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New Premier to Cut Saakashvili's Budget

By The Moscow Times

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TBILISI, Georgia — Georgia's new government led by billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili plans to cut President Mikheil Saakashvili's budget next year.

"The president spends 800,000 lari ($482,000) every year only on electricity bills, and the state budget will not include this spending any more," Ivanishvili said Friday, adding that the president could move from his administration building and take a floor at the state chancellery, where the government works.

The government also plans to scrap the president's plane, which he uses for official visits and trips.

Ivanishvili, who has promised to try to ease tensions with Russia, also said Friday that his government would work to get Georgian exports to the Russian market.

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