



## **Patriarch Kirill's congratulations to Raul Khadzhimba elected President of the Republic of Abkhazia**

*Below is the congratulatory message sent by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia to Mr. R. Khadzhimba on his election as President of the Republic of Abkhazia*

### **To the President-Elect of the Republic of Abkhazia, Raul Khadzhimba**

Esteemed Raul Dzhumkovich,

I cordially congratulate you on your election as President of the Republic of Abkhazia.

Your life journey as statesman and politician has been hard. In the last years you have gained well-deserved authority in the Abkhazian society and the confidence that the people of Abkhazia have put in you is evidence to it. I hope that the knowledge and experience accumulated by you will allow you to effectively fulfil the presidential duties.

Our peoples are called by their very history and allied culture to show good-neighbourliness and mutual support. That is why the life of the Orthodox people of Abkhazia has always provoked living response in the hearts of Russian Orthodox people.

I wish you wellbeing, long life and God's all-powerful help in the difficult and important service that lies in store for you.

Respectfully,

**+ Kirill**

**Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia**

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