



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDrySHE

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PRESS RELEASE

DUSP issues no permit yet the DPS allows the setting up of the amusement park

Within the project of overseeing the transparency of the municipal government of Prizren, EC Ma Ndryshe, over the past months, has addressed again the issue of setting of the amusement park ('Luna Park') near "Sezai Surroi" Sports Centre in Prizren following the complaints received from the residents living in immediate quarters.

The citizens of these neighbourhoods, after having verbally presented their complaints, which were publicized by EC Ma Ndryshe (http://online-transparency.org/repository/docs/As_of_next_year_the_Sports_Centre_to_prohibit_the_setting_of_the_amusement_park.pdf), after the support received from the monitoring staff, have initiated collection of the signatures for a petition through which have demanded from municipal decision makers to ban the setting up of the amusement park inside and at the vicinity of the Sports Centre, since their discontent in this respect was overlooked for years.

The residents have complained that setting up of the amusement park disrupts the peace, deprives them from using the green space, causing chaos in traffic and, furthermore, endangering their safety during spring and summer seasons.

The petition with 82 signatures of the residents, according to Article 69 of the Law on Local Self-Government on the 'Right of Petition' and Articles 95 and 96 of the Statute of the Municipality of Prizren on 'Petitions' and Section 6 of Regulation on Transparency of the Municipality of Prizren on 'Petitions' has been submitted for consideration to the municipal authorities on January 23rd of this year and as such hasn't yet been considered by the Municipal Assembly of Prizren.

After submitting petition, EC Ma Ndryshe, on January 28, has received a letter from the Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports (DCYS) where it states that the Sports Centre's management has been recommended by the Municipality that the setting of the amusement park be allowed without music and free of noise. While the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (DUSP), on January 29, has brought into attention that as the responsible department has not equipped any company with a permit for the placement of the amusement park in this zone.

Nevertheless, as early as this month the amusement park has been placed again in the parking lot opposite the Sports Centre, with the permit of the municipal authorities. Following the EC Ma Ndryshe's insistence to obtain information regarding the fate of the submitted petition, the Directorate of Public Services (DSP), on April 14th, 2014, has announced that this department has issued a permit for the placement of this amusement park, by bringing up the practices applied in many cities of the region and broader in Europe.

A permit for the use of public space for the placement of the amusement park has been issued for the period from April 1st to May 31st, 2014, for which the operator should pay € 793.00 for 100 m². In the permit is specified that, during the business activity, the operator should not cause any noise annoyance, while it must provide safety for staff and the clients.

“As far as the reaction of a group of citizens about the setting of the amusement park at this location, municipal bodies have considered it, but given the need of youth and children for entertainment, it was decided to be allowed but on the criteria not detrimental to the citizens”, says in the announcement of the Directorate of Public Services (DPS).

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Urban and the Spatial Planning (DUSP), on 18 April 2014, announced that it has not issued permit for the placement of this amusement park thus clarified that it is “without a permit”. This directorate has emphasized that even if there will be requests for the equipment with permits, those shall be rejected.

Same as previous year EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates its stance that it is required a greater level of responsibility of municipal bodies for dealing with legitimate grievances of citizens in this part of the city.

Pursuant to Article 96 of the Statute of the Municipality *“The Chairperson of the Assembly shall present each valid petition to the Municipal Assembly, within a deadline of 45 days from the date of receipt thereof. The Municipal Assembly may refer the petition and recommendations to it to an appointed committee for preliminary review. The petition submitter is entitled to take part in the review of the petition by the committee, in compliance with rules of procedure. The final decision on the matter filed by petition shall be reached by the Municipal Assembly within a deadline of 45 days from the date of presentation of such petition to the Assembly.”*

The first deadline has already expired for weeks. The Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly has pledged for presenting the matter in question before the Policy and Finance Committee and the Municipal Assembly in May. Meanwhile, the second deadline has expired for some days now on the final decision regarding the petition, while the amusement park is already set up.

EC Ma Ndryshe also ascertains that the views of municipal bodies are inconsistent since, while the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (DUSP) says it will refuse to issue permits of this kind, the Directorate of Public Services (DPS) provides operators with permits, as a result of which the citizens have to face the same trouble again.

Based on these findings EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the Municipality of Prizren the following:

- To attentively listen the concerns of citizens and act urgently in order to create a better living environment for them, in each and every case;
- To enforce the provisions of the LLSG, Statute of the Municipality of Prizren and the ‘Petitions’ section of Regulation on Transparency thus to respect the right of citizens for addressing the matters by petition;
- To coordinate the work between departments during the review of applications for permits for use of public spaces;
- To inspect the criteria specified in the permit issued by the Directorate of Public Services (DUSP).

As the supervisory body of the local government MLGA is also recommended to take measures for the observance of the mechanism of a petition by the Municipality of Prizren.

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. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren, Mamuşa/Mamushë and Prishtina are being regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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