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Saint Ladislaus Memorial Year starts in January 2017

On Tuesday, speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced that his state secretariat is launching a memorial year dedicated to Hungarian king Saint Ladislaus. Mr. Potápi said that the aim of the series of events is to make the life and actions of Saint Ladislaus widely known. The state secretary added that the state secretariat is allocating HUF 80 million (EUR 256 000) to the program. Mr. Potápi said that the memorial year will start on 1 January, and will be coordinated by a consultative body including civil and church experts from Hungary and abroad. The head of the body will be Gergely Gaal, who coordinated the 2016 memorial year dedicated to Transylvanian Hungarian Roman Catholic Bishop Áron Márton. Mr. Potápi added that the president of the Council for Human Dignity Zoltán Lominci – who was one of the initiators of the Saint Ladislaus memorial year – will also take part in the program's implementation. Mr. Potápi emphasized that the 2016 Áron Márton Memorial Year was a huge success, managing to connect Hungarians living in the kin-state with Hungarians in other parts of the Carpathian Basin and the diaspora. He added that the memory and example of Áron Márton symbolizes the entire nation, and the bishop can also serve as a role model for young Hungarians in the 21st century.



Prime Minister Viktor Orbán congratulates Transylvanian Hungarian parties on election success

After the results achieved by their electoral alliance in the Romanian parliamentary election on 11 December, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent written congratulations to the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen and the head of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP). The Prime Minister wrote that the result achieved is the joint success of the Hungarian community in Romania, and the cooperation of the two organizations can serve as a good example for the entire Hungarian nation. Mr. Orbán also expressed the hope that the RMDSZ and the MPP will be able to make use of the confidence they received from voters, and that they will create a strong Hungarian representation in Romania which will help Hungarians enforce their rights. The Prime Minister also assured the leaders of the RMDSZ and the MPP that the Hungarian government will continue to use all possible means to support them and Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin.

Speaking at a conference evaluating the results of the Romanian parliamentary election organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI), State Secretary Árpád János Potápi said that the joint Hungarian list and the cooperation of the RMDSZ and the MPP had brought historic success. Mr. Potápi expressed his gratitude to everyone living in Transylvania who voted for the Hungarian list and thus contributed to these results. He added that the Hungarian government used all possible means to support the Hungarian list. Before the



elections, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán – as well as several Hungarian ministers and state secretaries – travelled to Romania and encouraged people to vote in the elections.

As previously reported, on 11 December 2016 a parliamentary election was held in Romania. In the election, the joint list of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania and the Hungarian Civic Party received 6.2 percent of the votes, and will therefore have 30 MPs in the Romanian parliament over the next four years.



The Hungarian government increases funding for the economic development program in Vojvodina

State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar has made an official visit to Vojvodina. Speaking in Szaján/Sajan and Törökbecse/Novi Bečej, in Vojvodina, the state secretary announced that the Hungarian government will increase the current total of HUF 50 billion (EUR 160 million) for the regional and economic development program in Vojvodina by HUF 9 billion (EUR 28 million). Bálint Juhász, the head of the Prosperitati Foundation (which is responsible for the implementation of the program), said that, together with earlier enlargements, the total funding for the program is now more than HUF 65 billion (EUR 208 million). Mr. Juhász also encouraged Hungarians living in Vojvodina to take part in the program and submit their applications. Last week the Prosperitati Foundation organized a roadshow in Vojvodina, popularizing the economic development program and its new calls for applications. The delegation of the foundation made visits to Szaján/Sajan, Nagykikinda/Kikinda, Törökbecse/Novi Bečej and Magyarcsernye/Nova Crnja, and informed local Hungarian entrepreneurs about the opportunities.



László Kövér opens Hungarian kindergarten in Transcarpathia

On Thursday, the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér officially opened a Hungarian kindergarten in Transcarpathia's Salánk/ Shalanky, a village close to Nagyszőlős/ Vynohradiv. The building of the kindergarten and gym was supported by Hungarian municipalities – primarily those of Miskolc and Debrecen. Addressing the event, the House Speaker said that “a Hungarian nursery school either in Transcarpathia or anywhere else in the world is the firmest promise of the future.” Mr. Kövér stressed that “the nursery school in Salánk is not only an educational institution, but the building of the future.” Speaking at the event, the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian parliament László Brenzovics expressed his gratitude to Hungary, the Hungarian government and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and Hungary's municipalities for the great help they provide for Transcarpathia.



The KMKSZ is presented with Duna Award

On Wednesday, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) received the Duna Award. The award was presented by Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén. The Deputy Prime Minister said that there were times when Duna Television was the only institution representing Hungarians' unity. After the elections in 2010, the Hungarian National Assembly adopted the Act on the testimony of national cohesion and the unity of the nation was declared in the Constitution. After that, Duna Television was not the only one fighting for Hungarian communities worldwide. Speaking about the KMKSZ, Mr. Semjén said that its aim is the preservation of the culture, heritage and language of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia, the enhancement of Hungarian education in the region and the protection of all these values. Mr. Semjén added that, since its foundation, the KMKSZ has been an active advocacy organization for Hungarian interests in Transcarpathia. The award was presented by the president of the association László Brenzovics, who said that the establishment of Duna Television in 1992 was an important milestone in the life of Hungarians.



Hungarian school children in Croatia receive “wonder corners”

As part of a game entitled “We own the town!”, organized by the State Secretariat for Hungarian communities abroad, pupils from three Hungarian educational institutions in Croatia received packages called “wonder corners”, including a variety of school supplies and toys. The presents were handed over by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. Mr. Potápi said that before Christmas, similar packages will be donated to Hungarian children throughout the Carpathian Basin. Thus, last week “wonder corners” were given to pupils in Hungarian-language institutions in Slovakia, Transylvania and Vojvodina.

