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PRESS RELEASE

Commuting teachers facing difficulties in transportation

EC Ma Ndryshe, within its project for online monitoring of transparency of the executive branch of Municipality of Prizren, during the month of February has researched the issue of transportation of commuting teachers in the Municipality of Prizren.

Teachers commuting on daily basis filed a complaint to the monitor of EC Ma Ndryshe saying that ever since the month of October they have been facing difficulties. According to them, payments are not being made for their transportation since October 2014. They explained that the operator contracted by the Municipality distributed the tickets, but the same are not be accepted by other transportation operators due to disagreements, since the operator that won the bid did not receive the required funds from the Municipality.

Based on this complaint, EC Ma Ndryshe monitors utilizing legal channels requested explanations from the municipal officers in charge. In the response provided by the Directorate of Education of the Municipality of Prizren it was confirmed that the Municipality had not paid the contracted operator since mid-October of 2014, due to lack of funds.

The response from the MED states that the Municipality, through its Procurement Office, signed a contract with an economic operator for the transportation of teachers that commute in the Municipality of Prizren.

“The contract was signed for a length of time that would see it expire in December 2014. There has been no budget revision for 2014, therefore the funds planned for this tender could only be paid as far as mid-October. We presented the remainder as a debt for 2014. This debt will be paid from the 2014 revenue that is carried over into 2015 and as soon as an approval was received from the Municipal Assembly of Prizren and the funds were transferred from the office of municipal budgets to the code of the project for transportation of commuting teachers we would conduct payment procedures for the operator and, pursuant to the contract and unpaid obligations, we would pay the economic operator. Then, the economic operator knows its own obligations based on the register of commuting teachers, as well as unpaid obligations towards them”, states the response of the MED.

According to the records in the contract for transportation of travelling teachers in the Municipality of Prizren there are 714 commuting teachers.

Bearing in mind all these findings, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends that the Municipality of Prizren:

- Increases transparency and communication with commuting teachers relating to any concerns or problems that may arise;
- Takes immediate measures for improving budget planning so that such situations do not recur;

- Communicates with all parties involved in this matter, so that appropriate solutions may be found and that the teachers will continue to enjoy free transportation, as was promised by the municipal authorities;

The EC Ma Ndryshe project for monitoring the transparency of the executive branch shall continue to publish findings from monitoring through regular press releases as well as through the webpage of the project, where all the findings are directly posted by the monitors. The findings of monitoring, including regular press releases and a host of other information relating to the local governments of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina are already regularly being published on the webpage of our project www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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