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**Non-governmental Organisation Emancipimi Civil Ma
Ndryshe**

PRESS RELEASE
Urban degradation of the Historic Centre of Prizren

Monitoring of the affairs of the executive branch of Prizren Municipality continued in June as well. During this period, the focus of the monitoring was on the urban planning division and that of culture.

EC Ma Ndryshe expresses concern with the situation raised in the area of urban and spatial planning in the city of Prizren, in which around 80% of constructions did not adhere to the construction permit. Moreover, the trends of various bargains with construction companies are an overriding occurrence of urban projects funded from the budget of Prizren Municipality. EC Ma Ndryshe requires from the Mayor, Mr. Ramadan Muja, to set off procedures on pulling down of all the unauthorized constructions and of those which were erected out of the construction criteria, particularly in the Historic Centre of Prizren. In the series of monitoring, we shall soon come out with specific cases of those constructions which did not adhere to urban planning requirements.

Paramount evidence of urban degradation of Prizren is the official document No. 04-353 of the Directorate of Urban Planning addressed to the Directorate of Inspections, in which it states, *inter alia*, "...according to the evidence the DUSP Service possesses, we hereby inform you that the constructions which are taking place recently are rather disturbing; over 80% of those equipped with construction permits failed to comply with the construction permit, while a very large number of other constructions are in the absence of the construction permits. DUSP Service is concerned, in particular for the sites for which it possesses regulatory plans (Prevalla, Jeni Mahalla, Lakuriqi, Dardania, etc.), whereas in the interior of those sites it is being constructed without adhering to regulatory plans."

One of the documents proving the paradoxes in the urban planning sector in Prizren is the request of NNTSH (CCSE) "Drini Company", which on the name of compensation for the works carried out with the Directorate of Public Services and the Directorate of Urban Planning has requested be granted with construction permission. The following facts are documented in the official document number 04-353 dated 18.04.201, addressed to the Mayor of Prizren Municipality from the Directorate of Urbanism.

In a meeting with the representatives of the Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports, the monitors have identified several shortcomings in the operation of this sector. The total budget for the three divisions of this directorate for the year 2012 is 115 thousand Euros, in the category of subsidies; from which, till today, were spent 59 thousand and 150 Euros, whereas in this category from this

year's budget were paid 30 thousand EUR debts from this category of subsidies. One of the major shortcomings of the culture sector in Prizren is the absence of the Strategy for the Development of Culture. Moreover, local government in Prizren has no proper planning and design of cultural policies, while the budget for the cultural sector is drawn up without prior consultation with the city's cultural and artistic community.

EC Ma Ndryshe strongly recommends local government that as soon as possible develops the Strategy on Culture and enters in the well-thought dialogue with civil society for drafting proper cultural policies.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe for the transparency monitoring of the executive branch shall keep on publicizing the monitoring findings through regular press releases and, starting from July, through the project's website, in which the findings shall be 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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