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RTCG IN THE SERVICE OF A SINGLE PARTY, NOT THE CITIZENS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) deems positive and beneficial the amount of interest expressed for the election of candidates to the Managerial Board of the public service “Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG)” via public call.

We find, however, worrying that most candidates are persons with definite party affiliations or those that in their current or previous engagements demonstrated proximity with the current political and business elite in Montenegro. Among the candidates for the MB is an entire suite of worn out cadres of the governing parties, among whom only the most loyal will receive the gift of gratitude in the form of a function within the RTCG Managerial board. All that remains are the final consultations among the coalition partners to submit to the Council the two new names for whom the six magnificent will readily raise their arms.

Today’s session of the RTCG Council demonstrated that the highest body of the so-called “public service” implements the party policy of DPS, which is still the only “owner” and “editor” of the TVCG.

A stable DPS majority in the Council allowed them to appoint for the new member of the Managerial Board another DPS cadre, the former Secretary General of the Government and the former director of the RTCG from the times before and after its transformation into a public service. It is interesting to note that Vučinić is also currently occupying the position of the director of the Budva office of the First Montenegrin Bank.

CCE urges the members of the RTCG Council to apply themselves to amending and changing their Book of Regulations, introducing a system of consultations, interviews and gradual elimination in the application process for the members of the Managerial Board, also in order to introduce the potential members to their future duties and responsibilities.

The current mechanism which allows every member of the Council to vote for only four candidates regardless of the total number of candidates is untenable, except in the case that there is already an agreed and well controlled majority.

This has indeed been the case, when without a word, in line with a previously agreed scenario, two candidates have been appointed. The third candidate championed in the last few days by the circles around the ruling party was almost appointed, but one or the other of the loyal Council members obviously changed his/her mind, not to spoil the agreement, but to feign a democratic atmosphere and initiate a new public call. The RCG Council voted exactly as has been predicted by the media, without any considerations for the need to free the public service from party influences.

CCE urges once again the members of the Council who are known to the public as representatives of the civil society to use their right to public appearance and finally explain the extent of transformation of this public service.