

“LRADOU”
Armenian Community Quarterly Newsletter

**Published by the Office of the Armenian Representative
in the House of Representatives of Cyprus, Mr Vartkes Mahdessian**
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My fellow Armenians and friends,

I am sure that everybody has returned to work after a relaxing summer holiday, revived and refreshed. I would like to wish all the continuing and new pupils and students, as well as our teachers, every success for the new school and academic year.

After a 15-day break in August, the Representative Office has resumed its duties and work is already underway like before.

I am pleased to present you with the fifth edition of the “Lradou” newsletter to convey to you the news about the activities of my office during the past three months.

The office was primarily busy with the organization of the “Arevik” Children and Youth Song & Dance Ensemble performances, which, as you all know, will take place on Saturday, October 6 at 8pm and on Sunday, October 7 at 5pm at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre. The success of this large-scale event depends on your presence to support our talented young artists from Armenia.

We have also worked hard to prepare for the “Breast Cancer Awareness” public seminar which will be held the following Sunday, October 14 from 4.00 to 6.00 pm at the Hilton Park hotel in Nicosia. It is advisable that all our ladies, young and old, attend this highly informative event.

One of our most important events was the celebration marking the 16th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia which was held at the Melkonian Educational Institute grounds on September 19, details of which are published within this newsletter.

Work also was completed in September and a comprehensive report about the cultural, community and economic affairs of the Armenian community of Cyprus was sent to the Secretariat of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Finally, within this issue of “Lradou” you will find information regarding application requirements for low-cost housing. All those who qualify and are interested to apply may do so by completing the relevant forms available at the Representative’s Office.

Vartkes Mahdessian
Armenian Representative in the Cyprus House of Representatives

3-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT: Residency and work permit issues slowed down in the past few months due to the summer holidays of most government offices, while as a matter of urgency of two cases in mid-August were quickly resolved.

- In early August, an Armenian from Lebanon finally secured Cypriot citizenship.
- Grants of 40% to 60% for six students studying at Cyprus College, Americanos College and Frederick Institute of Technology were renewed, while a student received a full scholarship at Philips College thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Vera Tahmazian.
- Students who receive grants or scholarships are reminded that they should secure high marks in order to ensure a renewal of financial aid.
- Members of the Cultural Advisory Committee met regularly between July and September to prepare for the “Arevik” Children and Youth Song & Dance Ensemble performances.
- Mr. Mahdessian sent a letter to Mrs. Asdghig Tavitian thanking her for her article that appeared in the July edition of the “Artsakank” newspaper on the occasion of the completion of his first year in office.
- On July 17, the Armenian Representative sent letters of congratulations to Mr. Christos Patsalides, Mr. Costas Kadis, Mrs. Erato Kozakou-Markoullis and Mrs. Maria Malaktou Pampallis on their appointment to the Council of Ministers and wished them success in their Ministerial duties.
- On July 11, Mrs. Anahid Eskidjian was appointed to represent the Armenian community at the Council of Elders and Mrs. Elsie Utudjian as deputy representative.
- On September 11, Mr. Raffi Mahdessian was proposed to join the Board of the Armenian Schools Committee, to replace Mr. Barrett Kouyoumjian who had resigned recently.

OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS: The Armenian Representative had several meetings and attended a number of events from July to September.

- On July 4, he attended the graduation ceremony at the Police Academy.
- On July 9, he had a meeting with archaeologist Dr. Christina Marancy, a member of Pro Edvcatio, updating her about the latest developments regarding the Melkonian school.
- On July 13, he attended a meeting at Larnaca Municipality to review and finalise a decision for the Genocide Memorial that will be constructed on the seaside road. The cost of CYP 117,000 will be fully financed by the Republic of Cyprus.
- On July 21, he received ARF Bureau Representative Mr. Mgrditch Mgrditchian and later a delegation of the Cyprus Armenian Inter-Party Committee.
- On September 4, Mr. Mahdessian had a courtesy meeting with the new Ambassador for Slovakia, Dr. Anna Tourenikova.
- On September 16, Mr. and Mrs. Mahdessian attended the 2nd Mediterranean Folk Dance Festival at Larnaca’s Phinikoudes promenade, where the Hamazkayin “Oshagan” chapter’s “Sipan” group took part with four traditional dances.
- On September 21, Mr. and Mrs. Mahdessian attended a public gathering at the Pasydy hall organized by the ARF, SDHP and ADL party branches in Cyprus to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the independence of Armenia.

RECEPTION FOR THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA: On September 19, a reception was held at the Melkonian Educational Institute grounds to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. The event was organized by the Representative's office in cooperation with the Ambassador of Armenia to Greece and Cyprus, Mr. Vahram Kazhoyian and the Armenian Prelacy. More than 300 guests attended the reception, including Archbishop Chrysostomos II, all Cypriot party leaders and Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Arman Giragossian. Throughout the evening Mr. Robert Hovhannesian performed on the violin traditional and popular Armenian music.

SPORTS ASSISTANCE: Mr. Vartkes Mahdessian secured a sponsorship of CYP 7,000 from the Cyprus Sports Organisation (KOA) and CYP 400 from the Nicosia Municipality in aid of the Cyprus team that took part in the 4th Pan-Armenian Games held in Yerevan on August 18-25.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- "Arevik" Children and Youth Song & Dance Ensemble performances at the Strovolos Municipal Hall, Saturday, October 6, at 8pm and Sunday, October 7, at 5pm.
- "Breast Cancer Awareness" seminar, Sunday, October 14, 4-6pm at the Hilton Park Hotel. Entrance if free.

LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Low-cost housing from the Cyprus Land Development Corporation

In this edition of the "Lradou" newsletter we have translated into Armenian the relevant regulations and information about the services and schemes provided by the Cyprus Land Development Corporation for low-cost housing or for low-income first-time buyers. The CLDC offers three basic plans for houses, apartments or land:-

- 1. Housing for low-income families**
- 2. Housing for mid-income families**
- 3. Rural and suburban housing**

1. For low-income families to be eligible for CLDC housing, their annual income levels must be:-

- for single individuals CYP 7,000
- for single individuals with health problems CYP 10,500
- families with up to 3 children CYP 14,000
- families with 4-5 children CYP 15,000
- families with 6 or more children CYP 18,500
- families with a handicapped member CYP 18,500

Priority is given to families or individuals who, with their present means, cannot afford to solve their housing needs.

Financial aid is given as follows to families with an **annual income of CYP 7,500:-**

- for 1 bedroom CYP 5,000
- for 2 bedrooms CYP 7,000
- for 3 bedrooms CYP 8,500

A down-payment of 6% is required and the rest can be arranged through a 25 year, low-interest mortgage from the government's House Finance Corporation, to be repaid before the buyer turns 70 years old.

Financial aid is given as follows to families with an annual income of CYP 7,501-16,000:-

- for 1 bedroom CYP 4,500
- for 2 bedrooms CYP 6,000
- for 3 bedrooms CYP 7,500

A down-payment of 8% is required and the rest can be arranged through a 25 year, low-interest mortgage from the government's House Finance Corporation, to be repaid before the buyer turns 70 years old.

Additional aid is given to large families or those with members who have special needs. For large families the aid is.-

- CYP 1,200 more for 4 children families buying a 4-bedroom house
- CYP 2,200 more for families of 5-6 children when buying a 5-bedroom house
- CYP 3,000 more for families with over 6 children buying a 6-bedroom house

For those with special needs, families may receive up to CYP 2,000 in financial aid to finance special construction work in the house.

2. Middle-income families that do not satisfy the condition mentioned in the category 1 for low-income families may buy a home from the CLDC but without any financial aid. In order to qualify for this scheme, applicants must meet the following annual income levels:-

- CYP 12,000 for single persons
- CYP 20,000 for childless families
- CYP 21,500 for families with 1 child
- CYP 23,000 for 2 children
- CYP 24,500 for 3 children
- CYP 28,000 for 4 children

A down-payment of 25% is required and the loan settled in 20 years to be secured from the Housing Finance Corporation that requires a previous deposit.

3. The CLDC aims to promote rural population development and wherever it does not have any housing projects of its own, it may provide low-interest loans of CYP 22,000 for the construction of 2-bedroom homes or CYP 25,000 for 3-bedroom homes. These must not exceed 140 sq.m. and the construction must be undertaken by the applicant family, which may also apply for the additional schemes mentioned before.