



**The Non-governmental organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE**

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Press Release

For 7 months, 8 law violations have been recorded by the biggest Municipal Assemblies of Kosovo

In the assemblies of big municipalities of Kosovo during seven months of 2016, eight cases of decision-making were not in accordance with the legislation in force. During the period of January-July 2016, according to the estimates of the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA), in the MA¹ of Pristina three law violations were found, while in Gjakova and Ferizaj two, and in the MA of Prizren one law violation, and on the other side in Peja, Gjilan and south Mitrovica were no violations recorded.

According to the information obtained by MLGA, the MA of Pristina has revised three decisions within the legal deadlines, Gjakova has revised one and the other one not, Prizren has revised the one decision that they had, while the MA of Ferizaj had yet time available to revised the two decisions.

MLGA has explained that in the MA of Pristina in the period of January-July 2016, law violations were identified on the decision to establish the Working Group for amending the Regulation on organization and cooperation of the municipality with villages, and urban neighborhoods; then the municipal decision to allow PAK an additional term for the release of the premises, which were leased under contract; and the decision to appoint the committee for leading and coordinating the work of the Councils selections for the villages, and urban neighborhoods. All these three decisions according to MLGA been harmonized within the legal deadline.

In Gjakova, MLGA has found two law violations, one in the decision of declaring a public interest in order to grant a short-term use of some school facilities, an act which was revised and harmonized; and another to the decision to grant the use of the municipal's immovable property, which has not yet been revised by the MA although it was requested by MLGA through a written form dated June 8, 2016.

In Prizren, MLGA has found law violations in the decision to grant the use of municipal property, but the MA in accordance with the request of the relevant ministry has harmonized the municipal act within the legal deadline.

¹ An acronym for Municipal Assembly

In Ferizaj, MLGA has returned two decisions for revision dealing with granting long-term use of the immovable property of the MA of Ferizaj intended for economic development, acts which the MA has had time to revise.

Whereas during the assessment of the legality of the MA acts of Peja, Gjilan and South Mitrovica during January-July 2016, MLGA has not registered any law violations.

Taking into account the above data, EC Ma Ndryshe considers that the MAs mentioned above should be more responsible in decision-making, especially during the acts for granting the use of municipal property. EC once again recalls that the Municipal Assembly is the highest representative body at the local level and that all MA members take an oath to perform their duties and exercise their authority according to the law. Therefore, they must increase the level of accountability in decision-making in accordance with the legislation in force.

For this reason, the MAs are recommended again that after receiving the evaluation from the central government, in the shortest period of time, they have to review the acts which are not in accordance with the current legislation in power, and to harmonize them in line with the instructions from MLGA.

Thanks to the support of the British Embassy in Pristina, Ec Ma Ndryshe has started to implement the "Municipal Transparency Reform Index" project since May 2015, which is spread into larger municipalities of Kosovo: Pristina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakova, as well as in Suhareka, Rahovec, Malisheva, Dragash, Mamushë and Shtërpçë. This project aims to assist the municipalities in identification of the major gaps in terms of transparency as well as to provide guidelines for addressing and overcoming them. Transparency Index presents a structured effort to support Kosovo municipalities in meeting the standards of a good governance, defined by the reform of local government and Kosovo's European agenda.

Sincerely,
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