

# ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE NIS CITY MAYOR

“The past year was not easy at all, but we had a clear goal in front of us, a clear policy that we implemented and that followed the measures of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, we respected the suggestions from the Fiscal Council and managed to make the first step towards the stage that the City of Nis could smoothly function and fulfill its obligations. The revenues in the budget are the highest for the past five years and we managed to stabilize public finances, “said Mayor Darko Bulatovic at an annual press conference held at Nis City Hall.

“The year that passed was marked by the reduction of unemployment, the investment in science and the beginning of the construction of the Scientific Technology Park. There are currently 27,200 unemployed people in Nis, but this number will decrease next year because we expect to open new factories. The construction on four new factories started this year: Zumtobel, IMI, the new Johnson Electric Factory, Leoni. We opened Aster Textile factory. At the beginning of next year a public invitation will be launched for the construction of Aqua Park in Niska Banja. We will continue with the preparation of the project for construction of wastewater treatment plants, the biggest environmental project in Serbia; the renovation of facades on more building in Nis is also awaiting us. We expect to continue work on the construction of the railway bypass around Nis. It is a unique project of reconstruction and electrification of the Dimitrovgrad-Nis railroad section, and the construction of a roundabout around Nis, 21 km long, with two railway stations at the Airport and Pantelej is part of this project. We will work on the reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge and the new looks of

King Milan Square”, Mayor Bulatovic added.

The Mayor stressed that this was only part of the activities that were being implemented or whose realization is expected to be realized at this moment. “We are taking care of the roads in the city, we are working on increasing the safety of all traffic participants, our institutions are successfully implementing cultural events, we are allocating more funds for cultural events, for social care programmes. There is a lot of work ahead of us and we are going to work hard and every kind of criticism and suggestion is welcome because it is the common goal for all of us to make our city a better place for the life of all citizens”, concluded Mayor Bulatovic.

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## **NEW YEAR' GREETINGS FROM NIS CITY MAYOR**

29Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic extended his New Year's greeting to all Nis citizens for the forthcoming 2018 with the wish for them that the following year would be happier than all the previous ones. “I wish to toy good health, success and happiness, for our families, for our children. I wish for all of us to have lot of work and to do more than in the previous year. The City of Nis will be facing great challenges next year. For this reason we have to come together with the common goal of a better life in our city. The first steps for the City of Nis to function without major problems have been made by stabilizing public finances in the city, and we have to work more to create conditions for improving living standards and a better future for our children. We leave another difficult year behind us, but in spite of all the difficulties, I want you to remember that optimism is a

prerequisite for success. My dear fellow citizens please receive my congratulations on the upcoming holidays with my wish for you to celebrate them with your families and with those whom you love the most, to share joy with them, nurture friendship. In the next year, I want to us to work even more and to build our city, to make it better, and not to lose hope despite the difficulties and challenges. Happy New Year!

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## **MACEDONIAN SPORTS DELEGATION VISITED NIS**

Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic met with the Macedonian sports delegation that was visiting the city as a guest of the Section of Sports Journalists in Nis, on the occasion of the event of the presenting the award to the athletes of the year from Nis, organized by the Section of Sports Journalists. The delegation was comprised of the leaders of the Association of Sports Journalists of Macedonia, Mr. Bosko Trpeski and Mr. Dejan Tanevski, as well as the Macedonian football legends Mr. Koco Dimitrovski and Mr. Blagoj Istatov. Mayor Bulatovic pointed out that the two countries had good diplomatic and sports relations, and especially emphasized that both nations achieved significant results in the collective and individual sport. He announced that the City of Nis had new plans related to the improvement of sports infrastructure in Nis, which would greatly affect the future goals of Nis clubs and their achievements. He announced that City of Nis would try to find the suitable location for the construction of a multifunctional hall, which would create all the necessary conditions for maintaining the world's highest sports ranking

in Nis.

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# **CITY OF NIS RECEIVED RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE MOUNTAINEERING DEVELOPMENTG**

Nis City Mountaineering Association, which brings together four renowned mountain hiking and mountaineering clubs, has achieved remarkable results in the field of mountaineering, sports climbing and promotion of healthy habits of our fellow citizens this year, which once again confirmed its high status in this field of sports in our country. On this occasion, this association presented more than 20 recognition-and-thank-you notes to the Nis mountain climbers who conquered peaks over 4,000 meters, as well as to the best athlete from Nis Stasa Gejo, who won the first place at the European championship in climbing in the category of bolder and the fourth place in the overall placement. According to the Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur, who greeted the members of the Mountaineering Association and Head of the Mountaineering Association of Serbia Isa Planic at the City Hall, the mountaineers were excellent promoters of Nis as well as of healthy lifestyles. Nis Mountaineering Association presented recognition-and-thank-you note to the City of Nis for the successful cooperation and contribution to the development of mountaineering.

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# **WINNERS OF THE 11TH JANUARY AWARD ANNOUNCED**

December 26<sup>th</sup>

The President of the Commission for the City of Nis Annual Awards 11<sup>th</sup> January announced the names of the winners of this year's highest award of the City of Nis. The commission unanimously decided that the laureates for this year would be two individuals and two collectives. For individuals, these are: the oncologist Mrs. Sladjana Filipovic and the writer Mr. Zoran Pesic Sigma. The award for teams this year would go to the prestigious secondary schools: Grammar School Bora Stankovic and Medical School Milenko Hadzic. The ceremonial session of the City of Nis Assembly, when the awards will be presented, will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Officers Mess Building.

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# **76 PEOPLE UNDERGOING TRAINING IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NIS**

December 25<sup>th</sup>

The United Nations Development Program finances training for 76 people employed by the City Administration, as well as with

direct and indirect users of the city budget, in order to improve energy efficiency in the City. These are people who work in preschool institutions, schools, local community offices and other facilities, and 76 of them cover a total of 220 buildings in the city. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Mining and Energy and, according to the Nis City Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur, it will enable easier, faster and more efficient data entry, in real time, on the consumption of energy and water, but also contribute to spotting immediately the so-called black spots energy consumption. "The workers of the City Administration were overburdened with a bunch of papers that were coming from direct and indirect budget users; implementation of such information system would prevent these situations. This is a big step towards rapid and efficient data processing, and, at the same time, it will be an objective indicator where this local self-government should channel resources so that we can be more energy efficient," Bandjur said. He emphasized that Nis was one of the first cities in Serbia to appoint the Energy Manager and seriously worked on promoting energy efficiency to which we were bound by the Law on Rational Use of Energy, as well as the Energy Law. According to Maja Matejić, UNDP Energy Portfolio Manager, this project is funded by the Global Fund for Environment with 2.5 million and it aimed to introduce energy management in the public sector and increase the energy and cost efficiency of public facilities and communal services.

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**CITY DIRECTORATE FOR PUBLIC**

# **TRANSPORT PREPARED NEW YEAR'S GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL 14. OKTOBAR**

December 25<sup>th</sup>

The Public Enterprise City Directorate for Public Transport has prepared New Year's gifts for children this year. This time, Santa Claus, together with the Director of this company, Sasa Petronijevic and Nis City Council Member for Social Care Tijana Djordjevic Ilic, presented the gifts to the children attending the school 14. oktobar while taking the regular drive by bus. According to Tijane Đordjević Ilic, the City of Nis supports such actions of the companies which show the social responsibility. "I am pleased that we are organizing such activities, which put smile on children's faces I wish to all children a happy, carefree and healthy childhood, and a happy New Year to all fellow citizens. The Director of City Directorate for Public Transport Sasa Petronijevic pointed out that these actions have become tradition and that this year 30 New Year's gifts were prepared. This company tries to help those who need help whenever possible. "We also donated an AC to the Clinical Center and we are always trying to help."

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## **2018: THE YEAR AHEAD**

The Office for Local Economic Development and Projects marked the completion of the year with a cocktail organized at the Nis Officers' Mess Building, attended by numerous guests,

representatives of local self-government, institutions, business community. After the welcoming addresses by Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic and Mr. Heskens, the advisor to the Serbian president for investments, the Head of the Office for Local Economic Development and Projects Mr. Milan Randjelovic and Deputy Head of the Office Mr. Ivan Petkovic, presented the most important investment and development projects that OLRDP implemented this year and was planning for the following year. The Office for Local Economic Development was established in February 2009 with the technical and professional assistance of the USAID MEGA Program in the form of a special section within the Office of the Mayor. In the period from 2009 to 2016, the departments of the Office for Local Economic Development and Projects functioned as separate organizational units, while the Office itself had from 3 to 7 employees. By amending the Statute of the City of Nis at the end of 2016, it was decided to improve the organizational structure of the city administration in order to improve efficiency. Thus, the Office for Local Economic Development and Projects of the City of Nis was formed. The office currently has 35 employees, a budget of 750 million dinars and thus necessary material and personnel resources, as the independent body of the City, to implement the most important city projects in close cooperation with the City Administration. Since its establishment until today, the Office has participated in or led the preparation and implementation of the most important projects and investments in the city, such as YURA CORPORATION, SHINWON, BENETTON, JOHNSON ELECTRIC, LEONI, INTEGRATED MICRO ELECTRONICS, ZUMTOBEL, followed by development projects, among which the most important were Waste Water Treatment and Scientific Technology Park , but it also worked intensively to support the local business community and existing investors. All these projects are projects of national importance and their realization is successful primarily because of the excellent cooperation that the Office has with the Development Agency of Serbia – former SIEPA, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet of the

President of the Republic of Serbia.

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# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM NIS CITY MAYOR

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic extended his greeting on the occasion of the Christmas , the most joyous Christian holiday to all those celebrating Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar. "May this great holiday bring to you health, love and hope. Celebrate it in peace, rest and joy, in the circle of your loved ones, let the holiday strengthen the most human values, such as tolerance, respect, appreciation and understanding of diversity."

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# WE ARE ALL SANTA CLAUS

December 22<sup>nd</sup>

A large New Year's event under the slogan *We are All Santa Claus* was held at Nis City Hall which gathered more than 200 children from low-income families from Nis and the region on the occasion of marking the coming New Year and receiving gifts. Nis City Deputy Mayor Milos Bandjur was presenting the gifts on the behalf of the City of Nis. The city of Nis through the Social Activities Council and the Humanitarian Action Council in cooperation with the Educational System

Creative Pen from Belgrade has organized this great humanitarian action. In addition to the New Year's gifts, the children also received food, clothing, hygiene and school supplies.