



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma
Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

22 January 2013, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

The campsite in Prevallë/Prevala: Off the URP, with an expired contract and manifold errors

Within the project of monitoring the transparency of Prizren municipal executive, EC Ma Ndryshe, in the first half of January, has continued with reviewing of matters relating to current developments in Prevallë/Prevala.

Following the concerns raised in December on the circumstances created in touristic village of Prevallë/Prevala, where constructions are progressing without compliance to the construction permits issued by the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (*hereinafter DUSP*) and re-tendering of the project that is under investigation, equally grave is described the situation in the campsite of Prevallë/Prevala, where, according to the information of Prizren municipal bodies, the contract for the management of campsite has expired since 15 May 2011.

During the reporting period EC Ma Ndryshe has obtained “The records on Prevallë/Prevala campsite”, drafted from the seven-member committee set up by the decision of the Mayor of municipality, Mr. Ramadan Muja. The committee’s findings, which are communicated in the minutes drafted following five meetings, prove for scandalous and alarming situation in this campsite.

During field visits, the municipal committee has noted numerous defects, such as:

1. Excesses in the template of temporary camping facilities;
2. Excesses in the number of planned facilities;
3. Construction materials used out of the standards foreseen for temporary campsites;
4. Outbuildings in dimension and storey-height of constructed facilities;
5. Substandard power system and its distribution through the campsite, producing permanent threat for the residents of the campsite;
6. Water supply and sewage system out of the minimum hygienic and sanitary requirements, failing to meet any criteria for consumption and use;
7. Incomplete road infrastructure inside and outside the campsite;
8. Oversized and overstretched restaurant compared to the needs of the campsite residents.

The Committee consisted from the members of seven departments, after analyzing the Regulatory Plan of Prevallë/Prevala concluded that this campsite in Prevallë/Prevala is not foreseen in the Plan therefore recommended for it to be closed and return to its previous state. The Committee also noted that, taking into account the suggestions of the MESP and the National Park “Malet e Sharrit” (*Sharri Mountains*), this area represents a unique zone and no interventions are permitted for its further degradation. The Committee has argued that protection of this zone is regulated by the applicable laws thus no additional actions can be undertaken.

Prizren Municipality together with MESP have drafted the Regulatory Plan “Touristic village in Prevallë/Prevala” and approved by the Municipal Assembly of Prizren on 22 June 2006. During

the implementation of this Regulatory Plan, according to the Committee's records, there was the need for relocation of disorganized users at the cadastral parcel, property of Municipality, where, according to the plan, a restaurant and a parking lot are foreseen to be constructed. Relocation and their arrangement was intended to be accomplished according to the plan set, for which, after the announcement of the tender, it was entered into the contract with the economic operator "IS Company", a contract renewed on 15 May 2009 and which has expired on 15 May 2011.

According to the research of EC Ma Ndryshe's monitoring staff, senior officials of municipal government did not oppose the Committee's findings. Their differences had to do only with the steps to be followed henceforth.

During its monitoring, EC Ma Ndryshe has identified two contradictory moments of local government's actions, which are mentioned in the minutes of the municipal committee. While in the introductory section of the report says that, "...during the implementation of this Regulatory Plan, the need has risen for relocation of disorganized users at the cadastral parcel, property of Municipality, where, according to the Plan, a restaurant and a parking lot are foreseen to be constructed"; the part of recommendation clearly states that, "...after analyzing the Regulatory Plan of Prevallë/Prevala, the campsite in Prevallë/Prevala is nonexistent in the Plan and the same should be closed and return to its previous state."

Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe finds that local government has contributed to the making of this situation as well due to the "tolerance" that has shown by abandoning from the strict implementation of Regulatory Plan and non-adherence to the remarks and suggestions of the MESP and the National Park "Malet e Sharrit" (*Sharri Mountains*).

Taking into consideration all this information, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the mayor, DUSP and the Municipal Assembly to take immediate and firm actions in protecting this area from further degradation.

EC Ma Ndryshe considers that the time is ripe for the mayor and the municipal authorities to adhere to the Regulatory Plan "Touristic village of Prevallë/Prevala" and to implement it accurately, free of any improvisation.

EC Ma Ndryshe calls on the mayor of municipality to show leadership and put himself in-charge of the initiative for stopping the devastation of this natural heritage from numerous structures built without a construction permit and of this egregious campsite.

EC Ma Ndryshe reminds the MESP that, as a co-drafter of the Regulatory Plan for Prevallë/Prevala, bears extra responsibility for its meticulous implementation and requires the involvement of MESP at the shortest possible time in prevention of urban and environmental mass destruction in Prevallë/Prevala.

EC Ma Ndryshe encourages the authorities of law enforcement and justice to proceed and expand initiated investigations regarding suspicions on legal violations in touristic village of Prevallë/Prevala, so that each and every illicit action is addressed at the judiciary.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe on 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
Pristina

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