

**Your Majesty, give me 50 days**

The government is failing to meet its own deadline for reaching a ..... for next year and the coming years.

The prime minister has until ..... to reach an agreement.  
That is 50 days.



What's the problem?

At least ..... billion must be found through additional government revenue or reduced government spending in order to meet the European budgetary norm of a maximum of ..... of GDP.

The governing parties cannot agree on how to do this.

For example, the MR does not want to hear about an increase in ..... Vooruit, on the other hand, does not want savings to be made in .....

The prime minister emphasizes the importance of this “historic” budget exercise: an agreement must be reached to get the country out of its dire financial situation.

This is mainly due to four factors:

- an overly “fat” ....., partly due to the complex state structure, which costs too much money (more than .....% of GDP is spent on government activities)
- unfortunately, this complex state structure has meant that in recent decades too few structural ....., which were necessary to create a more efficient government
- inefficient ..... that are too focused on labor and too little on capital, and which are also too low due to slow economic .....
- too low ..... resulting in too many inactive people who do not contribute to the ..... and to the .....

This financial situation is further strengthened by the .....: pensions and healthcare are becoming unaffordable.

Now what?

A ..... like in the US?

No, this situation means that the government will have to work with a system of  
'.....' for several months.

This is actually a trick to ensure that the government still has some kind of working budget when there is no approved budget.

In that case, the budget from the previous year is used as a reference. One twelfth of that budget may be spent each month.

So the government will continue to operate as usual, but for the time being without any structural solutions to its financial problems...