

WHO ARE THE NEW GOVERNORS AND WHAT PROPERTY DO THEY OWN?

On August 20, the Prime Minister of Georgia [announced](#) the appointment of 7 new regional governors. Out of the 7 new governors 3 hold incompatible positions (Shalva Kereselidze – Mtskheta-Mtianeti; Giorgi Khojevanishvili – Shida Kartli; Aleksandre Motserelia – Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti) and 2 have filed incomplete asset declarations (Shalva Kereselidze – Mtskheta-Mtianeti; Shota Rekhviashvili – Kvemo Kartli).

Following the announcement, Transparency International Georgia looked into the biographies, business interests and property owned by the new governors.

Shalva Kereselidze

Governor of Mtskheta-Mtianeti



Shalva Kereselidze has [worked](#) for various public institutions since 1996. Prior to becoming the governor, he served as [head](#) of the Regional Coordination Department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to his February 2018 asset [declaration](#), Shalva Kereselidze owns a house and three plots of land in the village of Tsikhisdziri in Dusheti municipality, two apartments and a garage in Tbilisi, as well as a house in the town of Dusheti.

According to the Public Registry, Shalva Kereselidze is a shareholder and director of LLC Shako (ID 229282736). Kereselidze has failed to declare this information in violation of the law.¹ According to Georgian law, Kereselidze must resign from the position of company director and transfer his share to another person within 10 days of appointment as governor.²

Shota Rekhviashvili

Governor of Kvemo Kartli



Prior to his appointment as governor, Shota Rekhviashvili served as Deputy Minister of Refugees. Before that, in 1995-2013, he worked on various positions in the Prosecutor’s Office.

According to his August 2018 asset [declaration](#), Shota Rekhviashvili and his family members own three land plots in Tsavkisi and Oni, and three houses in Tbilisi, one of which is under construction.

Shota Rekhviashvili has failed to declare that he is a 50% shareholder of LLC [Agrogori](#), which is a violation of the law. According to Georgian law, Rekhviashvili must transfer his share to another person.

Besik Amiranashvili

Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti



Prior to his appointment as governor, Besik Amiranashvili served as [head](#) of the Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Police Department.

According to his July 2018 asset [declaration](#), Besik Amiranashvili owns four land plots and a country house in Mtskheta municipality, as well as an apartment and garage in Tbilisi.

Giorgi Khojevanishvili

Governor of Shida Kartli



In 2011-2013, Giorgi Khojevanishvili was the head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Ministry of Corrections. He later worked at Magticom.

According to the Public Registry, Giorgi Khojevanishvili is the director of LLC [Geo Fruit](#), and owns shares in the following companies:

- LLC [Fruit Export Company](#) – 100%
- LLC [GNK Group](#) – 75%
- LLC [Geo Fruit Production](#) – 50%
- LLC [Vests Logistics](#) – 15%
- LLC [Gasland](#) – 100%
- LLC [Deckers Georgia](#) – 20%
- LLC [Maximum](#) – 50%

Giorgi Khojevanishvili also owns an apartment and a plot of land in Tbilisi. According to Georgian law, Khojevanishvili is obligated to resign from the position of company director and transfer his shares to another person within 10 days of appointment as governor.³

Shavlego Tabatadze

Governor of Imereti



Prior to his appointment as governor, Shavlego Tabatadze served as Commander of the East Command of the Land Forces of the Georgian Armed Forces.

According to the Public Registry, Tabatadze owns an [apartment](#) in Tbilisi that is under construction.

According to his 2016 asset [declaration](#), Shavlego Tabatadze and his family members own an apartment in Tbilisi, a land plot and a house in Khashuri, and a non-residential area in Rustavi.

Aleksandre Motserelia

Governor of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti



Prior to his appointment as governor, Aleksandre Motserelia was the Board Chair of the Hazelnut Processors and Exporters Association of Georgia.

According to the Public Registry, Motserelia owns shares in the following companies:

- LLC [Cup Georgia](#) – 49% shareholder and director
- LLC [Fima Georgia](#) – 50% shareholder
- LLC [Aircompany](#) – 16.34% shareholder

Aleksandre Motserelia also owns more than ten agricultural land plots in the village of Tkhilistskaro of Kvareli municipality (total area of 65,000 square meters). According to Georgian law, Motserelia is obligated to resign from the position of company director and transfer his shares to another person.

Zurab Nasaraia

Governor of Guria



Prior to his appointment as governor, Zurab Nasaraia was the Chairperson of the Georgian Railway Trade Union. He was also a [Member](#) of Parliament representing the party Union of Citizens of Georgia. In 2016, Nasaraia [donated](#) GEL 6,000 to the party Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia.

According to the Public Registry, Zurab Nasaraia owns an [apartment](#) in Tbilisi.

Recommendations

Transparency International Georgia calls on:

- **Governor of Mtskheta-Mtianeti Shalva Kereselidze, Governor of Shida Kartli Giorgi Khojevanishvili and Governor of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Aleksandre Motserelia** – to resign from their positions of director at commercial entities within the legally prescribed 10 days.
- **Governor of Mtskheta-Mtianeti Shalva Kereselidze, Governor of Shida Kartli Giorgi Khojevanishvili, Governor of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Aleksandre Motserelia, Governor of Kvemo Kartli Shota Rekhviashvili** – to transfer the shares they hold in commercial entities to other persons for the duration of their service as governors.
- **Civil Service Bureau** – to examine asset declarations submitted by Shalva Kereselidze and Shota Rekhviashvili, and monitor the content and timely submission of asset declarations by newly appointed governors.

1 [Law on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Service](#), Article 15
2 Ibid., Article 13, Paragraph 14
3 Ibid.