well as international agreements, which undoubtedly created necessary legal basis for the development of society, strengthening stability and tranquility as well as enhancement of law and order.

Therefore I would like to express my sincere gratitude to members of Majlisi Milli and Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Taking this opportunity I would like to remind that election to the parliament and local representative bodies will be held in February 2010.

All necessary conditions should be created for the sake of conducting high organization leveled, transparent and free election and electing deserved representatives of the people.

First of all, all political powers, parties and individuals, who will run for the election, should act only within the framework of Constitutions and active laws.

I believe that this political event will take place in accordance of Constitution and active laws and with observance of norms of patience and dialog and in high organization level, and will be an example of unity and indivisibility of society as well as a tool for further development of our independent state.

The crisis, which covered all over the world, will come to an end sooner or later. It is important that we should not be disheartened by these difficulties and with no worry to continue improvement and creative works and sincerely serve for development and prosperity of our dear Motherland.

Our people experienced much more difficult days during the civil war. Undoubtedly, this crisis also will be overcome by patience and close collaboration with countries of the region and the world through boosting economical cooperation and effective use of internal resources.

Taking into consideration the abovementioned, it is requested from all heads of governmental bodies, enterprises and entities and their staff, regardless of types their property, as well as from each and every honored and patriot man to work hard in this very sensitive period and with creative initiatives in the charitable act to contribute for strengthening state's economic capacity, improving level and quality of living standard as well as development and prosperity of their ancient Motherland.

We should not only maintain socio-economic development of our country at the sustainable level, but also with the sense of responsibility and proud from our state and ancient nation and with the use of all existing opportunities and resources to ensure development and prosperity of dear Tajikistan, which 20th anniversary of its state independence we will celebrate in the year of 2011.

One of the important ways out of world financial crisis or ways to lessen its impact on our national economy is cohesion, cooperation and collaboration among all branches of state authorities.

I do firmly believe that cultured and diligent Tajik people with strong will, creative strength and hard work will overcome this financial crisis and will strive for development and prosperity of our dear and sacred Motherland-Tajikistan.

I wish you all every success in your endeavor.

Thank you!