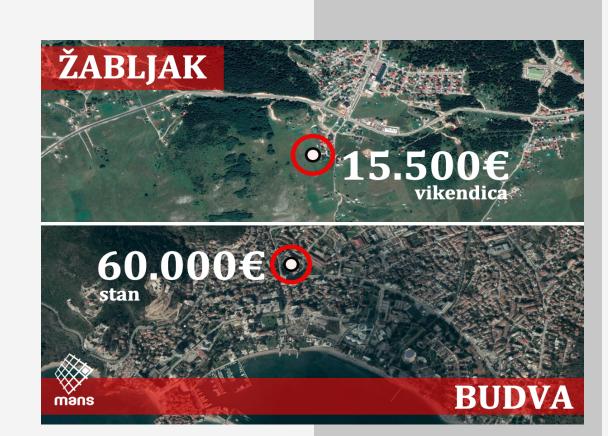


March in MANS













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March in photos

Data obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre show that in only five years (2005-2010), an accounting employee from the Democratic Party of Socialists spent at least half a million Euros on purchase of real estate in Podgorica and Budva. The fact that the party remains silent on the manner in which its employee acquired valuable real estate further confirms doubts about the funding of the ruling party. The investigative story with all the details can be found at: http://www.mans.co.me/en/expensive-square-meters-of-the-dps-treasurer/

Documentation obtained by MANS shows that the sale of shares in the company "Hidroenergija" was below the real price. Controversial businessmen Ranko Übović and Aleksandar Mijajlović caused the damage to the state budget of at least €188,000. In 2018, they sold 60% of Hidroenergija for only €300,000, i.e. eight times less than the net worth, and therefore paid significantly less tax, bearing in mind the market value of the share sold. The documentation on these transactions shows that the authorities responsible for determining criminal liability should address this case.

09/03/2020

The Special State Prosecutor's Office dismissed a criminal complaint filed by NGO MANS against *Montenegro's President Milo Dukanović* a month ago, on suspicion that he had used the official aircraft of the Government of Montenegro on his trip to Miami late last year and earlier this year. The allegation of abuse of office against Natasa Pešić who, as stated in the complaint, as the Secretary General of the Government allowed Đukanović to use the official aircraft for private travelling, was also rejected.

09/03/2020

Within the project supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Podgorica, NGO MANS held a conference dedicated to the Project of highway construction in Montenegro Bar - Boljare, the first section Smokovac - Mateševo. The Prime Minister of Montenegro, who is at the same time the Head of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, officially opened the event. In addition to presentations by representatives of state institutions, experts and NGO sector, followed by discussion, the conference was organized through two thematic panels focusing on the – Impact of Highway Construction on the Environment, and Control and Access to Information.

MANS' investigation reveals new schemes regarding "Hidroenergija". The company "Hemera kapital" owned by the controversial businessman Oleg Obradović sold its share in company "Hidroenergija Montenegro" for around half a million Euros, but in its financial statements there are no information on those revenues, while the company paid no taxes. In this way, Obradović hid €500 thousand from the sale of shares and evaded taxes. "Hidroenergija", involved in the construction of small hydropower plants and millions of government-backed investments, generated very significant revenues from the sale of electricity. 11/03/2020

Withholding information from the public has become a method of working for most government agencies. Having been silent for almost three months regarding flight by the state aircraft to Paris on New Year's Eve, *President Milo Đukanović* has now offered the public a theory that it was actually an official trip during which he performed some "duties in the interest of Montenegro". The public is unlikely to find out what are those state affairs anytime soon, because according to Đukanović, those are affairs "of which the public is not informed", at least not until they are finalized, as he said.

13/03/2020

NGOs and journalists called on the Ministry of Public Administration to postpone a public debate on the Law on Free Access to Information after the coronavirus pandemic and to publish opinions of the European Union experts on the legislation. Bearing in mind that the Law on Free Access to Information is a key tool for investigative journalists and nongovernmental organizations that monitor the work of state bodies, it is particularly worrying that this law is amended in this way, several months before the parliamentary elections.

30/03/2020







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