



# RIVERS THAT LOST THEIR TRACK

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# Rivers that lost their track

**Thousands of hectares of riverbeds have been ruined by illegal exploiters since after the war. The government took decisions to stop the exploitation of sand and grit but its efforts to achieve this have showed little or no success. Even today, a number of companies continue with their activities without being bothered by anyone**

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Construction industry in postwar Kosovo flourished rapidly but damaged rivers by exploiting sand and grit with no criteria and without hiding from competent institutions.

Illegal exploiters today dominate the sand and grit market. These companies that work without permit respect no criteria during the extraction of sand and grit, and in this way they ruined thousands of hectares of riverbeds and changed the natural course of these rivers.

Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals (KPMM) during 2009 - 2014 evidenced 178 illegal operators which conducted 207 illegal operations. But this is only the number evidenced by KPMM since the real number is much higher.

It is rather difficult to stop illegal operators from exploiting sand and grit because there is a mix of competences among institutions as well as a small number of inspectors. To make matters worse Preportr found that these inspectors who currently do this job are connected to political parties and some of them were

caught doing favors for different companies or bribing them.

State institutions have given up in front of illegal exploiters. Heads of institutions and former minister of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MMPH), Dardan Gashi, in their discussions with Preportr admitted that the state in these cases proved to be incapable with the excuse that illegal operators were very dangerous and they even used weapons against inspectors.

The good news that came in the beginning of 2012 – that the entire activity of legal and illegal exploiters will be suspended – did not produce the desired effect.

The decision of the Government of Kosovo to stop this activity was opposed by exploiters who sent the case in the court. In just a few days the Supreme Court took the decision to suspend the decision of the government. However, the government together with organizations and individuals who work in the field of environmental protection filed a complaint in this court, which resulted in the revocation of the previous decision.

Although it looked like a light at the end of the tunnel, this decision was not implemented entirely. A number of institutions was involved in the implementation of this decision. Big words were used – such as those saying that if machinery is not removed KFOR will be invited to help, or even that the fines will reach 100 thousand euros.

These promises and efforts produced little effect. Even at the time when the decision was in place (its time has run out) illegal companies continued to damage rivers, especially those of Rrafshi i Dukagjinit. Some parts of the rivers are damaged. Today too, the situation is quite alarming.

In addition to not being punished, illegal exploiters even got tenders from Kosovo institutions, while some of them were funders of political parties.

## ILLEGALS' MARKET

During research, Preportr got access to the full dossier of licensed companies. After seeing the reports of KPMM, Kosovo Customs, the import and the

amount of sand realized by licensed companies, our team concluded that a big part of sand and grit market is covered by unlicensed companies, due to the fact that these companies do not pay taxes and, consequently, their prices are quite lower.

For example, it was found that for one cubic meter a licensed company pays 1.25 euros of taxes. This means that within the first category of sand, which is 0.1, a licensed company sells one cubic meter for 15 euros, whereas unlicensed companies sell it for 10 euros, and sometimes even cheaper. Within the second category of sand, that is 0.2, licensed companies sell one cubic meter for 8 euros, while unlicensed ones sell it for 4-5 euro, and so on.

KPMM does not know the exact number of unlicensed companies that operate in Kosovo. It only has the evidence of companies that were caught exploiting sand illegally. From 2009 to 2014 this institution evidenced 178 illegal operators that conducted 207 illegal operations (some companies were caught two or more times exploiting sand and grit).

KPMM had sent some of these cases in court, and identified other companies as illegal operators. In 21 cases KPMM confiscated the machineries of the companies that were caught exploiting sand and grit illegally.

Also, during this research we found that there was no effective control of illegal operators due to the lack of inspectors. The competences in this field lie among different institutions, making the prevention of illegal operations quite difficult.

During this research, Preportr also got the data from Kosovo Customs, which show that Kosovo exports very little sand and grit, while the import is much higher. The allegations that the Kosovo Government decision provides more space for the import of these minerals, especially from Serbia, are not supported by the reports from Kosovo Customs. These reports show that while this decision was in place there was only a slight increase of import of sand and grit, which either way does not manage to cover the domestic market even averagely.

Preportr asked to have access



	PLANIFICATION	REALISATION
2011	125,851,000	38,611,220
2012	76,631,000	23,196,570
2013	72,906,000	25,398,550
2014	70,520,000	24,990,300

to the reports of licensed companies, which are only 20, in order to see how much each of them planned and realized from 2008 to 2015. KPMM did not grant access to these reports with the excuse of protecting their confidentiality which, according to them, is guaranteed by law.

"The reports submitted by licensed companies are confidential according to Article 34, paragraph 5 of the Law no. 03/L-163 on Mines and Minerals", says the director of KPMM, Midin Bojaxhiu.

However, they invited us to see some of the reports that companies are obliged to submit to KPMM.

In KPMM's reports Preportr found that licensed companies do not manage to realize even 30-40 percent of the planned amount of sand and grit. For this, they blame unlicensed companies and the inspectorate that does not deal rigorously with these operators. The head of the Association of Exploiters of Sand and Grit, Sami Çeku, owner of "Besniku Q" which exploits sand and grit, says there are around 100 unlicensed companies that do this activity.

#### LEGAL EXPLOITERS FEEL NEGLECTED

Companies that are licensed to exploit sand and grit which, according to the Law on Waters of Kosovo, have to keep the distance of 150 meters from the rivers to conduct this activity, say that Kosovo institutions are using double standards. They say that they are obliged to give a lot of money in order to get the license and maintain it. We said above that KPMM allowed us to see some reports of these companies, and we saw that they reported not to have exploited sand and grit for months in a row. Their most common reasons are that they cannot afford to exploit these minerals since they cannot sell

them because the prices offered by illegal companies are much lower.

"We are forced to suspend our activities for months since we have to make lots of payments. We have to deal with many institutions and this makes our job more difficult. We have to get permits and sign contracts with many institutions", says Sami Çeku. Çeku, who is a relative of the former KLA commander, Agim Çeku, according to the evidence of illegal operators compiled by KPMM, was caught in 2010 extracting sand and grit illegally.

However, officials at KPMM say they have been very tolerant with legal companies. They have never undertaken any punitive measure even when these companies did not manage to fulfill their obligations – in this case, when they did not manage to exploit the sand and grit they planned.

"KPMM did not consider it reasonable to undertake punitive measures due to failure to realize the planned exploitation, since, as you know, the suspension of illegal activities, unfortunately, is not happening. On the other hand, punitive measures would represent an additional burden to legal companies", say the officials at KPMM.

#### HECTARES OF RIVERBEDS WERE DAMAGED

Since after the war, the construction sector in Kosovo flourished. As a result, there was an increasing demand for sand and grit. Companies made use of this opportunity by placing machineries close to rivers and by exploiting sand and grit with no criteria whatsoever. They even did not need to invest a lot – they just had to buy machineries and start the activity with no obligation towards the state.

Preportr found a report made by Kosovo Agency for Environmental Protection (AKMM), which provides the number of

## Illegal operators according to municipalities

GJAKOVA	46	LIPJAN	3
PEJA	29	MALISHEVË	1
RAHOVEC	21	MITROVICË	1
DEÇAN	4	OBILIQ	4
DRAGASH	3	PODUJEVË	1
DRENAS	1	PRISHTINË	5
FERIZAJ	3	PRIZREN	13
KAÇANIK	6	RANIGULL	2
GJILAN	7	SHTËRPCË	1
GLLOGOC	1	SHTIME	1
GRAÇANICË	3	SKENDERAJ	2
ISTOG	6	SUHAREKË	1
JUNIK	3	VITI	1
KAMENICË	12	VUSHTRRI	3
KLINË	10	ZUBIN POTOK	1

ruined hectares of riverbeds during 2009-2012. According to this report, 1004.77 hectares of river area were damaged in 2009, while in 2012, though the decision of the government was in place, the ruined area reached 1219.23 hectares.

According to these data, the river that suffered the most was Drini i Bardhë, since 861.1 hectares of its area were damaged in 2009, while in 2012 the damaged area of this river reached 1011.75 hectares. After Drini i Bardhë comes Lumbardhi i Pejës. 93.36 hectares of its area were damaged in 2009, while in 2012 the degraded area reached 134.5 hectares.

16.28 hectares of Gjakova's Ereniku were damaged in 2009. In 2012 this area reached 19.48 hectares.

These data show that the rivers of Rrafshi i Dukagjinit are the ones that were damaged the most by illegal operators, followed by the rivers of the Municipality of Kamenica, while Mitrovica's Ibër managed to be saved from degradation.

In Kamenica, Desivojcë river in 2009 had 7.76 damaged hectares, while in 2015 the damage was doubled reaching 18.95 of damaged hectares. Krivareka in 2009 had 19.37 damaged hectares, while in 2012 the damage reached 25.26 hectares. In Morava e Binçës there was no major damage during 2009 - 2012. In 2009 it had 4.29 damaged hectares, while in 2012 the damaged area reached 4.79 hectares. It should be noted that the rivers of the Municipality of Kamenica cover a much smaller area compared to those of Rrafshi i Dukagjinit. From 2.64 dam-

aged hectares in 2009, Ibër river reached 4.5 hectares of damaged area in 2012.

A 2010 report on the situation of the waters of Kosovo, made by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning found that the degradation of rivers reached alarming extents, and it mentions some of the most damaged rivers. The most damaged rivers according to this report are in the pond of Drini i Bardhë river, which is the most damaged one, followed by Ereniku and a part of Lumbardhi i Pejës.

The report also draws attention upon the risk from floods. "Among the main factors leading to floods are the unfixed riverbeds and their demolition by sand and grit exploitation with no criteria".

There is no detailed report on the demolition of rivers by exploitation without criteria. However, Preportr managed to get an internal report made by Kosovo Agency for Environmental Protection, which implies that the situation of rivers from exploitation without criteria is quite serious with tendencies of deterioration, especially when this does not happen only to the big rivers of Rrafshi i Dukagjinit, but also to those of the Municipality of Kamenica, a region known for water scarcity.

"After the decision of the Minister (no. 02/46, from 02.11.2011), the inspectorate of MMPH conducted 103 field inspections of the separation of sand and grid in the entire territory of Kosovo", says the report. After mentioning the most damaged rivers as a result of these interventions, the 2012 report emphasizes that despite the fact

that the decision of Kosovo Government was in place, the majority of operators continued with their activities.

"As a punitive measure towards operators due to their failure to respect the decisions, they received a notice with minutes and some cases were initiated at the Basic Court. As a punitive measure, 34 operators were sent to this Court, and 16 cases were reviewed by the Court at Kosovo level. Also, after the decision no. 02/46, 21 machineries were confiscated with the assistance of KPMM and Kosovo Police", says the report.

Based on previous reports on the environment, the field visits of MMPH's inspectorate as well as the visits of the commission for the assessment of the condition of rivers, an evidence of damaged hotspots was produced.

"Based on all sources of information and field visits, we found that the situation of rivers continues to deteriorate to a high extent by exploiters", says the report.

#### LESS EXPLOITERS, MORE STONE PITS

The decision of Kosovo Government did not increase the import of sand and grit, but instead empowered another category in order to cover the market of construction demands, i.e. the stone pits which, according to experts, can seriously harm the environment just like sand and grit exploiters.

An evidence of the list of licensed stone pits made by Preportr shows that during 2012-2015, a period when the decision of Kosovo Government was in

place, a high number of stone pits was licensed, doubling the number of the existing ones.

A list of companies licensed for research and use, which is publicly accessible on the webpage of KPM, shows that after 2010 there was an increased interest of companies applying for research and use of solid stone.

The Ministry of Environment was accused by companies that exploit inert materials that its decision to entirely suspend the extraction of this mineral was taken with the aim to provide more space to stone pits. Former minister of MMPH, Dardan Gashi, during an interview for Preportr, admitted to have heard about these accusations, but he was rather in favor of deceleration of the expansion of exploiters of stone and grit, taking into account the scarcity of water resources in Kosovo.

“Well, something must be used in order to construct. I can say that Kosovo has more mountains than rivers, – if we are to trivialize this matter – and that which we have less deserves more protection”, he says.

Gashi admits they have done little to stop the work of stone pits. He says they had made plans to deal with this after tackling the problem of rivers, but his mandate came to an end.

Zeqir Veselaj, environment expert, says that the environment is damaged a lot both by sand and grit exploiters and by stone pits. He tells us that after extracting the stone, these stone pits must rehabilitate the surroundings where they had conducted the activity, but in no case have they done this.

When it comes to the exploitation of sand and grit, he says that the damage is quite bigger and it will take decades in order for the environment to recover.

#### THE CHAIN OF CONSEQUENCES FROM RIVERBED SCOURING

Wherever a pit is dug close to rivers sand and grit appears. In their field visit, Preportr found new pits dug close to the rivers, a fact which shows that illegal operators continue with their work without being bothered by anyone. The huge pits in many parts of rivers have deviated the course of these rivers. Environment experts say that this is very dangerous and it poses a huge potential for floods and other damages that can be a result of these deviations.

Former minister Gashi thinks that the decision of Kosovo Government to entirely suspend the exploitation of sand and grit in riverbeds was implemented 70 to 80 percent.

He says that in the beginning he was accused of hindering their

businesses and that his aim was to suspend this business entirely, since it was very harmful for the rivers of Kosovo.

However, the decision was taken based upon a previous study.

“I do not know if there was a study, in its scientific sense; there were damages, documentation that raised the alarm about this matter. There were problems in terms of human victims, animal victims from the deviation of riverbeds, floods, material damages in the villages after the deviation, precisely in places where the riverbed was damaged unjustly”, he says.

The basis of the Ministry of Environment to push forward this matter came from videos that KFOR recorded from the air.

“A huge damage caused by riverbed deviation was visible especially during autumn and spring, not to mention the biological aspect of the rivers where interventions caused total destruction, in terms of living organisms there”, says Gashi.

He stresses the good cooperation they had with residents living close to the damaged areas. According to him, they used to inform this ministry about the damages caused to the rivers.

Former minister Gashi also mentions a number of other reasons for issuing the decision to completely suspend the exploitation of sand and grit in riverbeds.

“The residents used that water to water their fields through a certain canal. That water was then gone, went astray for example, or the levels dropped due to new opened pits, so the river could not push its water anymore. In towns like Peja, Gjakova and elsewhere there were also health problems”, he says.

According to him, health problems appeared because the water levels dropped and, unfortunately, by using rivers for sewage “the faeces were stuck in river flows, rivers could not push them further and this caused other serious problems”.

Gashi says they knew there would be confrontations because it is not easy to close down 130 companies in one day.

“Then, there was fear from damaging the construction industry, but we had conducted a study finding that in no way will it be damaged, because it can be easily replaced with other stones – perhaps more secure in terms of construction since this grit is not secure enough to be used for high buildings, especially due to its consistence”, he says.

The decision of Kosovo Government was supported by individuals and NGOs that work in the field of environmental protection. One of them, Zeqir Veselaj,

## Companies that were caught illegally and those that applied for a license afterwards

### 1. COMPANY “TINI” SH.P.K.

–from Gjakova on 01.07.2010 was found operating illegally. Whereas on 17.06.2010 it got the license for research, which ended on 16.06.2012. On 28.08.2012 this company got the license for use, which ends on 04.08.2020.

### 2. “UNION COMERC” SH.P.K.

–On 28.10.2010 and 26.06.2014 was found operating illegally. Whereas on 18.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 15.03.2014. On 09.06.2014 it got the license for use once again, which ended on 01.11.2015

### 3. “ERMALI” SH.P.K.

–from Gjakova on 05.11.2009 was found operating illegally. On 18.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 04.05.2014. On 27.09.2013 it got the license for research, which ended on 12.09.2015. On 14.03.2014 it got the license for use, which ends on 03.03.2020.

### 4. “GASHI “ SH.P.K.

–from Peja on 16.09.2010 was found operating illegally. On 18.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 13.09.2014.

### 5. “GURTHYESI “ SH.P.K

–from Peja on 26.04.2010 was found operating illegally. On 19.04.2012 it got license for use, which ended on 18.04.2013. On 12.06.2013 it got another license for use, which ends on 07.06.2016.

### 6. “DACI “ SH.P.K.

–from Peja on 28.10.2010 was found operating illegally. On 19.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ends on 04.10.2016.

### 7. “BETONJERKA” SH.P.K.

–from Peja, on 26.04.2010 was found operating illegally. On 18.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 04.10.2015.

### 8. “BESNIKU - Q “ SH.P.K.

–from Peja, on 16.09.2010 was found operating illegally. On 18.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 10.10.2012. On 29.04.2013 got another license for use, which ends on 28.03.2017.

### 9. “LUANI TRANSPORT “ SH.P.K.

–from Peja, on 25.08.2010 and 18.03.2011 it was found operating illegally. On 27.04.2012 it got the license for use, which ended on 27.07.2014.

### 10. “NDËRTIMI” SH.P.K

–from Peja, on 28.10.2010 was found operating illegally. On 26.07.2013 it got the license for use, which ends on 17.07.2018.

### 11. “ARBRI-EB” SH.P.K

–from Gjakova, on 07.05.2014 was found operating illegally. On 14.04.2014 it got the license for research, which ends on 30.03.2016.

### 12. “QALLAKU PETROLL” SH.P.K.

–from Peja, on 16.09.2010 was found operating illegally. On 02.05.2014 it got the license for use, which ended on 27.12.2014.



FOTO E BËRË NGA KFOR-I



says that this is the best decision ever taken by the government, because rivers have been damaged a lot since after the war.

#### EXCUSES OF THE INSTITUTIONS

The state has not been capable to stop illegal operators from extracting sand and grit with no criteria. They mentioned the lack of inspectors, poor cooperation between institutions, those from local and central level, and very often, they blamed the courts for not being very effective in treating cases that are related to damages of rivers.

Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals says that the reasons for failure lie in the lack of inspectors.

"The number of inspectors who should deal with these activities is very low when we take into account that we have four mining enterprises, that is: "Trepça", KEK, "Sharr Cem" and "Ferronikel", says Jahir Gashi, the head inspector of KPMM.

The officials at the Ministry of Environment say it was impossible to completely suspend the activities of illegal companies because there were lots of difficulties faced during field visits. Some of the operators left the sites, while

others worked after the working hours.

"During this time, that is between 2008 and 2011, we should stress out that during field visits illegal operators continuously fled the sites leaving their machineries there. The machinery, that is excavators, had no plates and as a result it was not possible to undertake concrete measures because the perpetrators could not be identified", says Agim Qehaja, advisor of the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ferid Agani.

Dardan Gashi also mentions the lack of functioning of institutional chain, as one of the reasons why the decision of the Government was not implemented entirely. According to him, they could not control the sites that were far from the center, and even the cooperation with municipalities and other institutions was not good.

"It was very difficult since at the beginning the owners received our inspectors with Kalashnikovs in their hands, and those companies also had problems with the residents", he says. But what Preportr found during the research is the fact that inspectors come from political parties. They were also caught doing favors to different companies, or bribing them. This

can be illustrated using examples of the head inspectors of MMPH and KPMM.

The head inspector of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Bedri Halimi, ran for MP as part of Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) during 2014 elections; the head inspector and another inspector of Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals were involved in corruption affairs (head inspector Nuredin Bislimi and another inspector, Lulzim Çitaku, were sentenced for bribery); the wife of the acting head inspector of KPMM, Jahir Gashi, works in "Mineral L.L.C" stone pit in Drenas. KPMM gives licenses to stone pits, while the inspectorate controls them whether they are implemented properly.

Institutions like KPMM and MMPH complain that they did not have good relations with courts as well. The latters, according to them, did not treat with priority cases that had to do with environmental protection, and even in cases when they treated them the decisions were always in favor of perpetrators.

KPMM initiated tens of criminal proceedings and imposed tens of fines against companies that violated the law. According to



#### STONE PITS THAT WERE LICENCED IN YEARS

2014  
**53** COMPANIES  
**25** LICENSES FOR RESEARCH  
**28** LICENSES FOR USE

2013  
**59** COMPANIES  
**31** LICENSES FOR RESEARCH  
**28** LICENSES FOR USE

2012  
**14** COMPANIES  
**1** LICENSES FOR RESEARCH  
**13** LICENSES FOR USE

2011  
**16** LICENSES FOR USE

2010  
**15** LICENSES FOR USE

2009  
**12** LICENSES FOR USE

2008  
**19** LICENSES FOR USE

2007  
**8** LICENSES FOR USE

2006  
**9** LICENSES FOR USE

2005  
**4** LICENSES FOR USE

KPMM's data, 144 criminal proceedings were initiated in 2010, 91 in 2011, 44 in 2012 and 2013 each year, 77 in 2014, and 27 criminal proceedings were initiated up to September 2015.

A ruling accessed by Preportr about an illegal exploiter from the Municipality of Kamenica, vindicated the accused exploiter considering that there was not enough proof to show that the accused committed criminal actions for which he was being accused. For example, one of the reasons to vindicate the illegal operator was that he was working in a site that was his property.

The court turned down the allegation of the prosecution that the accused committed criminal actions, theft according to Article 252 paragraph 1, causing general harm according to Article 291, paragraph 1, and pollution or destruction of the environment according to Article 276, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Kosovo. In the first point, the court found that the accused extracted sand and grit in his property and, consequently, he can do whatever he wishes with his property.

"Mines are common good, but in such situations the public interest is proclaimed, expropria-

## COMPANIES THAT DREW SAND AND GRAVEL ILLEGALLY RECEIVED TENDERS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS

**ALKO IMPEX** - got 9 tenders in total from MTPT and MI amounting 12,339,580 euros.

1.It got the first tender divided in lots with: Arbotec, Famis Co, Granit, Magjistratja, Jasen, Euro Famis, Victoria Invest International in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Winter maintenance of highways and regional roads of Kosovo, Mitrovica Region A

Amount: **350,475 €**

Year: **2008**

2.He got the second tender alone (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Building of the road Dheu i kuq - Llugovicë - Hajkobillë

Amount: **3,690,942 €**

Year: **2008**

3.He got the third tender divided in lots (MTPT), but in our database there are no names of the companies

Name of the contract: Expansion of the M2 road, Çagllavica part - M2/M25 (QMI) km 1+600 up to km 5 +200 second phase, Lot I, km 5+200 up to km 8+000 - second phase, Lot II

Amount: **1,839,437 €**

Year: **2008**

4. He got the fourth tender divided in lots with Papenburg & Adriani in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Expansion of M2 Highway: Prishtina - Hani i Elezit, Segment: Continuation of expansion from Çagllavica to the crossroad M2&M25-QMI

Amount: **1,780,172 €**

Year: **2007**

5 .He got the fifth tender divided in lots with Talin and Victoria Invest International in (MI)

Name of the contract: Summer and winter maintenance of regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2013/2014 Mitrovica A

Amount: **138,664 €**

Year: **2013**

6.He got the sixth tender alone in (MI)

Name of the contract: Rehabilitation of the national road, Prishtinë-Mutivod

Amount: **1,277,775 €**

Year: **2012**

7.He got the seventh tender in consortium with Ipe Proing in (MI)

Name of the contract: Construction of transit road for Shtime -second phase

Amount: **727,864 €**

Year: **2011**

8.He got the eighth tender divided in lots with: Kastrioti, Jasen, Integral, Arbotec, RSM, Eskavatori, Tali, Granit, Drini Company, Victoria Invest International in (MI)

Name of the contract: Summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2011/2014

Amount: **1,177,777 €**

Year: **2011**

9.He got the ninth tender divided in lots with: Jasen, Integral, Arbotec, RSM, Eskavatori, Tali, Granit, Famis Co, Victoria Invest International, Euro Famis in (MI)

Name of the contract: Summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2011/2013 Mitrovica A

Amount: **1,356,474 €**

Year: **2011**

**"BENITA COMPANY"SH.P.K.** - got a tender in consortium with Mirusha Transport in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the local road, Ali Kelmendi (Municipality of Klina)

Amount: **132,719 €**

Year: **2008**

**"RENEUAL TAHIRI"** -got 4 tenders in total in MI and MTPT with a total amount of 1,298,225 euros.

1.It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Construction of the road Grejkoc - Sal-lagrazhdë

Amount: **644,045 €**

Year: **2008**

2.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Construction of the underpass in Zhur village

Amount: **123,223 €**

Year: **2013**

3.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Construction of the local road Brod - tourist center, L=2.585 km

Amount: **313,536 €**

Year: **2013**

4.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Expansion of the road R107, segment: martyrs cemetery - Landovica bridge

Amount: **217,421 €**

Year: **2012**

**"LIKA TRADE"** -got 9 tenders in total in MTPT and MI, with a total amount of 11,953,486 euros.

1.It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Irzniq-Ratishë, phase II

Amount: **389,872 €**

Year: **2008**

2.It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the local road in Strelc, L=1250m

Amount: **108,301 €**

Year: **2010**

3.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road in the entrance of Peja from Prishtina

Amount: **2,144,318 €**

Year: **2013**

4.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the local road RashiQ-Turjakë

Amount: **389,700 €**

Year: **2012**

5.It got one tender alone in MTPT 5.Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Botushë-Koshare

Amount: **1,598,840 €**

Year: **2009**

6.It got one tender in consortium with Granit and Malsija, within a lot with: Ge Group, Vilezerit e bashkuar, Drini Company, Ard Group, Eurokos, Burimi, Drenica, Delia Group, Granit në (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Expansion of the national road M9, Sllatinë-Gjurgjicë segment, divided in 5 lots

Amount: **6,462,300 €**

Year: **2009**

7.It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Irzniq - Ratishë

Amount: **298,955 €**

Year: **2008**

8.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Lumbardh - Broliq (M.Deçan) ritender

Amount: **293,476 €**

Year: **2013**

9.It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Construction of the road- Kodrali M. Deçan On L=2,600.55m

Amount: **267,724 €**

Year: **2013**

## ILLEGAL OPERATORS, POLITICAL PARTY DONORS

Muhamet Spahiu  
who is an au-  
thorized person  
at **NEWCO  
MIRUSHA**,  
donated  
**10,000€** in  
**2010** for **AAK**



## COMPANIES THAT DREW SAND AND GRAVEL ILLEGALLY RECEIVED TENDERS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS

Bujar Shabani who  
is the owner or  
“**BAGERI  
COMPANY**”,  
donated **1,000€**  
in **2009** for **PDK**

“**RENELUAL  
TAHIRI**” donated  
**1,000€** in **2012**  
for **PDK**

“**ENGINEERING**” – got 3 tenders in MASHT, with a total amount of 3,561,790 euros. But this company, according to ARBK, ceased operating (with no set date)

1. Name of the contract: Continuation of the works at primary school building in Suhareka

Amount: **68,373 €**

Year: **2009**

2. Name of the contract: Construction of primary school in Mushtisht - Suhareka

Amount: **1,999,438 €**

Year: **2009**

3. Name of the contract: Construction of primary school in Suhareka, phase I

Amount: **1,493,979 €**

Year: **2008**

“**COMPANY ZUKA COMMERCE**” – got 2 tenders alone in (MI) with a total amount of 963,891 euros.

Also, the brother of Muhadin Zuka, Florim Zuka, owner of Tali company got 4 tenders in MI and 4 in MTPT.

1. Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Pogragjë - Llovçë

Amount: **468,561 €**

Year: **2012**

2. Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road in Smirë village, l=2239.61m (K.Year)

Amount: **495,330 €**

Year: **2009**

**BAGERI** – got 4 tenders in total in MI, with a total amount of 7,397,254 euros.

1. It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Rehabilitation of the national road M25.2 Prishtinë - Gjilan , Hajvali-Mramuer part

Amount: **829,569 €**

Year: **2008**

2. It got one tender in MI, in consortium with R & Rukolli, within the load with Pevlaku, Gjoka Konstruksion, Beni Com.

Amount: **3,825,397 €**

Year: **2013**

3. It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Construction of the road Shkabaj - Fair center (GaziOnstan)

Amount: **848,400 €**

Year: **2013**

4. It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Ferizaj-Nerodime (Segment Jezerci Bridge)

Amount: **1,893,888 €**

Year: **2012**

“**TONING**” – got 3 tenders in total in MASHT with the total amount of 5,168,279 euros

1. It got one tender alone in MASHT

Name of the contract: Contract has to do with the construction of the secondary school in Fushë Kosovë

Amount: **1,655,215 €**

Year: **2009**

2. It got one tender alone in MASHT

Name of the contract: Construction of the new school building in Turiqevc-Skenderaj

Amount: **1,504,699 €**

Year: **2009**

3. It got one tender alone in MASHT

Name of the contract: Construction of the new school building in Prishtina

Amount: **2,008,365 €**

Year: **2008**

### N.P. “VICTORIA INVEST INTERNATIONAL” SH.P.K

– got 13 tenders in total in MTPT and MI with a total amount of 11,659,419 euros.

1. It got the first tender divided in lots with: Calabria, Beni Com, Arbotec, Famis Co, Granit, Magjistratja, Alko Impex, Jasen, Euro Famis in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Winter maintenance of highways and regional roads of Kosovo – Gjakova region

Amount: **310,241 €**

Year: **2008**

2. It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Construction of the road Turiqevc – Aqaravë

Amount: **1,228,885 €**

Year: **2008**

3. It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the roads in Isufaj, Berishaj neighborhoods – Llapushnik

Amount: **379,096 €**

Year: Not in the database

4. It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Reconstruction of the regional road R 222, Bellobrad-Bresan part, L=2.71 km

Amount: **219,434 €**

Year: **2007**

5. It got one tender alone in MTPT

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road in Gjergjiçë village

Amount: **312,363 €**

Year: **2009**

6. It got one tender divided in lots with Alko Impex and Tali in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2013/2014 – Gjakova region

Amount: **987,677 €**

Year: **2013**

7. It got one tender in consortium with Erniku divided in lots with Teknika Projekt in (MI)

Name of the contract: Construction of the road Mushtisht-Budakovë-Jezerc-Ferizaj, Lot 1 and Lot 2

Amount: **988,315 €**

Year: **2013**

8. It got one tender alone in MI

Name of the contract: Construction of the road Pejë – Tërstenik

Amount: **1,937,283 €**

Year: **2013**

9. It got one tender divided in lots with Kastrioti, Jasen , Alko Impex, Integral, Arbotec, RSM, Eskavatori, Tali, Granit, Drini Company in (MI)

Name of the contract: Summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2011/2022

Amount: **1,150,025 €**

Year: **2011**

10. It got one tender in consortium with Euro Famis divided in lots On: Jasen, Alko impex, Integral, Arbotec, RSM, Eskavatori, Tali, Granit, Famis Co in (MI)

Amount e kontratës: Summer and winter maintenance of national and regional roads of the Republic of Kosovo 2011/2021 Gjakova

Amount: **1,131,929 €**

Year: **2011**

11. It got one tender alone in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Reconstruction of the road Llukafë – Tomoc

Amount: **482,400 €**

Year: **2010**

12. It got one tender alone in (MTPT)

Name of the contract: Construction and asphaltting of the road Runik-Leqinë-Izbicë (M. Skenderaj)

Amount: **2,016,541 €**

Year: **2009**

13. It got one tender alone in (MI)

Name of the contract: Asphaltting of the road Novosell-Lipë, phase II –M Peja

Amount: **515,230 €**

Year: **2013**

## DAMAGED SURFACE BY RIVERS

	2009	2012
DRINI I BARDHË	861.1	1011.75
IBRI	2.64	4.5
MORAVA E BINQES	4.29	4.79
LUMBARDHI I PEJËS	93.36	134.5
ERENIKU	16.28	19.48
KRIVAREKA	19.37	25.26
DESIVOJCA	7.76	18.95

tion is carried out and the land becomes the property of the state”, says the ruling.

Also in terms of the second point, casing general danger, the court found that the prosecution did not manage to argument the danger that the owner could cause by placing the machinery there, and by opening the pit.

“Thus, the prosecutor should have described clearly the dangerous action: the dimensions of the pit, width, depth, location, whether people and animals had access to the road close to it”, says the ruling.

Likewise, in terms of the last Article, destruction of the environment, the prosecution did not convince the court that the accused committed a criminal action.

The court did not deny in this ruling that the accused had exercised this activity without a license issued by KPMM.

### A PLAN TO STOP THE EXPLORATION OF RIVERS

After the deadline of the decision of Kosovo Government to suspend the illegal operation of all operators in riverbeds, shores, and areas around rivers for a three-year period, with an initiative of Minister Agani’s

Cabinet, MMPH together with KPMM drafted an action plan to stop illegal actins in the mineral sector. This plan, which is in its final stage and is expected to be proceeded and approved by Kosovo Government, sets forth actions that should be undertaken in order to stop illegal activities in this sector.

“In order for this plan to be implemented, all institutions that have either direct or indirect access to this activity are expected to be involved”, says the advisor of Minister Agani, Agim Qehaja

So, besides KPMM and MMPH, the implementation of this plan involves also Ministry of Internal Affairs through Kosovo Police, Ministry of Finances through Kosovo Tax Administration, Ministry of Justice through the Agency for the Administration of Sequestered or Confiscated Property, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Local Government Administration. All these links of this chain of institutional action, according to the Ministry, are expected to disable the eventual illegal operations in this sector.

Also, MMPH will soon conduct an analysis of the situation of the rivers.

“In order to talk about the situation of the rivers, we have to have a precise analysis, and for that we need a baseline study by comparing different periods of time, while in terms of measures that the inspectorate continuously undertook against illegal operators together with KPMM, whenever they found such a case, there were 21 confiscations of exploitation machinery”, says Qehaja.

When it comes to the previous decision of Kosovo Government to completely suspend the exploitation of sand and grit, the officials at the Ministry say that this decision had impact, but in some cases it was abused by illegal exploiters.

“It should be noted that the complete suspension, besides creating the opportunity to import sand and grit from the neighboring countries, was also challenging for some operators who tried to conduct this activity illegally, including working during nighttime or after the working hours”, says Qehaja.

“To tell you the truth, the decision was good before but it did not produce the desired effect because this resource is necessary for market economy and there is no reason to suspend or not extract this resource at all”, says head inspector Gashi.

## DRINI “THE PROPERTY” OF THE OUTLAWS

Drini i Bardhë is the biggest river in Kosovo, reaching the length of 122 kilometers. Some parts of it for years have been taken over by illegal exploiters of sand and grit.

Preportr, in their field visit, saw that despite the decision taken by the government to protect the rivers from these exploiters, those are still in their hands. In Kramovik, the village where this river has been damaged the most, new pits have been opened by exploitation machineries in search of sand and grit. The situation is very bad and the place is full of pits filled with water, posing threat to residents living close by.

Reports have been written about the degradation of this river, and data has been provided in terms of the extent of the damage. But very little has been done to prevent further damage of this river.

Preportr visited other spots and rivers of Rrafshi i Dukagjinit and found much damage caused by interventions undertaken by companies.

Such a spot is also in Lumbardhi i Pejës, where companies changed the natural course of this river due to the impact of their interventions. The same also stands for other rivers and this can pose a big threat in the future in terms of floods – something that already happened in recent years.

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