

01



MANS Investigative Centre has warned the public that the state institution Secretariat for Development Projects is abusing the Law on Classified Information by hiding minutes from National Investment Commission meetings. The decision denying MANS this information did not specify the precise reasons why the minutes of the session should be kept secret, what are the interests that could be jeopardized if the public learned what **Milo Đukanović** and associates were discussing and whose are those interests. 01/07/2019

02



36 Montenegrin NGOs urged the Ministry of Defense to withdraw controversial provisions of the Law on Classified Information that provide for unconstitutional hiding of information from the public. Proposed amendments allow all state bodies to declare information secret, if their disclosure would influence "performing of activities of a state body". Such broad definition of the reasons why documents can be hidden from the eyes of the public is not in accordance with the Constitution or international standards. 02/07/2019

04



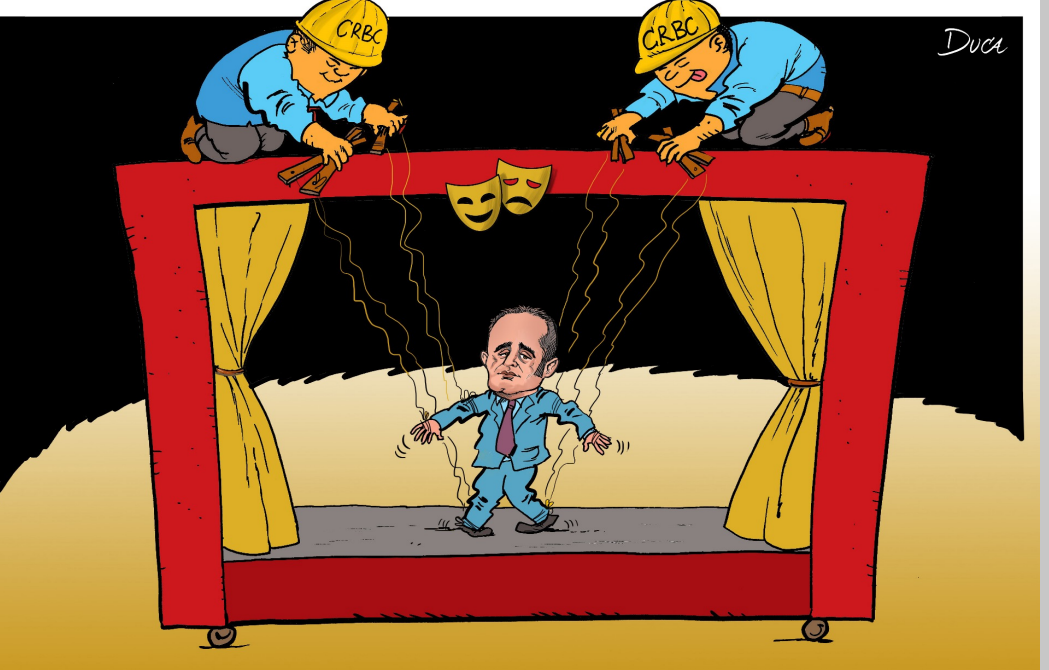
The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector has revealed that the Ministry of Finance is hiding data on aid payments in the amount of two million and €400,000 from the budget reserve allocated to some municipalities and sports organizations ahead of last year's presidential election. If amendments to the Law on Classified Information are adopted, the situation will be drastically worse and these institutions will be able to declare secret whatever they want. 04/07/2019

05



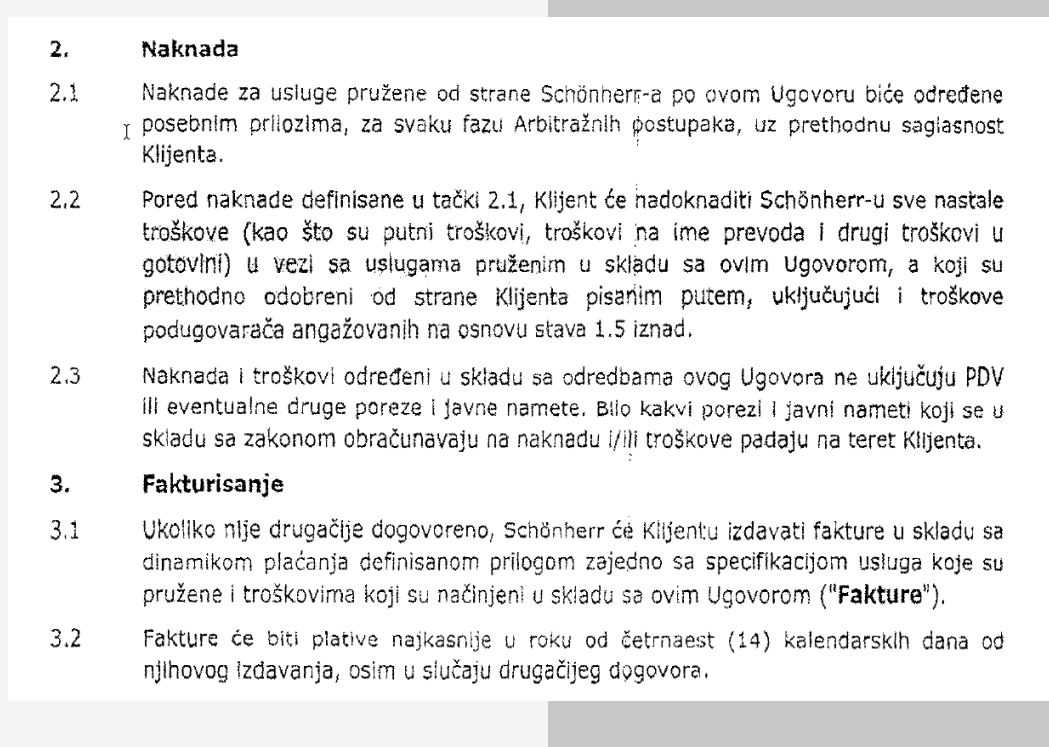
At the end of last year, NGO Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) requested from the State Audit Institution (SAI) complete documentation in its possession relating to the construction of the Bar-Boljare highway. This institution restricted access to the documentation in their possession to the one approved by the Ministry of Transport, while the rest was marked "internal". This example testifies to the widespread misuse of the Law on Classified Information. 05/07/2019

05



Pavle Radulović, the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, finally contradicted himself when, confronted with the facts, he admitted that the Tara River has been devastated, more than 20 days after this was confirmed by the UNESCO report. At the same time, the Administration for Inspection Affairs continues to refuse to provide any concrete information on what were the omissions for which these minor penalties were imposed, thereby directly violating the Law on Inspection Control, which must be public. In addition, in this way the Constitution of Montenegro is not respected, because data on the state of the environment are hidden from the citizens, which is one of a series of shameful examples of the attitude of institutions of the system towards the public. 05/07/2019

06



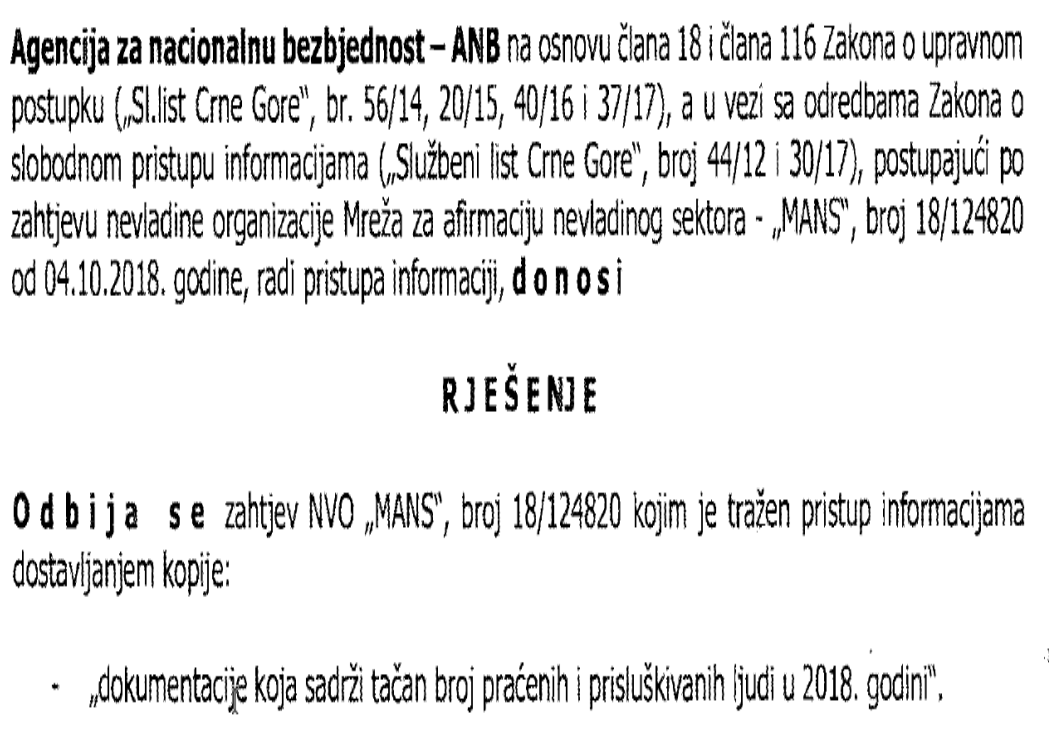
The Privatization and Capital Projects Council continues to cover how much it paid for the services of the Schonherr law firm, despite the ruling by the Administrative Court adopted in February. MANS asked for this information three years ago since the Council did everything it could to hide the information from the public, declaring it confidential. For almost half a year, the Privatization Council has ignored this decision of the Administrative Court, continuing to misuse the Law on Classified Information in order to keep the controversial invoices secret. 06/07/2019

08



Despite the rulings of the Administrative Court, the Minister of Defense, **Predrag Bošković**, continues to hide documentation from the public that would reveal which officials had received loans to resolve the housing problem. As a reason for hiding this information from the public, Bošković states that the disclosure of who received the loan from the Government "would have a detrimental effect to the interest which is more important than the public's interest in knowing that information." Bošković further states that if the loan data were made public, it would "endanger the internal functioning of the authorities", in this case the Housing Committee. 08/07/2019

09



The National Security Agency (ANB) declined to provide MANS with information on the exact number of people monitored and wiretapped in 2018, as the information was classified. Referring to the Law on Classified Information, this information was labeled "SECRET", without conducting a harm test that would show in what way the statistics on the number of persons who are the subject of interest of ANB could jeopardize any interest. MANS first requested this information in 2006 when accurate information was obtained that 5 persons were monitored in 2005, and that ANB monitored means of communication for 45 persons. What led to the change in this practice has never been explained by the ANB, nor on whose initiative is this information now hidden from the public. 09/07/2019

10



The Ministry of Defence is going to delete from the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Classified Information the disputed provision that prescribes the possibility of declaring classified information whose disclosure would or could have harmful consequences for the work of public authorities. The Ministry of Defence recognised the mistake in the definition of classified information "internal" and are prepared to "shape the norm" to make it clear to everyone that it relates to the field of defence of military security and monetary policy, and stated that they did not want to restrict access to data. 10/07/2019

12



The Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) has rejected a civil sector initiative to launch a petition "Our money, their flats and secret funds". MANS has already presented to the public concrete evidence of the ways in which laws and regulations are misused to conceal information of public importance, especially when it comes to spending budgetary resources. More and more government agencies are misusing institutes of secrecy to restrict access to data. 12/07/2019

17



NGOs Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS), Green Home and the Center for Protection and Research of birds (CZIP) will ask the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning to organise control hearings of the Minister of Transport **Osman Nurković** and the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism **Pavle Radulović**, after the report confirmed that the construction of the highway has devastated the Tara River. This is the fourth document of a relevant international organization dealing with the issue of endangerment of Tara in the process of the highway construction. 17/07/2019

19



At the press conference, a new mobile application "**Pitajte poslanike**" ("Ask MPs") was presented by NGO MANS within the framework of the implementation of the project "Improving of parliamentary monitoring and accountability in Montenegro", supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). In this way, citizens will be able to engage in campaign related to the protection of the Tara River, as well as to ask any questions to MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro. 19/07/2019

19



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.co.mans.pitajteposlanike>
Downstream from the construction site of Mateševo loop, field team of the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) registered new pollution of the Tara River. MANS has been warning for months that state authorities' response to behaviour of China's CRBC and subcontractors is completely inadequate, and that current supervision does not properly depict what is happening on the river, but also that criminal policy does not deter anyone from continuing its devastation. The latest UNESCO Committee report confirmed the findings of a November monitoring mission that the construction of the highway had a serious impact on the Tara River, and that the state must seriously respond to this issue. 19/07/2019

23



In first week alone after launching the new mobile application of MANS "**Pitajte poslanike**" ("Ask MPs"), citizens sent almost 100 questions to their representatives in the Parliament of Montenegro, which additionally confirms the justification of establishing such way of communication between citizens and MPs. In the following period, MANS will regularly inform the public on the use of this application citizens, what are the topics most interesting for citizens, and which MPs regularly or less promptly respond to citizens' questions. 23/07/2019

July in photos

