



Non-governmental Organisation “Emancipimi Civil Ma
Ndryshe”
EC MA NDRYSHE

8 March 2013, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

Municipality of Prizren to find a lasting solution on the issue of public lighting

As part of the project of monitoring the work of Prizren’s municipal executive, EC Ma Ndryshe, during the second half of February, has reviewed local government’s commitments in improving municipal utilities.

During this reporting period, through the instruments of “EC Ma Ndryshe’s” platform established for online monitoring of municipal transparency, complaints were received from citizens in relation to municipal basic utilities, namely the lack of public lighting. Similar concerns were raised by different groups of citizens in the meetings that “EC Ma Ndryshe” has held with various categories of society, as part of “An Inclusive City – Participatory planning for sustainable urban development in Prizren” project.

The residents of “Ulqini” Street complain that public lighting in the streets of this neighbourhood are down for a year now. Their concerns relate to the evening hours when the students must pass through these roads when coming back from school. According to them, there is a potential risk for these children to undergo from vehicles circulating in this part of town, where public lights are out of function.

At the same time, the representatives of the community of women, senior citizens and youth have introduced as a serious concern the lack of proper functioning of public lighting in the city and suburban neighbourhoods. They fear that this situation has an impact to the overall security as well. According to these groups of citizens, the neighbourhoods facing this problem are “Bajram Curri”, “4 Kullat” in Bazhdarane neighbourhood, then “Ortakolli 2”, “Petrova” and other neighbourhoods.

During an inspection conducted by EC Ma Ndryshe’s monitors it was noted that issues with the street lightings are present in “Lakuriqi” neighbourhood, “Jeta e Re” street of Arbana neighbourhood, “Hoqa Mahalla” neighbourhood, etc.

Based on the Annual Financial Report for the year 2012, the Municipality of Prizren has outstanding debts for utilities. In the statement of outstanding bills (liabilities) of Prizren Municipality it is reported the debt figure of €123,000.

In this report it is stated that in the year 2012 for municipal utilities were spent €803,000; namely €19,000 for power, which is far greater than the expense costs for power in 2011 amounting €99,000 and €75,000 in the year 2010.

By addressing the concerns of residents of different age groups of the neighbourhoods, EC Ma Ndryshe calls upon the municipal executive that, within the shortest possible time, to even its debts towards the Kosovo Energy Corporation, in order to reinstate public lighting in all streets of Prizren.

EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the municipal government and in particular the Directorate of Finance and the Policy and Finance Committee that during the process of budget drafting or budget revision to be utterly careful when planning the budgetary lines intended for municipal utilities, in order to find a lasting solution to the issue of public lighting.

EC Ma Ndryshe appeals also to the Kosovo Police for considering the concerns of citizens and to increase the number of patrols in the streets of the city, where, for the time being, the public lightings are out.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for transparency monitoring of the executive branch shall continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and project's website where the findings are posted directly from the monitoring staff. By now, all the monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local government of Prizren, are published on regular basis on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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British Embassy
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Starting from September 2012, the "Online Transparency of Prizren Municipality" project is financially supported by the British Embassy in Pristina.