



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

9 November 2012, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

Reminder: Local government to reflect and operate upon the recommendations of civil society

During the past two months of overseeing the work of Prizren municipal government, EC Ma Ndryshe has published different research findings and, along with those, has provided several recommendations for improving the situation in certain departmental sectors. Also, in certain cases, has reacted on sensitive issues and requested appropriate actions by those responsible in Prizren Municipality. Since so far no qualitative steps towards improving the situation in certain areas have been observed, EC Ma Ndryshe has seen as appropriate to remind once again municipal executive of Prizren on its recommendations, so as to the municipal bodies do reflect and act upon them.

In the first half of September EC Ma Ndryshe had expressed its concern regarding the situation created in the field of urban and spatial planning in the Historic Centre of Prizren as the constructions works were proceeding without compliance to the construction permits issued by DUSP. EC Ma Ndryshe had requested from the Mayor, Mr. Ramadan Muja, to initiate procedures for demolition of all illegal buildings and of those built out of construction requirements in the Historic Centre of Prizren thus to put to an end the trend of urban degradation of the historic part of the city. There has been no particular action at this point. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates that, “Municipal executive should undertake definite prevention steps and, in case of proceedings of works, punitive actions against individuals who do not adhere to the construction requirements.”

EC Ma Ndryshe, in the second half of September, during its research has encountered in a case which was perceived as disturbing because the public money was invested in a land property which continues to be subject to property dispute, currently under the scrutiny of the Supreme Court of Kosovo. EC Ma Ndryshe has pointed out that the local government should have exhausted all legal options prior to placing public money in a land area which is subject to property dispute. Herein EC Ma Ndryshe insists for this case to serve as a case in point for avoiding the recurrence of such practices in future, which at the end may result in the loss of the money from public funds, as well as in shaking the trust in the institutions of local government and the judiciary.

In September, EC Ma Ndryshe had issued a response statement regarding the placement of tapes on termination the construction works in different sites within the urban area of Prizren. However, failure to comply with this measure and the removal of the tapes placed by the inspectors, and the continuation of works by the investors, despite an official order, represents a concern that is directly related to the operation of state institutions. EC Ma Ndryshe, therefore, reminds the call to “all institutions of the executive, legislative and judicial powers of Prizren to undertake appropriate actions within their authority and ensure the enforcement of the law in the urban sector.”

According to the findings of a research conducted in October, EC Ma Ndryshe has ascertained that, at least, three advisors to the Municipal Mayor, Mr. Ramadan Muja, and a senior official of the Municipal Directorate of Education receive salaries for their employment in the local executive at the same time being in the payroll of the educational service. In this regard, there have been no specific actions taken by the municipal leadership. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe requires from the municipal

authorities, “to apply high moral standards so as to establish proper environment for the recruitment of the new staff, on equal terms and free of political and partisan influence in order to promote the quality of education services.”

EC Ma Ndryshe has obtained the explicatory letter from the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) directed to the municipalities of Kosovo, whereby clarifies that the limitations imposed for municipal public services to citizens with the payment of debts towards Regional and Local Public Enterprises, have no legal grounds and as such cannot be applied. EC Ma Ndryshe, through its response, has called upon the mayor and the chairman of the Municipal Assembly that in the shortest possible time to adhere to the MLGA’s request note thus take necessary steps in revoking this unlawful decision. However, neither on this point there has been any action by the Mayor and the Municipal Assembly. EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates that, “the clarifications of the MLGA in this regard are plain and those must be applied without any delay, in order to ward off the violation of the rights of citizens of Prizren municipality.”

Monitors of both EC Ma Ndryshe and KDI have expressed their concern with the recent practice of the executive and legislative branches of Prizren in passing the Regulation on the treatment of illegal constructions without putting it into public scrutiny, respectively without checking whether it’s in the interest of citizens or not, through proper public debate. EC Ma Ndryshe recalls that the Mayor and Municipal Assembly must improve this procedural defect.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe for the transparency oversight of the executive branch shall continue on publicizing the monitoring findings through regular press releases and project’s website, where the findings shall be posted directly by the monitors. 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,

Elmedina Baxhaku, Monitoring Staff
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Ismet J. Kumanova Str, No. 31, Prizren
Zeki Shulemaja Str, No. 2, Prishtina
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771



British Embassy
Pristina

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