

15



NGO sector points out that citizens should immediately put pressure on the new government to give up its obvious intention to continue the partitocratic practice. **"Rescuing the state institutions from DPS is a legitimate goal of the new government, but the question is to what extent it will be possible to ensure their independence if we replace one political staff with another. The interest of citizens to have efficient and depoliticized institutions must be at the top of the agenda of public administration reform of the new government, and that is an imperative that must not be subordinated to any personal or party interest."** 15/01/2021

15



Last year's flight of the **President Milo Đukanović** to Paris by the state plane remains a secret for the citizens of Montenegro, now thanks to the decision of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC). **APC determined that the President of Montenegro did not violate the Law on Prevention of Corruption, without examining additional evidence, while the reason for using the state plane was "meetings with a certain degree of secrecy"**. Even if it was really a business trip to Paris, it is indisputable that Đukanović's decision to spend the New Year's holidays in the United States additionally cost citizens of Montenegro in the form of subsequent flights of the state aircraft to Paris. MANS filed the report with APC against Đukanović back in February last year, while the decision was adopted almost a year later, acting "ex officio", as stated in it. 15/01/2021

16



At the end of October last year, MANS submitted an initiative to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) to initiate proceedings against **the former Prime Minister Duško Marković, as well as ministers Milutin Simović, Predrag Bošković, Mevludin Nuhodžić, Dragica Sekulić, Nikola Janović, Suzana Pribilović and Damir Šehović, for violating the law pertaining to incompatibility between the office of an MP and a member of the Government of Montenegro**. Decision that the former Prime Minister, now MP, Duško Marković and several ministers of the previous government violated the Law on Prevention of Corruption is late. **"Continuing the practice of the so-called delayed response to apparent violations of the law, APC is strengthening its position as one of the key obstacles in Montenegro's institutional response to accumulated corruption issues."** 16/01/2021

19



The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) found that participants in the business with concessions for small hydropower plants had violated the law by funding the election campaign of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) in the eve of last year's parliamentary elections. NGO MANS welcomed the decision, but also stated that the Agency could have reacted earlier, considering that suspicions of violating the Law in this case were pointed out back in August. **"The absence of such practice shows that APC has no capacities, whether it is political will or something else, to prevent political corruption in time and send a clear message that it cannot be an integral part of the electoral process in Montenegro."** 19/01/2021

19



The Agency for Prevention of Corruption also found that **eight media outlets violated the provisions of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns in the eve of last year's parliamentary elections**. For days and weeks after submitting initiatives to the Agency, NGO MANS warned this institution that its response to violations of the law in this area must be timely. **"Now that the Agency has finally announced the decisions it adopted mostly after the election, when the campaigns ended, it is quite clear that this was done to still allow these media outlets to publish political advertisements contrary to the law."** 19/01/2021

22



That the **Recording ("Snimak") affair** is not the only case of unlawful employment is also shown by the latest example in the Municipality of Ulcinj, where the prosecution initiated an investigation against the leaders of that municipality due to suspicion that they had committed the criminal offense of negligent work in the service. The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS), which has been dealing with the misuse of state resources for party purposes for years, claims that the fight against party employment should not be stopped in an individual case. **"Everyone from the 'new government' and the 'new opposition' should be questioned so that we have a fair system and send a clear message that no one should get a job solely on the basis of recommendation by a political party."** 22/01/2021

27



Since the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro announced a joint fight against high-level corruption, by establishing a working body, and after the application deadline, **he decided that the Executive Director of the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector, Vanja Čalović Marković, and Stevo Muk, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Institute Alternative, were also members of the National Council for fight against corruption**. The Deputy Prime Minister's office said that Čalović Marković **"has been recognized for years as a leading fighter against corruption and organized crime in Montenegro, while Muk is a head of one of the leading think-tank organizations that has been dealing with the problem of corruption in the public sector for years."** 27/01/2021

28



Data obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre, in cooperation with colleagues from OCCRP, show in that nearly 4,000 tons of grit waste originating from Montenegro have been in the Ukrainian port of Kherson for more than a year, after the local police opened an investigation into how the French company Valgo shipped that hazardous waste from Bijela at the end of 2019. "Valgo" is engaged in the project of soil remediation of the former Shipyard Bijela, financed from the World Bank loan. You can read full investigative story with all details at the following link: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/how-grit-waste-from-montenegro-ended-up-in-ukraine-hazardous-journey/> 28/01/2021

January in photos

