



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo**  
*Qeveria - Vlada - Government*

*Ministria e Administrimit të Pushtetit Lokal*  
*Ministarstvo Administracije Lokalne Samouprave*  
*Ministry of Local Government Administration*

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**Interview of Minister Sadri Ferati given to Radio Deutche Welle**

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Strategy of the Government of Kosovo and the International Civil Office for Integration of Northern Kosovo foresees to organize local elections in the new municipality of Northern Mitrovica. But, political representatives of Serbs from the North have refused organizing of this election. They say that they will take part only in election that Belgrade will organize on May 30 of this year.

Minister of the Local Government Administration in Kosovo Government, Mr. Sadri Ferati made an appeal to Serbs of the Northern Mitrovica to cooperate with Kosovo Institutions and not to cooperate with Belgrade, because their future is here in Kosovo. Minister Ferati has made this appeal a few days before organization of local elections in the Northern Mitrovica, by Serbian Government. Minister Ferati said to Radio Deutche Welle, that official Belgrade can not manage Serbian structures in Northern Mitrovica, because responsibilities should be given to local citizens and by organization of elections Belgrade will only hamper the Serbian population lives in the North Mitrovica.

“While accountability is in Belgrade, it is something very fictitious and does not give any results. Therefore efforts of Belgrade to suppress the previous structures and to make new elections are unsuccessful. Therefore, once again I say that this attempts only harms this process but not determines, the role of Belgrade is not determinant there”, said Minister Ferati.

Kosovo Government has already established a Preparatory Group for establishment of the municipality of Northern Mitrovica, with participation of Serbian citizens. Minister of the Local Government Administration in Kosovo, Mr. Sadri Ferati says that this group is continuing its work but has a lot of difficulties.

“It has a lot of difficulties because that part of Kosovo and that part of Mitrovica is still unsafe for people to express freely their opinions, their political organization and to decide whether they want to cooperate with Kosovo Institutions. All surveys show that over 70% of them are dissatisfied with the way of living and they really want positive changes”, said minister Ferati.

The Government of Kosovo and the International Civil Office, have already drafted a strategy for Integration of Northern Kosovo and a part of this strategy is extinction of Serbian parallel structures and organization of elections for the North municipality of Mitrovica, which is foreseen by Marti Ahtisaari 's plan. Mr. Sadri Ferati says that every Serbian citizen of Northern Mitrovica, even those of parallel structures can run in local elections for the municipality of Northern Mitrovica.

We do not exclude any person who can establish legitimacy among the citizens that he can represent. But, we do not see any reason to make a dialog with those who act against the interest of Serbian citizens. We will organize elections and if they win the confidence of citizens can be installed in legitimate structures of Kosovo”, -said Minister Sadri Ferati.

However, the Government of Kosovo has not yet set a date when it can organize local elections for the new Serbian municipality of Northern Mitrovica. Part of this strategy for integration of the north are local elections for the municipality, however, governmental officials admit that there might be delays because they do not want to hasten, but to organize elections that will be supported by Serbian citizens of Northern Mitrovica.