



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

Lack of access to drinking water, deprivation of human rights

Within the project of monitoring transparency of Prizren's municipal government, EC Ma Ndryshe has received complaints from citizens of various local communities that have raised concerns about the drinking water supply.

Residents of Arbana neighbourhood, a quarter along the transit route, have complained that some years have past from their petition addressed to the municipality and to the water company for construction of waterworks, which, according to them, has so far been of no avail, thus making them for finding solutions in digging the wells, which do not meet the necessary sanitary requirements.

Regional water supply company "Hidroregjioni Jugor" through a letter explained for having knowledge of the issue of that neighbourhood, a quarter that is not furnished with a water supply and sewage network. According to the company, 250.000 Euros are needed for setting the primary and secondary network, an amount that is unaffordable for "Hidroregjioni" company. Therefore, according to representatives of the company, a donor who would finance this project is expected to be found.

Also the municipal officials from the Directorate of Public Services have announced that they are aware about the request of the residents of this neighbourhood and clarified that construction of water supply system is listed as a budgetary position for the year 2015.

It is worth noting that residents of "11 Marsi" and "2 Korriku" neighbourhoods and residents living along "Adem Jashari" street have acknowledged they have no regular supply of drinking water. Meantime, during public debates with the citizens of Prizren municipality and with the representatives of local communities of Has, Malësia e Re and Lubizhdë/Ljubižda have sought the solving of regular supply with drinking water.

EC Ma Ndryshe recalls that Resolution 64/292 of the General Assembly of the UN has recognized the right to safe and clean water as a human right and essential for the full enjoyment of all the human rights. Therefore, lack of drinking water is a deprivation of a fundamental right to life.

In addition, Article 17 of the Law on Local Self-Government, which speaks on the municipal competencies, states that municipalities have full and exclusive powers, insofar as they concern the local interest, in the area of provision of public services and utilities, including water supply.

Therefore, taking into account these findings, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the Municipality of Prizren:

- To take measures necessary for regular supply with drinking water and within sanitation requirements for all residents of the Prizren municipality;
- To finding donors that would support projects for increasing clean water capacities;
- To improve the level of communication with RWC “Hidroregjioni Jugor” in order to eliminate the problems and defects in the supply of drinking water in different localities.

Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the RWC “Hidroregjioni Jugor” to enhance the level of transparency towards customers/clients and bring out a proactive approach in finding donors.

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 are being regularly published on the project’s website www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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