



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Municipality of Mamuşa/Mamushë failing in budget transparency

In the framework of the project for monitoring transparency of the municipal government, EC Ma Ndryshe, over the past weeks has tracked the application of legal requirements for consultations with the public during the budget preparation process.

The Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability, as well budget circulars of the Ministry of Finance set out the ways of public consultations that should be carried out during the process of preparation and adoption of the municipal budget. Public consultation aims to contribute for a fairer allocation of the limited financial resources of the municipality with preparation of a municipal budget reflecting the priorities of citizens and the commitment of the municipality to the principles of good governance, such as transparency and accountability.

As the budget circulars of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) instruct (can be found at <https://mf.rks-gov.net/en-us/ministriaefinancave/raportedhepublikime/garkoretbuxhetore.aspx>), during the draft of the Municipal Midterm Budget Framework (MMBF), municipal government must hold consultations with citizens, including public hearings to discuss guiding budgetary priorities and strategies. Whereas, prior to the adoption of the Midterm Budget Framework, the Policy and Finance Committee of the Municipal Assembly must organize public meetings to discuss financial priorities and municipal strategies.

According to the instructions set out in the MoF's circulars and provisions of the Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability, after submission of the proposed budget by the municipal government to the Municipal Assembly, for which the deadline was September 1st, Municipal Assembly is to organize one or several timely announced public hearings to obtain the views of citizens on the budget, as well as to consider and revise it according to need.

Based on the monitoring findings, turns out that the local government of Mamuşa/Mamushë has so far failed to meet obligations described above on the process of preparation of the budget for 2015 and for the MMBF 2015–2017. Municipal officials pointed out that only PFC shall organize a public discussion with citizens over the next week, with the initiation of KDI, whereas the deadline for submission and approval of the municipal budget in the MoF is not later than September 30th.

EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates that transparency in the budgeting process of a municipality is vital to the overall assessment of transparency to that municipality.

Therefore, taking into account these findings, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the Municipality of Mamuşa/Mamushë:

- To begin with the immediate implementation of all legal obligations for transparency in the preparation of the budget and MMBF;
- To include civil society in organizing public hearings and meetings for discussing the budget;

Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the Municipal Assembly of Mamuşa/Mamushë to organize one or more public hearings for obtaining the citizens' views on the municipal budget.

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,

Elmedina Baxhaku, Monitoring Staff
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Saraçët Street 5, Prizren
Perandori Dioklecian Street 14, (5th floor), Prishtina
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771



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Pristina

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