

20 August 2014, Prizren

PRESS RELEASE

Muja began to open up, but certainly not enough

After continuous calls of Transparency Forum to the mayor of Prizren, Ramadan Muja, to open decision-making process, few days ago he decided to unlock his meetings with heads of directorates for media and civil society. For Transparency Forum this move presents a positive move towards transparency and accountability, but in no way a full fruition of these principles of democratic governance. Therefore, we urge the mayor to follow-up this initial action with other significant steps. Opening the meetings wherein voting is done by default and decisions are taken after being agreed beforehand presents a dim demonstration of transparency and accountability.

To keep up with genuine actions toward democratic governance, we seek from the mayor publication of all materials (proposals) a week before the holding of meeting with his heads of departments. This would allow the opening of decision-making and would provide sufficient time to all stakeholders to provide comments before final decisions are taken. Since the mayor has established the practice of preliminary meetings with the heads of departments (a week before decision-making meetings), we insist to open up those meetings as well for the media and civil society.

At the same time, considering the importance of democratic governance, Transparency Forum requires that the media and civil society be provided with access to all stages of the public procurement process. We deem that Prizren Municipality remains sealed off, by limiting the management of public money in hands of certain individuals within the executive branch. This practice is in full contradiction with the principles of transparent and accountable governance. Transparency Forum therefore requires that the media and civil society, and through them all citizens, be granted the opportunity to oversee all public procurement processes, from decisions for the announcement of calls until the unwrapping and evaluation of bids.

Transparency Forum is an informal body consisting of civil society activists and journalists of Prizren, active in the field of democratic governance and its mission is to synchronize actions of these stakeholders for raising the level of transparency and accountability of Prizren local government.

On behalf of “Transparency Forum”,
Elmedina Baxhaku, EC Ma Ndryshe (Transparency Forum Secretariat)
Saraqët 5, 10000 Prizren
elmedina.baxhaku@ecmandryshe.org
029 222 771