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НАРОДЕН ПРАВОБРАНИТЕЛ

Republika e Maqedonisë
AVOKATI I POPULLIT

O M B U D S M A N
Republic of Macedonia

The Ombudsman-National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on **07.10.2014** carried out a **regular visit** to the Public facility for old persons “Zafir Sayto” in Kumanovo. This visit was conducted in cooperation with the Association of social workers of City of Skopje and the Association of medical nurses, midwives and technicians of the Republic of Macedonia. This facility is of open type and the users are accommodated on a voluntary basis, thus the focus of the visit was on the material conditions, adequate health care, social protection as pre-conditions for human and dignified treatment towards old persons.

At the beginning of the visit the NPM team met with the experts of this facility, then inspected the accommodation capacities and met with most of the users accommodated here. At the end of the visit the team met with the Director whom they informed about their primary findings and conclusions with a notice that a separate report shall be prepared and submitted.

The National Preventive Mechanism did not receive complaints for torture or other kind of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment. Still, some of the users, in particular the immobile persons complained about lack of care towards them and poor hygiene in the premises. The material conditions and the hygiene in the geriatrics (where the immobile persons are accommodated), are not satisfactory and there is a need for improvement. Also, the NPM is of opinion that there is a need for renovation of some of the premises in the area of sanitary knots, and replacement of the fallen tiles.

Within the old premises there is a new part, the NPM inspected several bedrooms there and concluded that the hygiene is on a satisfactory level. The premises are adequately equipped, with new beds, mattresses, closets, clean linen which is regularly changed. The floor of the premises was coated with laminate, there is a heating and new windows. Each room has a separate new shower, and the hygiene was on a satisfactory level.

Aside of old persons, this facility accommodates socially vulnerable category of persons. Namely, there are 10 persons, age 65, accommodated in this facility, who belong to the group of socially vulnerable persons (homeless, persons without families, persons with intellectual inferiority, persons with psychological difficulties). These persons are accommodated here by the Center for Social Work due to lack of adequate facilities for this category of persons.

The National Preventive Mechanism prepared a separate report where the situations were duly noted and gave appropriate recommendations to the Facility and the responsible Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.