

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

41/2014



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Prime Minister Viktor Orbán inaugurates vocational school in Kolozsvár

At the inauguration ceremony of the new vocational school of the Reformed College in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca held on Friday, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that “For young people of different nationalities, studying in one’s mother tongue is essential – not only in order to become a scientist, but also a specialist of any kind.” The Hungarian vocational school – which is considered a stop-gap institution – has started operations in a church property, the renovation of which received 650,000 euros in funding from the Hungarian government. Speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister expressed his conviction that the educational institution will nurture truly precious assets and good Hungarian specialists, adding that this is also to be seen as good news for the Romanian community in Kolozsvár. He said that “Although a student here will learn a profession in the Hungarian language, they will repair the gas stoves of Romanians with just as much attention to detail as those of Hungarians. The Prime Minister emphasized that the largest amount of financial support for Hungarian communities abroad is spent on education.

During his stay in Romania, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met the President of Romania Traian Basescu. The head of the Prime Minister’s Press Office Bertalan Havasi told the Hungarian news agency MTI that Mr. Orbán made a private visit to the Romanian President on Friday.

Zsolt Semjén inaugurates Sapientia University’s new hall of residence

Inaugurating the new, 240-student hall of residence of the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that “the Hungarian government is not granting a favor but is fulfilling its basic responsibility when it supports Hungarian higher education in Transylvania.”

During his stay in Transylvania, the Deputy Prime Minister also participated in the academic year-opening ceremony of the Hungarian department of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş (MOGYE), held in the town’s Hungarian “Fortress Church”, where he said that the fights around MOGYE symbolize the struggles fought for the survival of the Hungarian nation. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that “The case of MOGYE is the most painful wound of the discrimination and disenfranchisement of Hungarians. What we are demanding is not additional support, favor or privilege: we demand only what we are entitled to on the basis of human rights and laws currently in force. (...) The establishment of a Hungarian department with independent decision-making powers is the only acceptable solution for the Hungarian community.”

As previously reported, the Hungarian department of MOGYE did not take part in the official year-opening ceremony of the university held last Monday, protesting against the decision of the Romanian-majority university senate, which is not willing to put in



place the regulations of Romania's new education law (important for Hungarians), citing institutional autonomy.

The Romanian Senate adopts the draft law on the use of local flags

On 30 September the Romanian Senate adopted the draft law on the use of local flags with 83 supporting votes. The draft law states that the councils of towns and counties can decide on the adoption of their own flags. The law also allows the use of local coats of arms on the flags and the names of territorial administrative units, which can also be written in the languages of national minorities if the ratio of the minority concerned reaches the 20 % threshold in the region. The senator of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and member of the Administration Committee László Attila Klárik said that "This measure is important from the point of view of local self-determination, since the use of symbols is a significant part of expressing community identity."

Public debate of the RMDSZ's draft law on autonomy has started

The public debate on the draft law of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) on Szeklerland's autonomy has started in Bucharest, initiated by the party. At a forum entitled "My Romania is a strong country free of political taboos" held at the National School of Political Science and Public Administration, the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen answered questions from the audience both as presidential candidate and as presenter of the draft law. Mr. Kelemen said that Szeklerland's autonomy or the framework law on cultural autonomy would not take away anything from the Romanians: these are only means for the preservation of identity for the Hungarian community, which would like to achieve this aim by means of a dialog, avoiding violence.

State Secretary István Mikola attends 6 October commemoration in Transcarpathia

Speaking at a commemoration in Transcarpathia's Beregardó/Csepivka on 6 October, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade István Mikola said that "Hungarians in Transcarpathia should draw strength for their survival in their homeland and the reunification of the nation from the great historic heritage of the thirteen martyrs of Arad and the other martyrs of the 1848-1849 Revolution and War of Independence."



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