

Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION AND DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND JADRANKA MILOŠEVIĆ CLAIMS THAT OBLIGATIONS TO PENSIONERS WILL BE SMOOTHLY FULFILLED.**

**The budget was brought in line with the Government's guidelines**

- **The proposed budget enables unhindered fulfilment of obligations based on pension and disability insurance payment entitlements, Milošević said.**

Draft Budget of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, adopted by the Board of Directors in August 2020, was repealed by a decision on temporary financing of the Ministry of Finance, after which a new budget proposal was prepared for the Fund in accordance with the new program structure compliant with the line Ministry, **Jadranka Milošević**, the director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, told daily "Dan". The budget was projected at 457,15m euros in August.

- The starting points for budgeting were "Revised macroeconomic and fiscal policy guidelines for period 2021-2023", as well as spending limits set for the current budget and the state budget funds, and thus the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund. The proposed budget enables unhindered fulfilment of obligations based on pension and disability insurance payment entitlements, Milošević said.

- **How much have pensions been increased this year? Can you specify the pension growth this year in percentages and in euros on the example of the average pension?**

- Adjustment of pensions and the pension point value is done once a year, from January 1 of the current year, and in January 2021, pensions were increased by 0.9 percent. It is important to note that, pursuant to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, in the case of a negative value of the calculated adjustment, there is no reduction of pensions, but the amount of pensions is kept at the existing level, in order to protect the material position of pensioners. Data on parameters that are important for the adjustment of pensions are published by Monstat. If the legal obligation to adjust pensions arises from the published data of Monstat, the Board of Directors of the Fund makes the appropriate set of decisions as soon as possible.

- **How much have the revenues and expenditures of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund amounted to in 2021 so far, and what was the deficit for two and a half months?**

-Having in mind that the financing of the Fund is done in special conditions of temporary financing, as well as that the budget for 2021 has not been adopted, it is not possible to perform quality analyzes of financial indicators on the operations of this institution. However, it is important to note that the Fund timely fulfills all legal obligations based on the established rights from the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, and that the level of deficit for the first two months of the current year is the same compared to the same period last year.

- **How many pensioners are there currently, what is the average pension and what is the minimum pension?**

According to statistical data in February, the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund pays out entitlements for a total of 129.314 beneficiaries, who have exercised this right in accordance with the Pension and Disability Insurance Law or International Social Security Agreements. The specified number includes 119.604 beneficiaries of this right in Montenegro and 9.710 beneficiaries from abroad.

Regarding the amount of the average pension in Montenegro, according to the February 2021 payment data, it was 293,55 euros. The amount of the minimum pension is determined by the Pension and Disability Insurance Law in a way that the lowest value of the personal coefficient is 0.5. Accordingly, on this day, the lowest pension in Montenegro is 147,08 euros.

**D.M.**

### **The inspection found no irregularities**

- **There has been a lot of talk lately about your election to the position of director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund. Did anyone check the competition for the election and if so, who was it and what was determined?**

I agree with you on the statement, and as a responsible person who is a professional at her job, and does not have a right to be subjective, I will present the factual situation to the public of Montenegro.

Public competition for the election of director of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund was announced and conducted in accordance with all procedures prescribed by Law. The whole process was carried out in a lawful manner.

In order to confirm the legality of the conducted process and protect the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund as an institution, the fund initiated the closure of this issue with the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare.

In this regard, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare had officially started inspection of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, under the subject of supervision of the public competition for the director. Administrative inspection department of the Ministry of Public Administration carried out inspection on December 2, 2020 and stated that there had not been any identified irregularities. Administrative inspection department of the Ministry of Public Administration, also initiated and carried out extraordinary inspection of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, ex officio, on the initiative of the Secretariat General of the Government on February 2, 2021. The initiative called for inspections in relation to the employment procedure in state bodies for three months before and three months after the date of the parliamentary elections in 2020. The subject inspection involved the process of election of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund director, and it stated that for this work position inspection had been carried out earlier and it stated that there had been no irregularities.