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PROGRAM ZA OPSTANAK EKONOMIJE I NACIJE

Još uvek je nepoznat konačan iznos štete od poplava koje su, sredinom maja, imale razornu moć i ugrozile ljudske živote, uništile kuće, proizvodne pogone, poljoprivredna zemljišta, vozila, stoku... Kada se bude znao tačan iznos, kao značajan faktor koji veoma utiče na privredu i finansijsku situaciju zemlje pristupiće se, kako je iz Vlade najavljeno, rebalansu budžeta. Ovo stanje još više otežava ostvarivanje ciljeva koje je nedavno, a pre katastrofalnih poplava, izneo premijer Aleksandar Vučić, nakon sastanaka sa najuspešnijim privrednicima, predstavnicima svih 29 banaka i stranim investitorima. Naime, ove, najznačajnije mere Vlade po budućnost zemlje mogu se definisati u pet tačaka: (1) borba protiv sive ekonomije; (2) podsticaj kreditnih aktivnosti; (3) najjači investicioni paket za podsticaj investitora, domaćih i stranih, bez razlike i bez favorizovanja jednih na račun drugih; (4) poreske olakšice; (5) podsticanje masovne gradnje i izgradnje jeftinih stanova. Ovo su prve mere od brojnih koje su navedene u programu Vlade nazvan "Programom za oporavak ekonomije i nacije" koji se podjednako može nazvati i programom za *opstanak* ekonomije i nacije. On ima tri najvažnija stuba: (1) opsežan paket reformskih zakona; (2) podsticaj malim i srednjim preduzećima i (3) konsolidacija budžeta. Domaća i strana štampa detaljno nas je obavestila o rezultatima dogovora na ova tri sastanka, te ih je ovog puta nepotrebno pominjati, sem opšteg zaključka da su se svi koji su bili uključeni u ove dogovore složili da su predložene mere neophodne uz još neke predloge potekle iz delokruga rada pomenutih predstavnika iz privrede i bankarstva.

Ono što se kao lajtmotiv provlači u predstavljanju ovih mera je i potreba većeg, odgovornijeg i disciplinovanijeg rada bez čega ni jedna mera, bez obzira na sve ispunjene uslove neće biti realizovana.

Razmišljanje o ovom važnom uslovu neminovno asocira na Japan čiji stanovnici su već više od pedeset godina u našoj zemlji sinonim za marljiv i veliki rad. Za poređenje Japana i Srbije samo je jedan podatak bio uporediv,

PROGRAM FOR THE SURVIVAL OF ECONOMY AND NATION

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Still unknown is the final amount of damage inflicted by the floods, whose destructive force in mid-May jeopardized people's lives, wrecked houses, production capacities, arable land, mechanization, and livestock. Once the exact amount is determined, as a significant factor substantially impacting the economy and financial position of the country, the Government announced that it will embark upon a relevant revision of the budget. The concerned situation makes it even more difficult to achieve the goals that were recently, before the catastrophic floods, disclosed by the Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, following the meeting with the most successful businessmen, representatives of all 29 banks and foreign investors. Namely, these Government measures, the most important ones as far as the future of Serbia is concerned, can be defined in five segments: 1) fighting against the grey economy; 2) boosting lending activities; 3) introducing the strongest investment package to stimulate investors, both domestic and foreign, in an equal manner, without favoring some at the expense of others; 4) implementing fiscal facilities; and 5) facilitating mass construction and building cheap apartments. These are the first out of the many measures stipulated in the Government's program titled "Program for the Recovery of Economy and Nation", which may easily be called the program for the *survival* of economy and nation. It rests on three major pillars: (1) comprehensive package of reform laws; (2) incentives for SMEs; and (3) budget consolidation. The local and foreign media informed us into much detail about the results negotiated at these three meetings, hence it is not necessary to repeat them here, other than to draw the general conclusion that everyone involved in these negotiations agreed that the proposed measures are necessary, along with some other proposals arising from the field of work of the mentioned representatives in economy and banking.

The thread connecting all the presented measures is the necessity for a more intense, more responsible and more disciplined work, without which

razvijenost privrede u prvih deset godina po završetku Drugog svetskog rata bila je slična, sa malom prednosti Srbije. Tih godina u školi smo učili da je naša zemlja bogata prirodnim resursima dok su japanska deca učila kako je njihova zemlja siromašna i da samo radom mogu u takvoj zemlji da pristojno žive. Naime, Japan ima malo prirodnih i energetskih resursa ali su danas ekonomski i tehnološki jedna od najrazvijenijih zemalja sveta. To su uspjeli sa neverovatnim potencijalom, vrednih, upornih, disciplinovanih, maštovitih ljudi, koji sve što započnu urade dobro i do kraja.

Japanu su pedestih i šezdesetih godina prošlog veka prognozirali dugogodišnje siromaštvo. Međutim, zahvaljujući samopregornom radnom elanu, društvenoj svesti običnih ljudi, entuzijazmu pojedinaca, spremnošću da uče od drugih ali i da ostanu verni sopstvenim vrednostima, neverovatnom željom za uspehom počeli su da privredu dižu iz pepela i stvore današnje ekonomske rezultate.

Nepotrebno je možda naglašavati da smo propustili priliku da u poslednjih deset godina krenemo po ugledu na njihov recept iz godina po završetku II svetskog rata, i pristupimo suštinskoj ekonomskoj reformi. O našim propuštenim prilikama mnogo se govori u poslednje vreme i svako ima svoj ugao gledanja i svoje predloge kako na najbezbolniji način da se zemlja od toga oporavi. Tako je nedavno je u intervjuu za dnevne novine o tome govorio i jedan vladin visoki predstavnik dajući ovom problemu istinitu dijagnozu: "Plašim se da mi ne budemo društvo propuštenih šansi. Mi nismo propustili priliku da svaku priliku propustimo".

Sem pozitivnog primera Japana moglo nam je poslužiti i iskustvo drugih evropskih zemalja koje su proces reforme svoje privrede uspešno završile mnogo pre nas. Šansu nismo iskoristili, izjalovile su se nade građana od kojih su mnogi ostali bez posla, privatizacija preduzeća je trajavo urađena, zaduženost zemlje je došla do granice neizdrživosti, što je sve dovelo do katastrofalnih rezultata i kolapsa srpske privrede.

Zemlje koje su uspešno reformisale svoju privredu pokazuju nam, veoma očigledno, da nosioci reformi moraju imati široku podršku svog naroda i da reforme nikako nisu opredeljenje samo nosilaca vlasti i njihovih eksperata. Odnosno, one će uspeti ako se za nju opredeli veći deo njenog stanovništva, ubeđeni da će se reforme sprovesti u njihovom interesu, sa većim radom i uz odricanja. Ekonomske reforme treba da omoguće ne samo privredni nego i duhovni preporod naroda, baš kao što je to bilo i u Japanu. Prosečno obaveštenom građaninu Srbije poznate su značajne donacije Japana našoj zemlji u poslednjih desetak godina, a oni koji bolje poznaju istoriju i kulturu zemlje "izlazećeg sunca" uvek ističu da su u svom napretku budno učili od drugih i stvarali bolje rezultate od tih na koje su se ugledali. Tako su Japanci počeli da utiču i na svetska kretanja u umetnosti, filozofiji, sportu, kulturi, ishrani, načinu života.

Poznato je da je ova ostrvska zemlja trusno područje, koju su do sada zadesile i druge prirodne nepogode. Svesni toga, oni su veoma organizovani i obučeni u borbi sa ovim prirodnim razornim moćima u želji da sačuvaju što je moguće više svoje stanovništvo, objekte,



no measure, even if all conditions are met, can be implemented.

Thinking about this important precondition inevitably evokes associations of Japan, whose inhabitants have for over fifty years been the synonym for diligence and assiduousness to the people in Serbia. When it comes to comparisons between Japan and Serbia, there



was only one comparable aspect, i.e. the development of economy in the first ten years following the World War II, which was similar, with the slight advantage on the part of Serbia. In those years we were taught in school that our country is rich in natural resources, whereas the Japanese children were taught that their country is poor, and that only hard work can provide them a decent living. Namely, Japan has little natural and energy resources, and yet, despite this, today it is one of the most developed countries in the world, in terms of economy and technology. This has been achieved owing to the incredible potential of diligent, persistent, disciplined, creative people, who finish everything they start, and finish it successfully.

In the 1950s and 1960s Japan was expected to face many years of poverty. Nevertheless, thanks to the self-sacrificing working zeal, social consciousness of ordinary people, enthusiasm of individuals, willingness to learn from others, but remain faithful to their own values, unbelievable aspiration to succeed, they started to rebuild their economy from the ashes, and generated today's economic results.

There is no need to underline that we missed the opportunity in the past ten years to look

up to their model from the years following the World War II, and to start implementing vital economic reforms. A lot has been said lately about our missed opportunities, with everyone having their own perspective and their own suggestions as to how to help the country recover from this as painlessly as possible. Accordingly,

in a recent interview for a daily paper, one of the high Government functionaries, speaking about this, truthfully diagnosed the core of this problem: "I dread us becoming a society of missed opportunities. We have not missed a single opportunity to miss every opportunity."

In addition to the positive example of Japan, we could have used the experience of other European countries, which successfully completed the process of their economic reforms way before us. We did not use our chance, the hopes of our citizens, most of which lost their jobs, were dashed, the privatization of companies was perfunctory, the country's indebtedness reached the limit of sustainability, which, taken all together, led to the catastrophic results and collapse of the Serbian economy.

The countries which successfully reformed their economies demonstrate, in a rather obvious way, that the proponents of reforms must have the wide support of their people, and that reforms are by no means to reflect just the orientation of the authorities and their experts. In other words, they will succeed only if the majority of the population opts for them, convinced that these reforms would be implemented in their interest, through hard work and some sacrifices. Economic reforms

privredu itd. I u ovim slučajevima nemerljiv je doprinos rada i discipline u postizanju ovih što boljih humanih rezultata.

Štete od poplave koje su nas zadesile su ogromne i još neprocenjene. Humanitarna pomoć stiže iz mnogih zemalja, ali ono što je najvažnije je pokazana jedinstvenost čitavog naroda u Srbiji da svako na svoj način pomogne svojim sunarodnicima. Ovakvo jedinstvo i mobilnost većine pokazuje svu snagu, volju i disciplinu građana, svesnih situacije i spremnih da se maksimalno angažuju u otklanjanju posledica poplave. Za početak, Vlada priprema plan za otklanjanje štete od poplava sa ciljem da pomoć bude podeljena i da se izbegne bilo kakva zloupotreba. Očekuje se da će isto tako uz iskren, otvoren i pošten pristup kompetentne, efikasne i odgovorne vlasti u sprovođenju programa oporavka ekonomije biti uključena i većina njenih građana.

U najavi je Donatorska konferencija u Briselu 16. jula ove godine, na nivou ministara, za Srbiju i BiH koja će, očekuje se, obezbediti preko potrebna sredstva za ekonomski oporavak



postradalih područja. Nadamo se da će se ova, kao i druga sredstva brojnih drugih donatora i kreditora pametno koristiti uz rigoroznu kontrolu njihovog trošenja. Ovo je vreme za Srbiju poput onog iz 19. veka kako ga vidi naš istoričar Slobodan Branković u knjizi *Evropska Srbija i svet*: "Vreme kada su mali bili dovoljno veliki da se uzdignu, ali ne i da opstanu bez pomoći velikih". Bez patetike može se reći da su za Srbiju, ne samo zbog poplava, nastupila odlučujuća vremena borbe za opstanak.

Glavni i odgovorni urednik
dr Veroljub Dugalić

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should enable not only the economic, but also the spiritual revival of people, just as it was the case in Japan. Each averagely informed citizen in Serbia is familiar with the substantial donations of Japan to our country in the past dozen years, and those better acquainted with the history and culture of the “land of the rising sun” always emphasize that the Japanese in their progress eagerly learned from others, eventually surpassing the results of their role models. This is how the Japanese started to influence the global trends in art, philosophy, sports, culture, nutrition, and lifestyle.

Also well known is that this island country is an earthquake area, which has so far been hit by other natural disasters as well. Aware of this, they are extraordinarily organized and trained to fight against these destructive natural forces, wishing to protect their people, infrastructure, economy, etc. as much as possible. In such cases the contribution of hard work and discipline to achieving the best possible humane results is just as evident.

The damage inflicted by the floods that hit our region is enormous and still not estimated. Humanitarian aid has been arriving from many countries, but the most important thing is the demonstrated unison of the entire population in Serbia, and everyone’s readiness to help their compatriots in their own way. Such unity

and mobility of most people indicates the strength, will and discipline of the citizens, aware of the situation and willing to maximally engage in eliminating the consequences of the flood. For a start, the Government has been preparing the plan for repairing the damage inflicted by the flood, with a view to distributing the aid and avoiding any potential

abuses. It can be expected that, along with the open, straightforward and fair approach of the competent, efficient and responsible authorities, most of the citizens in Serbia will also be involved in the implementation of the economic recovery program.

In the pipeline is the Donation Conference in Brussels, on 16 July this year, at the level of ministers, aimed at helping Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is expected to provide more than necessary funds for the economic recovery of the afflicted areas. We hope that both these and other funds collected from numerous donors and creditors will be utilized in a smart way, with the rigorous control of their spending. These are the times for Serbia similar to those from the 19th century, as seen by our historian Slobodan Brankovic in his book *European Serbian and the World*: “The times when the small ones are great enough to rise, but not to survive without the assistance of the great ones.” Without sounding pathetic, one may easily say that Serbia, not only due to the floods, is facing the decisive times of fighting for survival.

Editor in Chief
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