



**Non-governmental Organisation
EC MA NDrySHE**

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**PRESS RELEASE
Senior municipal officials working in education**

During the second half of the month September the monitors of EC Ma Ndryshe have looked into the education sector, respectively the employment of senior officials of municipal executive in primary and secondary schools of Prizren municipality.

According to the findings of research it appears that at least three advisors to the Municipal Mayor, Mr. Ramadan Muja, and a senior official of Municipal Directorate of Education (*hereinafter* MDE) receive salaries for their employment in the local executive at the same time being in the salary payroll of the educational service.

In spite the fact that these senior officials have their norm halved in primary and secondary schools; yet, they receive double salaries for the work they perform during the same working hours. Based on the Mayor's statements, almost all the schools in Prizren municipality develop classes in two shifts, meaning that the teaching classes in schools take about as much as the working hours in the municipality, perchance with a very close time difference, which makes unfeasible the physical presence in both working places at the same time.

The explanation of these officials relates to the synchronization of both official working schedules. However, the position of senior municipal official is not limited to the official working hours since public responsibility is broader than the concept of the time measurement of working hours.

EC Ma Ndryshe considers that, even if legal provisions allow such practice, however, senior municipal officials, who are close associates of the mayor, should at least adhere to the principles of ethical conduct and refrain from engaging in dual positions over the same working hours, but rather focus on their important duties in the municipal government.

EC Ma Ndryshe assesses that the use of such practices favouring senior municipal officials is disturbing, particularly in current socio-economic circumstances which are dreadful for the citizen, where almost 40 percent of the population is unemployed and every second resident lives in poverty. Best narrative of this occurrence is the submission of over 570 applicants for 24 job vacancies in the recent vacancy announcement of MDE. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe calls upon the Mayor to consider the issue of "preservation" of job positions for senior municipal officials.

An added issue of concern for EC Ma Ndryshe is the exclusion of a significant number of teachers in the municipality of Prizren from the salary payroll. These teachers, according to the data provided by monitors, are off the payroll for the reason that the number of classes in the city has increased over the years, while, on the other hand, the number of teachers has not increased in accordance with the employment formula for Prizren municipality.

Having taken into account the following facts, EC Ma Ndryshe calls on the MDE, municipal government and MEST to re-consider categorization of teachers in Prizren municipality. EC Ma Ndryshe recommends MEST to amend the relevant legal provisions in order to preclude the engagement of senior municipal officials in the municipal educational services.

Whereas, from the municipal authorities, EC Ma Ndryshe requires the application of high moral standards in order to establish proper environment for the recruitment of new staff, on equal terms and free of political and partisan influence in order to promote the quality of education services.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe for monitoring the transparency of the executive branch shall continue in publicizing the monitoring findings through regular press releases and through the project's website, where the findings are posted directly by the monitors. By now, all the findings from the monitoring, 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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