

## Lipjan/Lipljan Municipality

April 2008

### 1. Area and Population

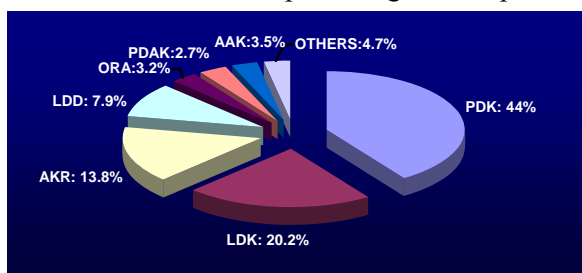
• Lipjan/Lipljan Municipality is located in the central Kosovo covering an area of 422 km<sup>2</sup>. Lipjan/Lipljan town is located on the junction of the main routes from Prishtinë/Priština to Prizren and from Prishtinë/Priština to Skopje, the capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM). The municipality consists of Lipjan/Lipljan town and 71 villages; 52 villages are exclusively populated by Kosovo Albanians, six by Kosovo Serbs and 13 villages and Lipjan/Lipljan town have mixed population. Many roads are paved, yet in bad condition. The electricity supply is often interrupted, while the water supply has been better than in the neighbouring municipalities, thanks to the international assistance.

• The estimated population is 76,000. The majority is Kosovo Albanian (83% - 64,600) with small numbers from minority communities; approximately 9,500 Kosovo Serbs, 1,500 Ashkali, 360 Croats, 330 Roma and others. The municipality has mostly seen spontaneous/individual returns of Kosovo Serbs and more organised returns of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population with more concrete results.

### 2. Governing Structures

#### • Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 31 members elected in the 2007 Municipal elections. The electoral percentage of the political parties is as follows:



PDK – Democratic Party of Kosovo  
LDK – Democratic League of Kosovo  
LDD – Democratic Party of Dardania  
AAK – Alliance for the Future of Kosovo  
ORA – Reforming Party of Kosovo  
IBQ – Joint citizens' initiative  
AKR – New Kosovo Alliance  
PDAK – Ashkali Democratic Party of Kosovo

Mr. Shukri Buja, PDK is the Mayor of the Municipality. The Vice-Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly is Florent Hoxha, PDK. The second Vice-Chairperson is a Mr. Slavisa Subaric, from Kosovo Serb community.

#### • Executive

The names and political affiliation of the Heads of Municipal Departments who compose the Board of Directors are as follows:

- Department of Health and Social Welfare - Mr. Banush Gashi (PDK)
- Department of Planning, Urbanism, Geodesy and Cadastre - Mr. Mendim Luma (LDD)
- Department of Education and Culture Department - Mr. Nazmi Krasniqi (PDK)
- Department of Inspectorate Department - Mr. Bajram Rizani (PDK)
- Department of Agriculture and Forestry Department - Ms. Radmila Simijonovic (Kosovo Serb)
- Department of Finance, Budget and Economical Development - Mr. Petrit Kelmendi (PDK)
- Department of Public Utilities - Mr. Edmond Rexhepi (PDK)
- Department of Civil Emergency and Protection – Mr. Agim Bylykbashi (PDK)

The position of the Head of the Department of Administration and Personnel currently remains vacant. The Standing Committees have been established. The Head of the Municipal Community Office is Ms. Lidija Jovanovic (Kosovo Serb). The Municipal Returns Officer is Mr. Sadik Avdiu.

- **Judiciary**

Lipjan/Lipljan has a Municipal Court (five Kosovo Albanian judges) and a Minor Offences Court (three Kosovo Albanian judges).

- **Security Presence**

The Kosovo Police Service has 120 officers: 80 Kosovo Albanians, 35 Kosovo Serbs, 2 Ashkali, 2 Bosniak and 1 Roma. There are as well 3 UNMIK Police Officers. International military presence consists of Finnish and Irish KFOR.

### **3. Political Overview**

After the 2007 November Municipal elections, PDK became the leading political party in the municipality with 13 seats in the Municipal Assembly and holding most Municipal Departments.

On 21 March a Kosovo Serb member of the Serbian Liberal Party was elected by the Municipal Assembly in Lipjan/Lipljan as the Second Vice-Chairperson in the municipality. Despite the fact that Kosovo Serbs are not represented in the Municipal Assembly, the Mayor has been of the opinion that this position should be filled by a Kosovo Serb, since this community represents the largest minority in the municipality. These developments triggered the reaction of the Kosovo Ashkali Municipal Assembly representative who complained to the UN DCA on 25 March about the municipal decision. The Mayor justified his decision as a political action aimed at encouraging the integration of the Kosovo Serb community in the municipal structures and has been the result of consultations with the Kosovo Government.

### **4. Economy**

The municipality is predominantly agriculture-oriented. After the 1999 conflict, most of the businesses are no longer operational. Many shops and restaurants have opened in the town, but approximately 75 % of the population remains unemployed.

### **5. Public Services**

- **Health**

In the municipality, different communities use different health facilities. Kosovo Albanians use the main Health House in Lipjan/Lipljan town while Kosovo Serbs use a private health house. Small health houses provide limited services and for hospital care Kosovo Albanians and Ashkali travel to Prishtinë/Priština, while Kosovo Serbs and Roma go to Laplje Selo/Llapje Sello or Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

- **Education**

The municipality has two kindergartens (one Kosovo Albanian one Kosovo Serb), 20 primary schools for Kosovo Albanians, three for Kosovo Serbs, and one for the Croat community in Janjevë/Janjevo. There are also three secondary schools: Gymnasium and Professional Secondary School for Kosovo Albanians in town with two branches and one secondary school for Kosovo Serbs with one additional branch.

### **6. Map of Region**

