



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 18 March 2009

Joint press release of the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Aleksandar Saša Zeković, MA, researcher of human rights violation

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION REQUIRES OVERALL SUPPORT

We fully support and praise all efforts of the current Minister of education and his assistants who have managed to stop illegal practice of collecting money from children in primary schools that has been going on for years and even decades.

Obviously, certain corrupted structure in the school network do not agree with this fact and they quite openly planned and carried out orchestrated campaign against the Minister Škuletić and his cabinet.

Minister of education and science invested valuable effort to break the existing system of corruption and the last critics that came as a reaction to these rarely effective measures we see as the pressure with a political background aiming to replace someone, upon upcoming elections, who has demonstrated willingness to fight against illegal activities in the education system.

Certain directors of the public schools have constantly ignored the comments and results of the education inspection and the Ministry of education and science thus being clearly committing to illegal behavior, without possessing neither appropriate contractual documentation nor the consent of parents and very often urging other working in education to participate in these actions. Solely from these reasons these elements have been qualified as the so-called school mafia and the qualification does not apply to other working in education in Montenegro.

Adoption of the Act on prohibition of establishing the participation costs of education, its presentation to the public and providing an effective monitoring of its implementation, promotes the Minister of education and all his associates as reform team which is consistently dedicated to applying of the Montenegrin Constitution, positive regulations and the concept of compulsory primary education free of charge. Bearing in mind how rare this kind of practice in Montenegrin environment is, the Ministry of education and science should be supported additionally in these efforts which are leading to the establishment of strong and efficient institutions.



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

We invite the pupils' community, parents and staff in educational system to support these last measures of the Ministry of education and science and to give resistance to those who are destroying the concept of free education and conducting a campaign, without any arguments, against the responsible people in the Ministry thus hiding their own political and financial ambitions and interests.

Measures of the Ministry of education and science do not prevent any parent in Montenegro to donate, in accordance with its possibilities, pre-school and school facilities and help their budgets and the implementation of certain activities. Also, these measures do not endanger in any segment the quality of education.

We welcome a debate about these very important issues that have been far too long neglected in Montenegro, but underline that we will be ready, in the continuation of the negative campaign against those who show willingness to fight the corruption, to report a number of indications about the (un) professional behavior of directors of kindergartens and primary schools, as well as other important educational institutions.

Daliborka Uljarević, Executive Director, CCE
Aleksandar Sasa Zeković, MA, researcher of human rights violation