

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

15/2020



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Hungarian government supports Hungarian communities abroad with protective equipment

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó has pointed out that “Every Hungarian is responsible for every Hungarian, Hungarian communities – even beyond the borders – are supported by the government, including with equipment”. He highlighted that the Hungarian government has sent a total of 600,000 face masks, some 10,000 items of protective clothing, protective and test equipment to Slovakia, Transylvania, Szeklerland, Transcarpathia, Slavonia, Slovenia and Vojvodina. Mr. Szijjártó emphasized that this can only be done because the airlift between Hungary and China is functioning and the government has already bought more than 30 million masks from China. In addition, it is planned to launch a new production line that can manufacture 2.8 million masks per month. These masks provide the opportunity for Hungary to support neighboring countries in need.

Honor Kelemen: Hungary to provide life-saving aid

In a video message on Friday Honor Kelemen, the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), has said that, in response to a request from the alliance, Hungary has provided Romanian hospitals’ with access to an important medicine being used to treat coronavirus in many countries. According to Mr. Kelemen, Romania expects the emergency aid from Hungary to arrive on Friday. The RMDSZ has asked for masks, gloves, protective clothing and disinfectant products. These goods are being transported to the most infected Transylvanian Hungarian regions. In his video message, Mr. Kelemen thanked Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó for the assistance. He also emphasized the importance of respecting safety measures and orders.

MKP initiates a community consultation in Slovakia

Péter Őry, President of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), has said that his party has initiated a new community consultation in Slovakia which will take place on an online platform. The consultation has been created to provide Hungarians in Slovakia with the opportunity to speak up about current political and social issues concerning them can be accessed on www.konzultacio.sk. This consultation is pioneering in its field. Mr. Őry pointed out that as a survey counts as representative if more than 1,000 people respond, they would like to assess people’s needs and make decisions based on them. As he commented, this is also a way of keeping in touch between elections. The first consultation, which ends on 22 April, is active as of Thursday. It consists of 8 multiple choice questions which can be answered after registration.



István Pásztor: Preserving workplaces is an important task

Speaking on the daily show “Napindító” on the Hungarian Radio of Szabadka (Subotica), István Pásztor pointed out that the restrictions introduced in Serbia can be relaxed at the end of May. The President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) stated that, even with such relaxation, life cannot return to how it was before. He stressed that preserving jobs and keeping the economy alive and flourishing are important tasks, and they will remain important after the state of emergency. According to Mr. Pásztor, it is far too optimistic to predict that the restrictions will be ended in two weeks.

Szijjártó: Let us make it possible to commute at Záhony

Talking about negotiations on Tuesday with his Ukrainian counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó pointed out that he raised the possibility of commuting for those living near the Ukrainian-Hungarian border, as it would be a great help for Hungarians in Ukraine and Northeast Hungary. On his Facebook page Mr. Szijjártó described his telephone conversation with the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba. He said that they assured each other of their solidarity in fighting the pandemic. Mr. Szijjártó emphasized that both countries are battling challenges presented by the virus in several areas, and are continuously seeking to strengthen their healthcare systems and relaunch their economies. He also informed Mr. Kuleba that under the present circumstances, Hungary is willing to prolong the tied-aid loan program of EUR 50,000,000 for road construction in Transcarpathia.

Hungarian organizations in Western Europe: The government's measures serve the welfare of the country

In their Easter letter to Viktor Orbán, the Western European Association of Hungarian Country Organizations stated that in spite of all unfounded Western European attacks, disparagements and repudiations, they know that all the emergency measures serve the welfare of the country. They stressed that cooperation and love are crucial, especially during the coronavirus. The letter was signed by President Ernő Deák and Vice-presidents Szabolcs Bihari and Dr. Kornél Klement, and emphasized the relativity of human lives in light of the global misery and the suffering of the countries in the yoke of adversity (Dániel Berzsenyi). Under the present circumstances, cooperation and love are particularly important, their letter stated.