
MACEDONIA CONSERVATIVES STRUGGLE TO FORM CABINET AT DEADLINE

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Macedonian conservative leader Nikola Gruevski is uncertain of getting an ethnic Albanian party to join his coalition just hours before his mandate to form a government expires.

Democratic Union for Integration leader Ali Ahmeti has set two conditions for his party's participation. One is for Albanian to be made a second official language throughout Macedonia. The other is for Gruevski to allow the investigation into the wiretapping scandal that shook the country to continue.

Gruevski's VMRO-DPMNE party has rejected both conditions.

The conservatives gained 51 seats in the December election, and need the DUI's 10 seats to secure a majority in the 120-member Parliament.

Gruevski has until midnight Sunday (2300 GMT) to form a cabinet. If he fails, the Social Democrats, with 49 seats, will get the mandate from President Gjorge Ivanov.

Associated Press

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/01/29/macedonia-conservatives-struggle-to-form-cabinet-at-deadline.html>

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