



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe  
EC MA NDRYSHE

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#### PRESS RELEASE

#### REGION OF LUMËBARDHI'S RIVER SOURCE AT RISK FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN

Between the months of May and June, EC Ma Ndryshe's municipal government oversight program has been monitoring construction projects undertaken by Prizren's municipal government. Recently, attention has been focused on the Lumëbardhi River region, which comprises part of the Sharri National Park.

Based on information gathered from experts in the field, monitors have discovered that the Municipality of Prizren has launched illegal construction projects in the National Park. Lacking proper permits or permission to do such work from pertinent institutions, the government is now attempting to divert water from the zone of Prevala, which is part of the Lumëbardhi River headwaters.

According to experts, this project began without prior environmental consent, without a water resource permit from the MESP, or an Environmental Impact Assessment. They have come to the conclusion that, in this case, the Municipality of Prizren has violated several laws related to the Sharri National Park, including the Law on the Nature, Law on Environment, Law on Spatial Planning, and others.

Based on observations from environmentalists, it appears that the project commenced on the weekend of the 17-18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014. The project aimed to divert water from the Lumëbardhi region and Sharri National Park and transport it to the village of Gornje Selo/Gornjasella.

EC Ma Ndryshe, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, submitted a request to access public documents pertaining to the construction works on the water supply system for Gornje Selo village. The reply, received on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June from the Directorate of Public Services, said that this department made a request on May 28<sup>th</sup> to the Directorate of Sharri National Park in order to gain consent to access water resources, primarily at the location known as Llaka. In its reply, DPS explained that the construction of water supply system is part of a road construction project for villages Mušnikovo/Mushnikovë, Reçane/Reçanë and Gornje Selo/Gornjasella. "Therefore, we may say that the matter is under procedure," says the response from the DPS.

EC Ma Ndryshe sought clarification from the MESP and, despite a month-long delay, has yet to receive any reply from the officials of this Ministry, who, by doing so, have subsequently violated the provisions of the Law on Access to Public Documents.

Given all the current information, EC Ma Ndryshe hereby recommends that the Prizren Municipality ought to:

- Stop all the works until equipped with necessary consents and permits;

- End the practice of beginning of works without being provided with relevant permits, consents and assessments by responsible institutions;
- When drafting investment projects, to coordinate with all relevant institutions of the field wherein is being intervened, in order that public investments bring an added value rather than damage or risk to the natural resources and heritage;
- Regarding infrastructural and environmental matters to produce greater transparency.

Furthermore, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the MESP take a a more proactive role in the inspection process of public investments in Sharri National Park, in order to prevent legal violations and damage to the nature.

EC Ma Ndryshe's project for the transparency oversight of the executive branch shall continue publicizing its monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly. To date, all monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information regarding the local governments of Prizren, Mamuşa/Mamushë and Prishtina may be found on the project's website: [www.online-transparency.org](http://www.online-transparency.org).

Thank you for your cooperation,

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