



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 14 February 2009

THE BILL ARRIVES SOONER OR LATER

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) welcomes the statement by the President of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić that “RTCG, as a public service, ought to contribute to and not to obstruct organisation of democratic elections in Montenegro”, and that “there is no satisfactory balance between the power of RTCG and its accountability to the society”.

Thus Krivokapić arrived, in word at least, at the same goals and conclusions which CCE has been trying to promote and fulfil, within its abilities, for the last three years. Unfortunately, during the same three years, the Parliament with ample personal engagement of this same President Krivokapić did everything it could to obstruct any attempt to turn RTCG into genuine public service.

It is clear that nothing can be forever, especially if it was badly conceived to begin with. **Sooner or later, those who help to undermine the system, violate the principles and laws become the victims of their own (mis)deeds, as in the end a bill always arrives.** And now the President of the Parliament, offended by the “cruel honesty” of the Director general RTCG calls to “systemic advances in building a genuine public service that will serve the entire society and not individual interests of those who aspire to wield unchecked and unbridled power over the public sphere and the society”.

In our region there are chronic shortages of political memory as much as political accountability. Let us remember that the current state of RTCG, a grotesque attempt at a public service, is a direct consequence of the efforts of this same President Krivokapić who systematically laboured to prevent any genuine representative of the civil society from entering the Council of RTCG, and thus led the citizens of Montenegro to understand RTCG as a single party propaganda vehicle and reject it as their own media service. **It is only now that Krivokapić temporarily or otherwise fell out of favour with that handful of people who command the unswerving service and loyalty of RTCG against all professional standards that he expresses his personal dismay and suddenly realises that RTCG does not serve the society.**

CCE supports every effort towards democratization of the society, and believes that the establishment of a genuine public service can only accelerate this process. Had Krivokapić embraced these goals back in 2006, he would not have to have his power and influence weighted by the director of RTCG in few thousands of euros, nor would RTCG be a burden on the public budget, once the citizens, judging this medium to be a party tax instead of a vehicle of their own voices, obviously refused it their financial support.

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