

P. Baguškas is appalled by the disorder in the Patent Office

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More and more officials under the patronage of the Labour Party are falling foul of the new government. This time the clouds have gathered over the head of Rimvydas Naujokas, the head of the State Patent Bureau, which is subordinate to the Ministry of Justice. The official, who thrived under the wing of former Labour Party Justice Minister Gintautas Bužinskas, has received the scathing criticism of the new minister, Petras Baguškas, writes Lietuvos rytas.

The Minister was angered by his predecessor's decision to award a bonus of 100% of the salary to Naujokas on the occasion of the national holiday [[Coronation Day of Mindaugas](#)], although the Ministry's internal audit service had found numerous shortcomings in the State Patent Office.

Moreover, Mr Naujokas, who receives a salary of around LTL 6 000, was also rewarded with cash bonuses on various other occasions this year. The Director received a salary bonus at Easter and on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the institution he heads.

Baguskas, who took over the Ministry of Justice at the beginning of this year, was dismayed by the findings of an audit carried out at the State Patent Office, which concluded that "the management there is worse than in a backward collective farm", writes Lietuvos rytas.

It is alleged that some employees of this office were paid bonuses amounting to several thousand litas for the performance of their direct functions without any legal grounds. Bonuses and allowances for civil servants and employees under employment contracts were often calculated and granted retroactively. Naujokas himself was also paid a bonus of 5 % of his salary for representation at the European Patent Organisation, even though this was a direct function of the head of the office.

Naujokas also spared no public funds for trips abroad. Last year, the Director spent as many as 84 working days on business trips. This cost the State over LTL 38 000. Although Naujokas was warned by the ministry's management, he failed to tame his passion for travelling, writes "Lietuvos rytas". In the first half of this year, the director again spent 48 days on business trips, costing the taxpayers almost LTL 57 thousand.

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