

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/3

Complaint concerning the functioning of a Roma nationality self-government

In their petition, the Roma complainants criticised the practice of distributing food donations received by the Roma nationality self-government of the settlement, and indicated that, to their knowledge, raw meat had been distributed to needy residents on one occasion without valid certificates. They also complained about the activities of the president of the local Roma self-government in connection with public employment programmes.

The Minority Ombudsman contacted the notary of the common office of the municipality, who responded by referring to the division between the Roma population and tensions within the Roma community. He also informed the Minority Ombudsman that the Roma self-government was operating legally. In his reply letter, the notary clarified that it was not the Roma self-government, but the municipal government that distributed food donations to disadvantaged families, keeping proper documentation. He also indicated that during the festive season, a local shop had offered meat donations to the needy, with the necessary permits.

In response to the complaints about public employment, the notary and the president of the local Roma nationality self-government stressed that the Roma nationality self-government did not appear as a public employer and did not organise public employment programmes in the municipality, and that the records mentioned in the complaint were kept by the municipal self-government.

The Minority Ombudsman did not find any irregularities in the exercise of national minority rights in the case. In order to resolve the conflict, she requested the notary of the municipal government and the president of the Roma nationality self-government to cooperate and to hold conciliation talks.