



Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe  
EC MA NDRYSHE

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#### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **State institutions are building without permit in the center of Prizren**

Construction work in the Historic Centre of Prizren continues to be carried out without the permit of the municipal authorities and without the consent of the bodies responsible for cultural heritage in this protected area. In fact, not only private investors but also state institutions are neglecting these bodies.

The recent case of commencing the construction work without relevant permit or consent is related to the construction interventions to the building that will serve as the center of the Central Bank of Kosovo in Prizren.

Through a letter dated 8 April 2016, the Directorate of Urbanism Spatial Planning has confirmed that the CBK is not supplied with construction permit. "The service of the Directorate of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, based on evidence available to this body, regarding your request for information whether they are supplied with construction permit, we inform you that the CBK has not been supplied with the permit by the respective body", is said in the DUSP response.

Whereas, on 14 March 2016, the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Prizren submitted a request for intervention to the Inspectorate of the Municipality of Prizren, for which were informed senior officials of the municipality and the MCYS as well, about construction work in the CBK building and in another private building. "We inform you that they are carrying out work in the back side of finances building of the Municipality of Prizren (CBK building, our remark) without consent of the RCCH" is stated in the official letter, whereby it has been also emphasized that work in "Shatervan" square, opposite with former Department Store is also being carried out without the consent of the RCCH.

On 31 March 2016, EC Ma Ndryshe has been notified by the RCCH that they did not receive any request for consent for renovation of the CBK building, therefore they did not issue any consent for the case in question.

The RCCH officials have notified that the request on consent for renovation of this building has been addressed just recently.

EC Ma Ndryshe reminds that Article 4 of the Law on Historic Centre of Prizren defines that "The protected Historic Centre of Prizren, as a property of cultural heritage under protection, shall be included in the list of cultural heritage, under permanent protection of the Republic of Kosovo".

Whereas Article 16, obliges the DUSP to deliver to the RCCH and to the Chairperson of the CHC a copy of all project requests for urban permits for construction, demolition or modification of the buildings, change of their use, conduct of temporary activities or any other development within the Historic Centre of Prizren, which the bodies, following the review of requests shall give a consent or shall reject the request, within the defined time limits.

These cases represent the continuity of legal violations in the Historic Centre of Prizren, where again it is proved the negligence toward the local authorities and those of cultural heritage and obligation to get supplied with permit or consent for construction or changes to the buildings.

EC Ma Ndryshe has concluded several times that the lack of proper institutional coordination at all levels undermine the efforts for establishment the legality and regularity in the Historic Centre of Prizren. Meanwhile, this time is being proved that even state institutions do not constitute an exception in this regard, as they are neglecting the cultural heritage authorities in Prizren.

Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe appeals that the institutions at all levels increase the level of their responsibilities in enforcing the law and simultaneously increasing their engagement in terms of preservation, conservation and promotion of the rare heritage values of the city of Prizren.

Sincerely,  
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