



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

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PRESS RELEASE

Municipality re-tenders the project subject to investigation

During December EC Ma Ndryshe continued to monitor the work of the executive branch of Prizren Municipality. The focus of oversight over this period were the sector of urban planning, respectively implementation of the project for regulation of infrastructure in Prevallë/Prevala resort.

EC Ma Ndryshe expresses its concern about the situation created in Prevala/Prevala resort village, where constructions are continuing without compliance with the construction permits issued from the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (*hereinafter* DUSP), whereas the situation is further exacerbated from failures in terms of infrastructure regulation, such as distribution of water supply and wastewater networks.

EC Ma Ndryshe, during the research conducted for several weeks, had found numerous irregularities of municipal government in relation with the transparency during the project implementation for regulation of infrastructure in Prevallë/Prevala resort. For many weeks, monitoring staff of EC Ma Ndryshe has attempted to obtain the contract and the accompanying dossier of the “Construction of infrastructure with concession of Prevallë/Prevala resort village” project.

According to the Memorandum of Cooperation signed with the Municipality of Prizren, EC Ma Ndryshe has requested from DUSP to allow access to official documents, i.e. to the contract and the accompanying dossier of the “Construction of infrastructure with concession of Prevallë/Prevala resort village” project. Regardless of several days lag, no response has been received from DUSP. Subsequently, EC Ma Ndryshe submitted the same application request at Information Office of Prizren Municipality. Information Office has made efforts in assisting the monitoring staff of EC Ma Ndryshe by suggesting to quest the contract at the Procurement Office. EC Ma Ndryshe has addressed a request to this office and the response it received from respective officials was that, “the entire dossier for the regulation of infrastructure in Prevallë/Prevala resort is at the investigation unit, as this contract is currently being investigated by the police”.

Following all these submitted requests EC Ma Ndryshe has received a short note from the DUSP related to the application request for access to public documents. In this note DUSP announces that, “Municipality of Prizren is implementing this project with financial participation from the owners after obtaining construction permits” and that a private economic operator has performed the works according to respective contract, whereas “Prizren Municipality is not funding this project.” It further says that, “the project is still in the implementation phase.”

DUSP has attached to its response the minutes of the Municipal Committee consisted of 6 members, which has assessed the contracted work on the “Construction of infrastructure with concession of Prevallë/Prevala resort village” project, which shows only the notification on the payments of instalments in the operator’s account for the years 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011 in the amount of 161,420 EUR. At the conclusion of the minutes it is emphasized that the works were implemented at the amount of 231,332 EUR from which 161,420 EUR have been paid and 42,977 EUR were collected from new participations; while the remaining payments are to be made with the additional collection in the amount of 26,935 EUR.

It should be noted that, in October, the Mayor of Municipality, Mr. Ramadan Muja, in his regular meeting with the municipal directors, has adopted the decision for re-tendering the project for

improving the infrastructure in Prevallë/Prevala resort village. Based on the DUSP's letter presented at this meeting, it states that, "...in 2007 the municipality has entered into a contract with the economic operator for improvement of infrastructure in resort village of Prevallë/Prevala, at the price of 1.2 million EUR; however, this contract, under the conditions specified, could not be implemented and therefore was expanded until the year 2009, for a term of 24 months, without the right of review/continuation of it." It is explained therein that DUSP has requested the re-tendering of the project, with the purpose of managing the Urban Regulatory Plan (URP) and for resolving the issue of the lodge buildings.

However, the tender undergoes the re-announcement, whereas Prizren District Prosecutor's Office has initiated investigations based on the suspicions of abuse of funds set for the regulation of infrastructure in Prevallë/Prevala resort.

Because of the absence of the contract and the dossier in general, and due to numerous ambiguities as to the manner of implementation of this project, it was impossible for EC Ma Ndryshe to draw a clear conclusion on the course of the development of this project. At the same time, the lack of proper transparency of responsible municipal officials has also raised doubts over the regularity of contracting and implementation of the project, which should be unveiled until the end by the justice bodies.

EC Ma Ndryshe requires from the Mayor of Prizren to cancel the re-tendering of the project while the investigators conduct their work and the judiciary gives its final verdict. In addition, welcomed is the decision of the Prosecutor's Office for initiating investigations and revealing of all the uncertainties of this project.

EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates its call to the municipal executive for reviewing transparency practices so far and to provide full and unhindered access to public documents, particularly on those that involve considerable funding.

EC Ma Ndryshe requires from Prizren local government to immediately take necessary actions towards the restoration of the situation in Prevallë/Prevala resort village.

EC Ma Ndryshe also urges the MESP to engage in this regard and to closely supervise acts and projects approved by Prizren Municipality in order to prevent further degradation of Prevallë/Prevala, as part of the Sharr Mountains National Park.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe for transparency monitoring of 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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