



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

DUSP issues no permit yet the DPS allows the setting up of the amusement park

Through its project of overseeing the transparency of the municipal government of Prizren, EC Ma Ndryshe has once again addressed the issue of the location of the Luna amusement park. Situated near the "Sezai Surroi" Sports Centre in Prizren, residents in the park's immediate vicinity have issued further complaints against the establishment.

The citizens of these neighborhoods have repeatedly presented their complaints, which were in turn publicized by EC Ma Ndryshe: (http://online-transparency.org/repository/docs/As_of_next_year_the_Sports_Centre_to_prohibit_the_setting_of_the_amusement_park.pdf), EC Ma Ndryshe has since started a signature collection campaign that would demand for a ban against setting up the amusement park inside/within the vicinity of the Sports Centre, since the discontent of local citizens has been overlooked for years.

The residents have complained that setting up the amusement park disrupts the peace, deprives them from using the green space, creates chaotic traffic conditions, and, furthermore, the park endangers their safety during the spring and summer seasons.

The petition with 82 signatures of the residents, in accordance with Article 69 of the Law on Local Self- Government on the 'Right of Petition,' Articles 95, 96, and Section 6 of Regulation on Transparency from the Statute of the Municipality of Prizren on 'Petitions,' has been submitted for consideration to the municipal authorities on January 23rd of this year. Such has yet to be considered by the Municipal Assembly of Prizren.

After submitting petition, EC Ma Ndryshe received a letter from the Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports (DCYS) on January 28th, stating that the municipality had made a recommendation to the Sports Centre's management that the amusement park be allowed to continue on the condition that there is no music and that it is free of noise. On January 29th, the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (DUSP) brought to attention that, as the responsible department, it had not granted any company a permit for the placement of the amusement park in this zone.

Nevertheless, the amusement park has proceeded to set up in the parking lot opposite the Sports Centre, with the permit of the municipal authorities. Following EC Ma Ndryshe's insistence to obtain information regarding the fate of the submitted petition, the Directorate of Public Services (DSP), on April 14th, 2014, announced that this department had issued a permit

for the placement of this amusement park, by citing the practices of many cities of the region and across greater Europe.

A permit for the use of public space for the placement of the amusement park has been issued for the period from April 1st to May 31st, 2014, for which the operator should pay € 793.00 for every 100 m². In the permit is specified that, during business hours, the operator should not cause any noise annoyance, while it must provide safety for staff and the clients.

“As far as the reaction of a group of citizens about the setting of the amusement park at this location, municipal bodies have considered it. But given the need of youth and children for entertainment it was decided to be allowed, but on the criteria not detrimental to the citizens,” says in the announcement of the Directorate of Public Services (DPS).

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Urban and the Spatial Planning (DUSP), on 18 April 2014, announced that it has not issued permit for the placement of this amusement park and thus that it is “without a permit.” This directorate has emphasized that even if there will be requests for the needed equipment, those shall be rejected.

Just as in the previous year, EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates that there is a need for a greater level of responsibility from municipal bodies in regards to dealing with the legitimate grievances of citizens in this part of the city.

Pursuant to Article 96 of the Statute of the Municipality *“The Chairperson of the Assembly shall present each valid petition to the Municipal Assembly, within a deadline of 45 days from the date of receipt thereof. The Municipal Assembly may refer the petition and recommendations to it to an appointed committee for preliminary review. The petition submitter is entitled to take part in the review of the petition by the committee, in compliance with rules of procedure. The final decision on the matter filed by petition shall be reached by the Municipal Assembly within a deadline of 45 days from the date of presentation of such petition to the Assembly.”*

The first deadline has already expired. The Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly has pledged to present the matter in question before the Policy and Finance Committee and the Municipal Assembly in May. Meanwhile, the second deadline has also expired for the final decision regarding the petition, but the amusement park is already set up.

EC Ma Ndryshe also ascertains that the views of municipal bodies are inconsistent since, while the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning (DUSP) says it will refuse to issue permits of this kind, the Directorate of Public Services (DPS) provides operators with permits, as a result of which the citizens have to face the same trouble again.

Based on these findings EC Ma Ndryshe recommends that the Municipality of Prizren do the following:

- To attentively listen the concerns of citizens and act accordingly in order to create a better living environment for them, in each and every

- To enforce the provisions of the LLSG, Statute of the Municipality of Prizren and the 'Petitions' section of Regulation on Transparency and thus respect the right of citizens to address matters by petition
- To coordinate work between departments during the review of applications for permits for use of public spaces
- To inspect the criteria specified in the permit issued by the Directorate of Public Services (DUSP).

As the supervisory body of the local government, the MLGA also recommended that greater measures be taken for the improved observance of the petitioning procedure by the Municipality of Prizren.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for the transparency oversight of the executive branch will continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local governments of Prizren, Mamuşa/Mamushë and Prishtina can be found on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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