

Non-governmental Organization Civil Ma Ndryshe EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Mamuşa/Mamushë Municipality to increase the collection of own source revenues

Within a project for monitoring the transparency of Mamuşa/Mamushë municipal executive, EC Ma Ndryshe during December has looked at the issue of the collection of own source revenues planned for the year 2013.

The monitoring has revealed several weaknesses that impede Mamuşa/Mamushë Municipality to more effective revenue collection. Remarks on these issues have brought forth the Auditor General as well in its Report on the Financial Statements for the year 2012 (which can be found at: http://oag-rks.org/repository/docs/MAMUSHE Report ENG 45216.pdf).

This report states that since the year 2011 it was recommended the need for the adoption of an automated billing system for all types of taxes thud to for undertaking measures to increase the collection of various taxes.

The Directorate of Budget and Finances (DBF) Mamuşa/Mamushë Municipality has provided the revenues statement resulting from certain categories for the period from January to December hence declared that efforts are being made to develop the billing system and the collection of own source revenues.

According to DBF, the Municipality of Mamuşa/Mamushë for the year 2013 has planned to collect 60,000 EUR from the own source revenues and until early December it has collected close to 36,000 EUR, respectively 24,000 EUR less than projected. Expressed in percentage collection of its own source revenues was 59% during this period.

Collection of business activity fees is just 22% since from the planned 7,000 EUR of planned receivables only around 1,500 EUR have been collected.

Likewise, collection of participation fees has marked an average percentage of execution, given that from the planned revenues in the amount of 6,500 EUR only close to 4,000 EUR have been collected, respectively 57%.

Whereas, the ratio of collected property tax revenues are 15,100 EUR compared to the projected 15,000 EUR, or 101%. However, this category of revenues has no proper annual revenues recording system, due to the large amount of accumulated liabilities over the years.

EC Ma Ndryshe recalls once again that the Auditor found that besides property taxes, the management of Mamuşa/Mamushë Municipality does not maintain separate sub ledgers or lists of all its debtors from various taxes and that Without sufficient, detailed, and accurate records of debtors, the Municipality is unable to prepare a reliable and accurate budget, to report an accurate collection ratio, nor follow up the collection of the own source revenues on a timely basis. The Auditor's Report has also identified weaknesses in the automated billing system.

According to these findings EC Ma Ndryshe recommends Mamuşa/Mamushë Municipality:

- To begin with immediate implementation of all the Auditor General's recommendations in relation to improving collection of own source revenues;
- To enhance communication with the citizens in order to sensitize them that the payment of duties towards the Municipality provides better services and the development of their municipality;
- To organize a number of debates with the businesses in the municipality businesses, where the necessity for reconciling the duties would be clarified and where an intersectorial dialogue would be initiated.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for the transparency oversight of the executive branch will continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. So far, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren and Mamuşa/Mamushë, are being regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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