



Non-governmental Organisation Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

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PRESS RELEASE

To end the practice of collecting money from schoolchildren

EC Ma Ndryshe, within the project of monitoring the work of municipal executive of Prizren, past few months has reviewed the issue of cash payments demanded from schoolchildren in public schools of Prizren.

Over the past months EC Ma Ndryshe has received individual complaints from parents and schoolchildren about the money sought from the management of public schools in Prizren for the payment of security, maintenance, repairs of sanitation or for additional payments. By submitting concern for the spread of this occurrence, parents have also complained about the lack of transparency in the managing and spending of these additional funds.

EC Ma Ndryshe through the instrument of access to official documents has requested information from the Municipal Education Department (*hereinafter MED*) about such practice. MED has defended that practice with the existence of the Administrative Instruction No. 28/2012, dated 31.10.2012, which has to do with the Parent's Council by attaching that document to its response.

Administrative Instruction 28/2012 that sets out the establishment and functioning of Parent's Council, in Article 6 Paragraph 11 foresees that the Parent's Council "Collects funds for certain projects (from community and the donors)."

EC Ma Ndryshe considers that physical security, maintenance as well as the repair of sanitation belong the category of services rather than of projects and which must be provided by schools and institutions responsible for pre-university education. As the respective Administrative Instruction envisages that funds from schoolchildren, respectively from their parents, can be collected but only for realization of projects that will benefit to the improvement in learning and teaching in public schools.

While the practice of collecting money for payments of physical security, maintenance, sanitation repairs or other related payments continues year after year, school managements, Parent's Councils but also the MED have not yet conducted any serious campaigns for awareness or for overcome of difficulties in which schools are faced, requirements that are also provided in Administrative Instruction 28/2012.

EC Ma Ndryshe opposes collection of money from schoolchildren for payment of physical security, maintenance, etc., in public schools of Prizren based on the grounds that their parents are taxpayers and they are forced to pay for same service twice. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe requires from the responsible mechanisms institutions to put an end to this practice.

In addition, EC Ma Ndryshe calls on MED and the Mayor of Prizren municipality to use summer vacation and establish close dialogue with MEST so that previous omissions in budget allocation for MED in Prizren not recur but to design very accurate planning of budgetary positions for the night guards, support staff, teachers, psychologists, etc., in public schools of Prizren municipality.

Finally, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends schools, parent's councils and MED that the practice of collecting funds for certain projects from community and the donors be followed with appropriate level of transparency by making public details about the project, duration, funds collected and spent and other details on the tables of announcements of schools, on the official municipal website and in local media outlets.

Project of EC Ma Ndryshe for transparency oversight of the executive branch will continue on publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. So far, all the monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information relative to local government of Prizren, are regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Elmedina Baxhaku, Monitoring Staff
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Saraqët Street 5, Prizren
Zeki Shulemaja Street 2, Pristina
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771



British Embassy
Pristina

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