

This year, August in northern Yakutiya was rainy. Hay fields were under water. Although plans called only for small purchases of hay, there is doubt the plans will be fulfilled. Meanwhile, fresh milk - especially as a food for children - is on the list of scarce items here. So I could understand the uneasiness of local authorities. Still, as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. The cool, overcast days of August, coupled with the long-drawn-out rains, worked to the advantage of the reindeer.

During this same period I was meeting with my electors - reindeer herders of the Allaikha Raion. Then I got lucky: I was able to fly about and visit a number of reindeer herds in the company of an educational theatre troupe.

As I had noted from the air, the migratory encampments of the reindeer herders lie along the bank of the Indigirka River, which can truly be considered the source of life for workers in the Allaikha tundra. That's why the reindeer herders' daily diet includes fresh and smoked fish - 'yukola'. At this point I thought, mentally addressing the industrialists, how important it is to preserve the ecological purity of the Indigirka! Even the slightest contamination of the river would harm the fish, and through the fish would harm the health of humans, and the reindeer herders first and foremost. After all, this northern pearl of a river flows through four raions: the Oimyakon, the Abyi, the Allaikha and the Moma. Keep this in mind, those of you who work for the Indigirka Gold Mining Combine "Indigirzoloto" !

My kinsmen, the Evens, are scattered over the entire North. They inhabit Yakutiya, the Magadan, Kamchatka and Sakhalin oblasts, and Khabarovsk Krai. The establishment of national homelands for the Evens, as is the case for many northern peoples, has not been settled everywhere. The Evens, for example, do not have a single national okrug. The first-ever Even national raion - the Eveno-Bytantaiskii - was formed last year in Yakutiya. Our society should be concerned that each northern people, regardless of their numbers, should have their own national territorial entity: an okrug, raion or regular soviet. But the initiative should come from us.