

# **"LRADOU"**

## **Armenian Community Quarterly Newsletter**

**Produced by the Office of the Armenian Representative  
in the House of Parliament of Cyprus, Mr Vartkes Mahdessian**

9 B&C Kastorias Str., Ayia Paraskevi, 2002 Strovolos  
Tel. 22 454540, Fax. 22 424642, e-mail: [office@armenianmp.com](mailto:office@armenianmp.com)

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**ESTABLISHMENT** – The Representative Office in Nicosia, open Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm, has been operating since June 1 with a permanent staff of three (Administrator, Nayiri Mouradian; Civil Affairs, Kevork Kazandjian; Parliamentary Assistant, Gabriella Petrides) who have been dealing with matters of interest to the whole community, in relation to the State, Parliament and within Cypriot society. Mr. Mahdessian has also appointed representatives in Larnaca (Avedis Avedissian, 99445784) and Limassol (Haro Kassabian, 99444157) and a press officer (Dr Antranig Ashdjian) within the policy of transparency as declared in his election programme.

**PERMITS** – The Office has been dealing with residency and work permits, school and university assistance, medical, housing and other issues. It is advisable that Armenian nationals of other countries enter the Republic using legal channels in order to ensure their applications are processed properly.

**3-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT** – During the first three-month period after the May 2006 parliamentary elections, the Representative and his Office staff have concluded the following work for various individuals:

- Six Larnaca residents secured work at Larnaca airport;
- The expulsion of a young Armenian was halted and temporarily settled;
- Two Armenians in Paphos secured an extension of their residency and work permits;
- One person received hospitalisation and a kidney transplant operation;
- Former Melkonian students who were forced to continue their education in other secondary schools received funding after Mr. Mahdessian's meeting with Finance Minister Mr. Michalis Sarris;
- 100 orphans from Gharapagh, who were sponsored by a Russian-Armenian, were offered free excursions provided by the Representative. These included a visit to the St. Asdvadzadzin church in Nicosia and they met with young Armenian Cypriots;
- Mr. Mahdessian and Archbishop Varoujan Hergelian were received in Antelias, Lebanon, by the Primate of the Church of Cilicia, Catholicos Aram I;
- A group of Armenian children visited the "Cans for Kids" recycling centre with Mr. Mahdessian who made a donation to the centre for the purchase of new equipment;
- Mr. Mahdessian had meetings with Interior Ministry Director General Dr. Lazaros Savvides for residency issues;
- The Representatives of the three religious groups (Armenians, Maronites, Latins) had a meeting with House President Mr. Demetris Christofias on minority issues;

- 60 graduates of the Nareg Elementary school and other Armenian secondary school and college graduates in Cyprus were hosted during a reception at Mr. Mahdessian's residence;
- A delegation from the Armenian Evangelical Church paid a courtesy visit to the newly elected Armenian Representative;
- During a meeting with Lebanon's Ambassador to Cyprus, Mr. Michel El Khoury, Mr Mahdessian offered the support of the Armenian community during the crisis in Lebanon;
- Mr Mahdessian, Archbishop Hergelian and Mr. Sebouh Tavitian of the Church Committee, met with the Projects Director of the UNDP-ACT, Mr. Andrew Russel, and discussed progress on the restoration work of the Armenian church on Victoria Street, planned to be concluded in two years time.

LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS – The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Newsletter translated into Armenian the relevant laws on Temporary Resident Visitor (TRV), Temporary Resident Employment (TRE), Student status, Political Asylum, Permanent Residence and Citizenship.