



Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja

January 2010.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Upon my appointment as President of the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, I informed you in writing, in September 2008, of the Coordination Body's goals and plans. I pointed out then that our priorities included political stability, economic development and improvement in the quality of living in the three municipalities.

I know wish to submit to you a report on what was done over the past year.

Our most important success was the rejoining of the Coordination Body by representatives of the Albanian community. In March 2009, together with MP Riza Halimi and Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad, the then Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, I signed the Agreement on Principles of Reconstruction, thanks to which the Coordination Body's membership became full again. On that occasion, Mr. Saip Kamberi, the president of the municipality of Bujanovac, was appointed my deputy.

Owing to the support provided by the Ministry of Education, USAID and OSCE, on October 12, 2009, during a ceremony, Mirko Cvetkovic, the Serbian Prime Minister, opened in Medvedja the Nis University's departments of the Faculties of Economics and Law. By this project, one of the strategic priorities of the Coordination Body and the Serbian government was dealt with. Preparation of a feasibility study commenced in order to make arrangements for the opening of faculties in Bujanovac and Presevo, with the aim of strengthening all ethnic communities and achieving top-quality education in Serbian and Albanian. We shall continue being dedicated to resolving all the issues of primary and secondary education.

The Coordination Body, by itself and in cooperation with the Ministry of National Investment Plan (NIP), invested over 300,000 dinars in infrastructure projects for the purpose of strengthening economy in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

In 2009, 87,907,330 dinars were invested in construction projects in the municipality of Presevo, mostly in the projects of asphaltting roads in the villages of Oraovica, Miratovac and Cakanovac, in the construction of gyms in the villages of Oraovica and Miratovac, in improvement of power supply in the village of Trnava, , in regulation of the central zone in Presevo, in reconstruction of the traffic-section in the village of Crnotince, as well as of Ivo Lola Ribar Street and a road in the village of Slavujevac, in construction and the asphaltting of the "Koco Zozi" bridge, in adjustment of the riverbed in the villages of Rajince and Oraovica, in construction of the sewerage system and in the resumed reconstruction of the library and community center.

As for construction projects in the municipality of Bujanovac, the Coordination Body, in 2009, invested 94,755,729 dinars in a resumed reconstruction of the Lucane-Dobrosin road, in improvement of power supply in "Sector 6", in the asphaltting of the road that goes from the villages o Biljaca and Lucne to the village of Konculj and in maintenance of the roads in the villages Dreznica, Sveta Petka, Kustica and Baraljevac. In addition, the Coordination Body invested another 13,000 dinars in construction of the Zbevac water-supply system. It also helped Bujanovac receive from the Ministry of National Investment Plan the greatest funds for the Infrastructure Development Program in 40 least developed municipalities.

In 2009, the Coordination Body invested 43,449,941 dinars in construction projects in Medvedja. The projects include construction of old roads in the local communities of Retkocer, Burdulje, Stub and Rujkovac, construction of "Cucki breg" local roads in the local community of Retkocer, which is situated in the small village of



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Perovanovici, construction of the Dzamija-Svirce and Reka-Miskici roads, the second phase of construction of the local Gazdare-Lece mine road, construction of a section of the road between Medvedja and Pusto Silovo, construction of the "Marici" street in Medvedja and reconstruction of the church in the village of Lece.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, we, on two occasions, donated seeds and seedlings to farmers of the three municipalities.

For the first time since its establishment, the Coordination Body, last year, provided the funds for youth projects, civil society and financial assistance to most vulnerable categories of the people. With those aims in view, we invested over 18 million dinars. The Coordination Body donated school bags with school equipment to all 2009 first grade students in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

We granted scholarships to 147 secondary school students, out of whom 58 are from Presevo, 54 from Bujanovac and 35 from Medvedja. The scholarship holders visited Belgrade, where they met with the Serbian President Boris Tadic and the Serbian Parliament Spokesperson Slavica Djukic Dejanovic. They also paid a visit to the City Hall. At a reception at the Palace of Serbia, which was organized in their honor, the scholarship holders received gifts from "Srpska banka" and "Telekom".

Under the auspices of the Coordination Body, little boys and girls from Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja had an opportunity to watch and enjoy "The Adventures of Peter Pan" and "Peca and the Wolf" plays, while a group of 14 Serbian, Albanian and Roma secondary school students gave the "You and I are We" theatre performance, which is about growing up in South Serbia. They wrote the text of the play themselves and did the acting in their own languages. Watching the Belgrade premiere of the play were the Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic, Minister of Culture Nebojsa Bradic, MP Riza Halimi, presidents of the three municipalities, members of the corps diplomatic and representatives of international and national institutions and organizations.

7,920,000 dollars were invested in the project "Capacity Building for Inclusive Local Development in South Serbia", which is going to be implemented in the territory of Pcinj and Jablanica districts. The funds were provided by the Swedish International Development Agency, the Norwegian government and UNDP. 2,500,000 dollars were provided from the Spanish government's Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund for implementing the "Promoting the Preservation of Peace in South Serbia" project.

We supported the "Days of Ombudsman" in South Serbia, when the protector of citizens, Sasa Jankovic, along with his associates, stayed in your municipalities. The very first office of the Ombudsman outside Belgrade is going to be opened in one of your municipalities.

Mentioned above are some of our jointly achieved successes in 2009. However, there are still some problems, as well as numerous unresolved issues, that must be tackled. Our activities are fully supported by the Serbian government, which, despite great savings, envisaged the biggest increase in its 2010 budget for the work of the Coordination Body. In 2010, the Coordination Body is going to have 421, 550, 000 dinars at its disposal. Our efforts are also supported by the international community. In view of the above, I am sure that the next year is going to be even more successful than the previous one.

I wish you a successful 2010.

Yours faithfully,

Milan Markovic
President