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The Executive Director of the Network for the Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) and a member of the Expert Team of the National Council for the Fight against High-Level Corruption expressed concern over the possible connection of the new government with certain persons and activities previously linked to the top officials of the former government and Democratic Party of Socialists. **Only this can explain the lack of reforms and results in certain areas that are extremely prone to corruption.** You can read the complete interview at the link below: <https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/583719/zinuli-i-na-prljave-poslove-dps-a> 03/01/2022

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Although the new Law on Free Access to Information enables significantly greater public involvement in the fight against corruption and detection of illicit enrichment, **MANS believes that the proposed norm to start its implementation only at the beginning of 2023 is not good.** The government passed the Bill more than a year after NGO MANS, along with four other NGOs, sent proposals to the relevant ministry to improve the legal text. On that occasion, MANS states that they expect that the MPs will ask in the parliamentary procedure for the law to enter into force immediately, so that this Government would keep its promise to be transparent in practice. 05/01/2022

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In 2020, the Ministry of Defence extended the deadline for the company **Montenegro Defence Industry (MDI)** to collect surplus firearms worth **1.72 million euros**, which the company from Podgorica bought from them in May and November 2019. NGO MANS submitted official documentation on the sale and postponement of payment deadlines to MDI, until recently classified as internal, to the current management of the relevant ministry on the basis of a request for free access to information and removed that mark. **It shows that the state-owned company paid for the firearms a year and a half late, thus distorting competition and potentially causing damage to the state budget.** 09/01/2022

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During a tour of the works on the construction of the most expensive piece of asphalt in the world, one of the interlocutors of **BBC radio and Dutch RTL television** was a representative of the MANS Investigative Centre. **For the project of the 170 km-long part of the highway, the price for the first 42 kilometres of asphalt was an incredible billion dollars - most of which was borrowed from a Chinese bank.** There are still questions in Montenegro why the project started when some experts said it was not sustainable, as well as whether everything is as it seems. See the complete interview and article on the links below: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00139p2> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUmNPu3PyTI> 13/01/2022

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After four NGO activists, members and the head of the expert team left the National Council for the Fight against High-Level Corruption, two members remained in that government body. The Council, among other things, published documentation on the allocation of apartments and loans to public officials. Based on the agreement with the former chairman of this body and after creating technical preconditions, the Ministry of Capital Investments (MCI) started publishing documentation related to the realization of the **Bar-Boljare highway project** in November last year. 26/01/2022

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Despite the opposing of the locals and the Municipality of Kotor, but also the obvious violation of the legal procedure, and although at the end of last year it withdrew the decision on the concession act for the quarry in Krimovica without explanation, the Government of Montenegro still gave the green light to the **Ministry of Capital Investments**. Thus, MCI is finally given a free hand to conduct a public call that openly favours the company **"Carinvest"**, current concessionaire at that location, while **the president of the Municipality of Budva, Marko Carević**, is allowed to continue exploiting stone in Krimovica for another 30 years. 27/01/2022

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After the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) informed them about the illegal construction at the end of July 2021, the Inspectorate for Urban Development and Construction filed a criminal complaint with the Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Kotor against **Carinvest** and the responsible person in that company, **Milan Carević**, on September 24 last year. **The Basic State Prosecutor's Office in Kotor is investigating whether the company "Carinvest" owned by the family of the mayor of Budva, Marko Carević, illegally built a 600-square-meter facility in the base in a plot in Krimovica.** 30/01/2022

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It will soon be 4 months since the opening of the **"Pandora"** case, and the State Prosecutor's Office has not yet pointed out to possible guilt or innocence. Regarding this fact, the director of the MANS Investigative Centre points out that **"Since the very opening of the "Pandora Papers" case, which showed that the head of state and DPS leader Milo Đukanović and his son were preparing a complex international scheme for hiding income and property in offshore destinations, we harbour no illusions that the State Prosecutor's Office of Montenegro is going to achieve any more serious results."** 31/01/2022

January in photos



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