

False accusations in A. Gargas' "Investigative Magazine" broadcast on state-owned TV channel TVP - with the participation of the National Bank of Poland

All allegations presented in the above mentioned program represent false accusations or insinuations.

1. The main false accusation is the thesis that the strategic decision on "building the National Bank of Poland central treasury with a back-up IT center" undertaken by the board of the National Bank of Poland (Narodowy Bank Polski, NBP) in 2012, was groundless. This thesis was presented in the program without any proof. Whereas, the decision about the investment made by the NBP's board was preceded by analyses, and was aimed at increasing the safety of financial operations conducted by NBP and the Polish banking system at large.
2. "The loss", reported by NBP to the General Prosecutor's Office and the state-owned TV channel TVP, is based on a false accusation, that the investment was unjustified, i.e. 15.8 million Polish złoty were unnecessarily spent on the purchase of the plot in Zegrze. Another component of the alleged "loss" is the costs associated with maintaining of the unused plot. Those occurred as a result of ceasing implementation of the investment, a decision made by the new board appointed in early 2008. As a result, the security of key operations of the NBP and the banking system in Poland was not increased; the central bank's back-up IT center is located in a rental property, continuously generating costs; and instead of a modern central treasury, the bank owns many treasury facilities dispersed throughout the congested center of Warsaw, which logistically speaking is an expensive inconvenience, burdened with high risk. These additional current costs should be included in the effects of the 2008 decision.
1. In addition, while formulating false accusations about "the losses", the authors of the TVP program and the NBP remain silent about the fact that the plot in Zegrze was bought by the NBP from another state treasury-owned entity: the Military Property Agency (Agencja Mienia Wojskowego, AMW). Therefore, the transaction was carried out within the public sector.

2. Another falsehood is the insinuating claim that the NBP "overpaid" for the plot in Zegrze. In fact, the NBP bought this property after a two-fold reduction of the initial price, initially accounting for 23 million Polish złoty, for 15.8 mln Polish złoty, i.e. 30% cheaper.

3. It is also a false claim that the plot is located on marshy ground. This area was formerly a fortification dating back to the 19th century, and was used by the army after the war as a backup command post in case of war. In addition, it is noteworthy that the planned construction of modern infrastructure was combined with the simultaneous revitalization of historic buildings. Prior to obtaining a construction permit, all the legally required tests, including geological ones, were carried out. The limited accessibility of the plot (located on a peninsula) was, due to its planned function, an advantage. It should also be emphasized that the process of investment preparation was audited by the Supreme Audit Office (Najwyższa Izba Kontroli, NIK) and received a positive evaluation.

To the category of scandalous insinuations, one should include also A. Gargas' question: "who made money on the investment?" One should rather address the question: who lost because of the NBP board's decision in 2008 to put a halt on the implementation of an investment aimed at increasing the security of key NBP operations and the banking system?

*This statement was written with help of Tomasz Pasikowski, NBP's board member between 2001-2007.