

# **THE CHAIRMAN OF NI CITY ASSEMBLY, Mr. BOBAN DUNI ATTENDED THE CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO THE PATRON SAINT-DAY OF THE CITY MUNICIPALITY OF PALILULA - ASSEMBLY OF SERBIAN SAINTS**

The City Municipality of Palilula celebrated its Patron Saint-day Assembly of Serbian Saints on September 13th, in St. Nicholas Church.

The celebration, which was held with a limited number of invitees, along with the protection measures, was attended by the Chairman of Ni City Assembly, Mr. Boban Duni, who is the former Chairman of the City Municipality of Palilula Assembly, and by the representatives of the city municipalities.

The Archpriest Staurophore and Rector of the Theological Seminary, Mlutin Timotijevic, together with the clergy of the Eparchy of Ni, performed the traditional ritual of cutting the feast cake. The guests were greeted by the present-day President of the City Municipality of Palilula, Mr. Bratislav Vuckovic. The host of this year's celebration was Mr. Aleksandar Dralec. This important day for the City Municipality of Palilula has been celebrated since 2005.

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# **THE CHAIRMAN OF NI CITY ASSEMBLY, Mr. BOBAN DUNI APPEARED ON LOCAL TV ZONA**

The Chairman of Ni City Assembly, Mr. Boban Duni , appeared on Local TV Zona . The occasion of his visit was the third session of Ni City Assembly, as well as the review of the attained activities at the very beginning of his term of

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**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF THE C I S I F T**

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# MEETING OF THE HEADS OF THE COUNCILOR GROUPS

The Chairman of Niš City Assembly, Mr. Boban Đurđević held a meeting with the heads of the Councilor groups in the Assembly of the City of Niš today. The session was attended by Mr. Zvezdan Mirovanović, the head of the Councilor group ALEKSANDAR VUKIĆ FOR OUR CHILDREN, by Prof. dr. Miroslav Milićević,

# CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MANDATE AND IMMUNITY ISSUES

The constitutive session of the Committee for Mandate and Immunity Issues was held in the Assembly of the City of Niš, on the 3rd of September, 2020. The head of this parliamentary working body is M<sup>B</sup> Rade Rajković, whereas its members are Goran Mlosovljević, M<sup>ma</sup> Mirković, Ivan Krstić, Zoran Janković, Dušan Todorović and Uroš Vukanović.

In addition to getting acquainted with the Rules of Procedure, the Committee adopted the draft decision on confirming the mandate of the newly elected councilors of the City Assembly of Niš and submitted it to the City Assembly.

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# CONSTITUTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE

The first sitting of the Administrative Issues Committee was held in Niš City Assembly on Friday, on 28th of August 28, 2020. The Administrative Issues Committee is headed by Nikola Ilić, and the members of the Committee are M<sup>lj</sup>ana Kostić, Marko Ljubenović, Ivana Cvetković, Vuk Popović, Darko Nikolić and M<sup>l</sup>ena Kostadinović.

The Chairman of Niš City Assembly, M<sup>r</sup>. Boban Đunić, attended

the introductory part of the sitting of the Committee and on that occasion he wished them a good cooperation and successful work. The Chairman Duni stressed out that the members of the

# Policy Coordinator Marta Garcia Fidalgo Visits Roma Settlements in Nis

October 25

Roma Policy Officer in the European Commission, Marta Garcia Fidalgo and Project Manager for Social Inclusion and Minority Rights at the EU Delegation to Serbia, Mrjana Maksimovic paid a half-day visit to Niska Banja City Municipality and the project Establishing Housing and Financial Autonomy of Roma Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons through Cooperation on the Local Level funded by the European Union, and implemented by the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, the Roma League and the City of Niska Banja. During her visit to Niska Banja, the Roma Policy Coordinator and Project Manager got acquainted with the project and the results achieved, but also visited three families from the readmission group. She ended her visit with a visit to the first Roma Cultural Center in the Balkans, which opened in May this year. There is a lot of work being done to integrate Roma through the documents, but it is very important to know the situation in the field. My general impression after today is that there are many more problems and needs, but I will leave with the impression that there are people here in the political sphere and in the donor community who are willing to help and that there is real potential in the Roma community, said European Commission Roma Policy Coordinator Marta Garcia Fidalgo. European Commission Roma Policy Coordinator Marta Garcia Fidalgo added that they have been working a lot on the situation of minorities, and especially with regard to the Roma minority. They want Roma integration to become an important part of the political agenda. In the political sphere, we can make a

connection between Roma integration and EU accession because we want those politicians who are not very interested in the Roma issue but are in favor of EU accession to understand that Roma integration is one of the conditions for this, said Fidalgo.

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# **NI S EMPLOYMENT ACTION FOR ROMA**

October 23

The City of Niš, within the framework of the Program Support to EU Roma Inclusion Empowering Local Communities for Roma Inclusion, implements the project Niš Employment Action for Roma NEAR. Multiple forms of social exclusion of Roma are one of the most important issues for the Republic of Serbia on its path to the EU and sustainable economic development. Roma, women and men, experience severe poverty and social exclusion. Low levels of education and skills, accompanied by discrimination, have led to long-term unemployment for Roma. A direct obstacle to Roma inclusion in the formal labor market is related to their emancipation in the fields of education, housing and participation in public affairs. In Niš, the Roma unemployment rate is four times higher than the general population average, only 9% of Roma in Niš have a steady income from work, and only 2.5% of Roma women are full-time employed. The greatest responsibility for implementing individual measures within the most relevant strategic framework rests with public authorities at the national level according to the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia 2016-2025 and at the local level Local Action Plan for Improving the Position of Roma in Niš.

2017-2019 which foresees employment and self-employment of Roma on the basis of training and retraining for new jobs, gaining additional qualifications and incentives for entrepreneurship, setting up social cooperatives and social enterprises. This approach is based on the Nis City Development Strategy and is supported by the findings of the Roma survey, which there are officially 6,996 according to 2011 census, but this number is estimated to be at least three times higher. The main activities of the project are: providing tailored active employment measures; establishing public/private/civil partnerships and market links; events called Accelerate Social Inclusion. The expected results of the project are organized two-month business training and mentoring for 40 selected Roma beneficiaries, as well as

Serbia feels that local self-governments are taking care of their citizens and providing them with services adequate to