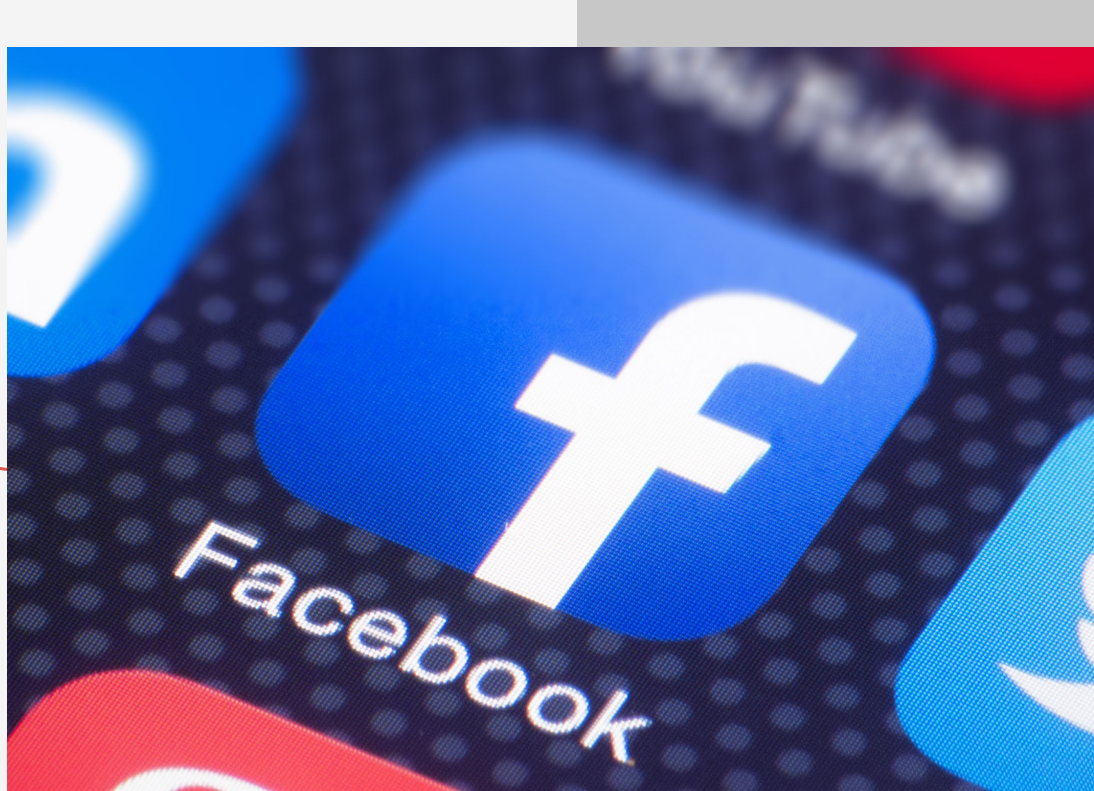


02



A month before the parliamentary elections, it is certain that, due to coronavirus situation, a good part of the pre-election campaign of political parties will shift its focus from the fieldwork to the Internet. **The analysis made by the MANS Investigative Centre shows that the ruling DPS, even in this situation, does not give up the so-called institutional advantage. Only two days after the Government of Montenegro presented the third package of socio-economic measures, a promotional video appeared on DPS' Facebook page where the official logo of the Government was replaced by the party logo of DPS.** This type of DPS campaign, especially in the situation of the still active epidemic, and limited space for the field campaign, puts other participants in the election process in an unequal position. 02/08/2020

06



MANS called on all political parties participating in the election process to conduct a campaign on social media in a transparent manner, which will obviously be one of the key ways of communication with citizens during coronavirus epidemic. It is expected that for this reason political parties will allocate significant funds for paid advertising on Facebook, YouTube and other social media. An analysis conducted by MANS regarding political ads of those participants in the election process who have already started the campaign shows that some political parties promote their election programme through social websites that are not registered for political advertising. 06/08/2020

12



Since the beginning of the election campaign, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) has not yet responded to any of the complaints filed by MANS, which related to the spending of budget funds and political advertising in the media. **So far, MANS has filed 85 complaints against state institutions that violated the legal obligation to publish analytical cards on their spending during the election campaign, but also regarding several media outlets that did not submit price lists for publishing ads with political content on time.** This behaviour of APC three weeks before the elections completely discredits civil control of the legality of the election process and represents a continuation of the practice of this institution. 12/08/2020

12



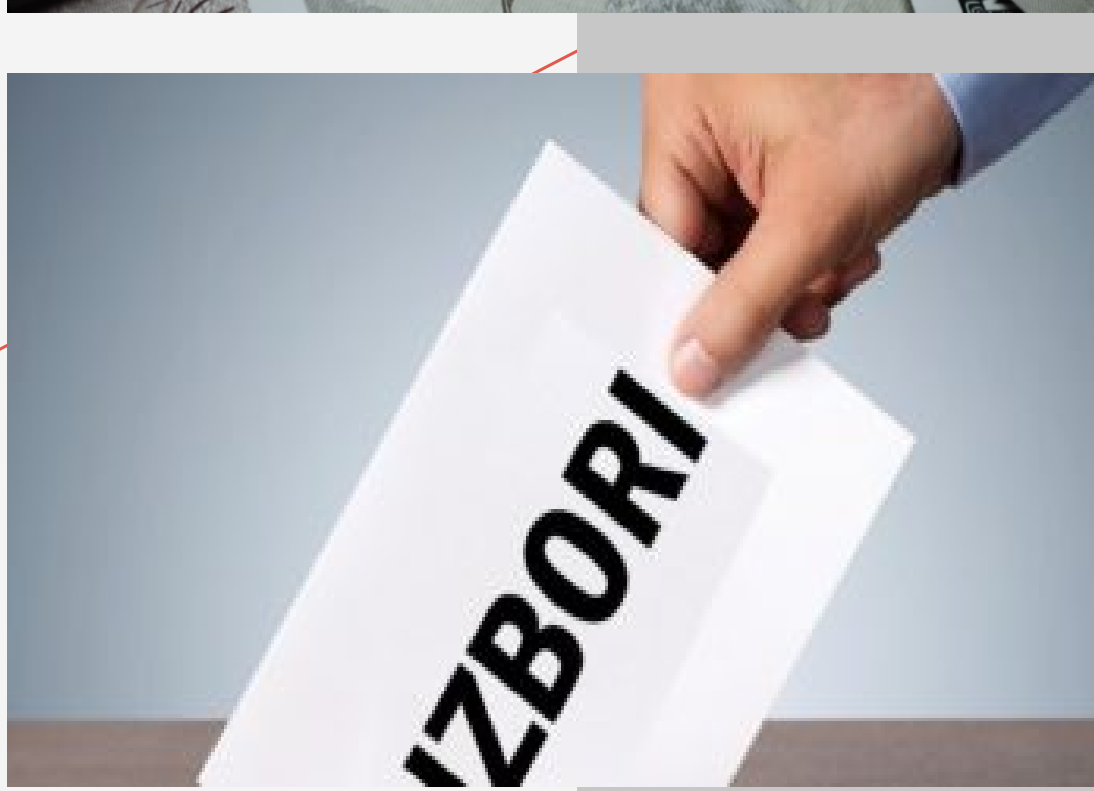
Investigative Centre of the NGO MANS obtained new data that deepen the suspicion that the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) is again using the established scheme to insert cash into its official finances through alleged donations from natural persons. **On the same day, employees of the Fire Department of the Municipality of Danilovgrad organized and paid € 16,000 for the needs of this year's DPS' election campaign. The smallest donation was € 500, while some firefighters allocated up to €1,500 to help the ruling party,** according to data analysed by MANS. You can read the full story at the web address below: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/firefighters-helped-dps-campaign-with-e16000/> 12/08/2020

14



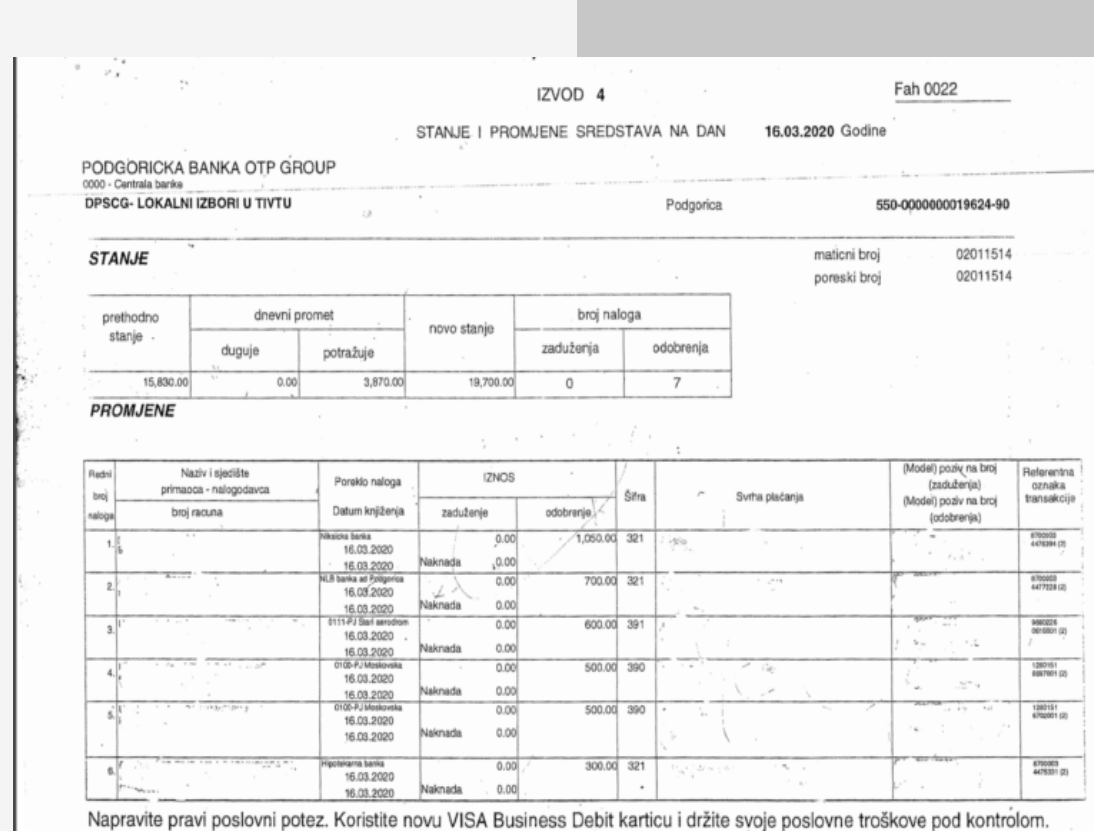
**Clean campaign - Why is it important for parties' finances to be public?** MANS presented the video "Clean Campaign" within the project "Clean Money - Fair Elections" supported by the European Union through the EU Delegation to Montenegro. **The video aims to raise public awareness of the importance of fair elections and the need for parties' finances to be public, but also to warn all participants of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Montenegro that accountability to citizens and voters implies providing full and timely information on their work.** 14/08/2020

18



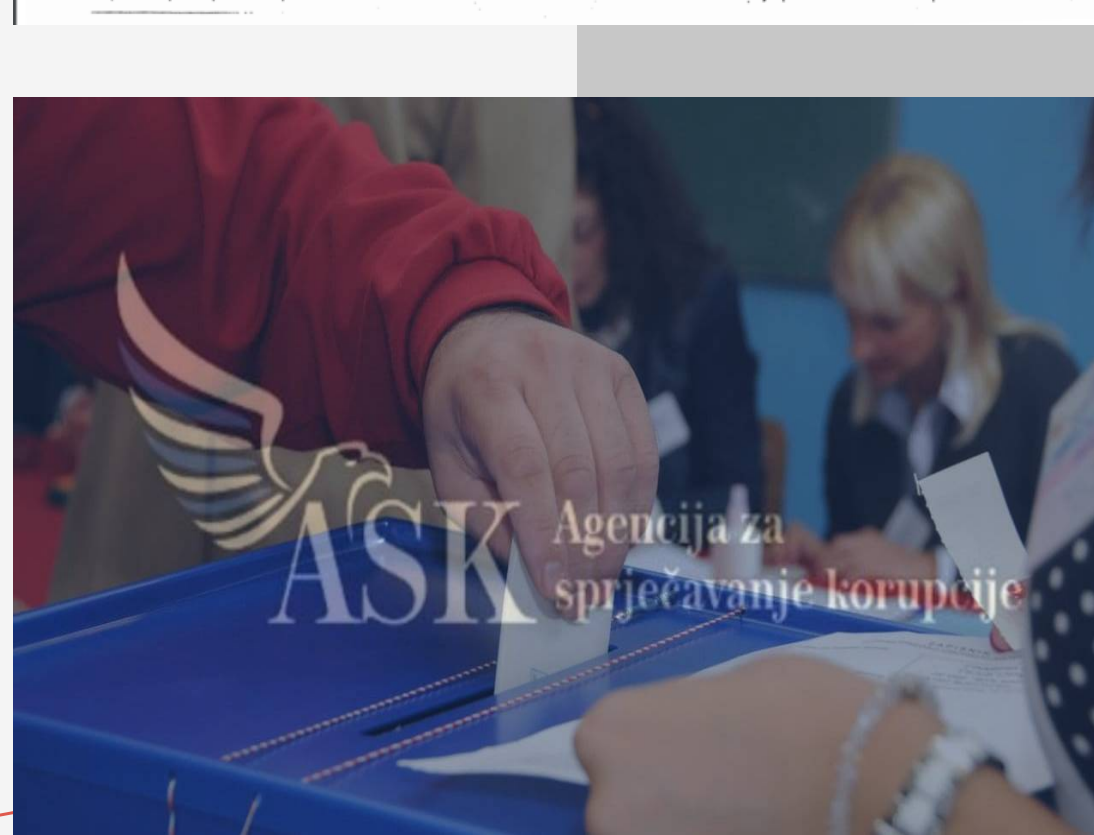
By monitoring the pre-election process, MANS and Media Center noticed that price lists for marketing with public broadcasters were published on APC's website, and that within commercial programme, some of them are advertising political entities participating in parliamentary and local elections. **In accordance with their competencies set out by the Law on Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament, they call on the State Election Commission (SEC) and the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APC) to investigate whether there was violation of the law, and to warn political entities participating in parliamentary and local elections as well as public broadcasters about the restrictions prescribed by law, and the APC to remove the price lists of public broadcasters from its website.** 18/08/2020

19



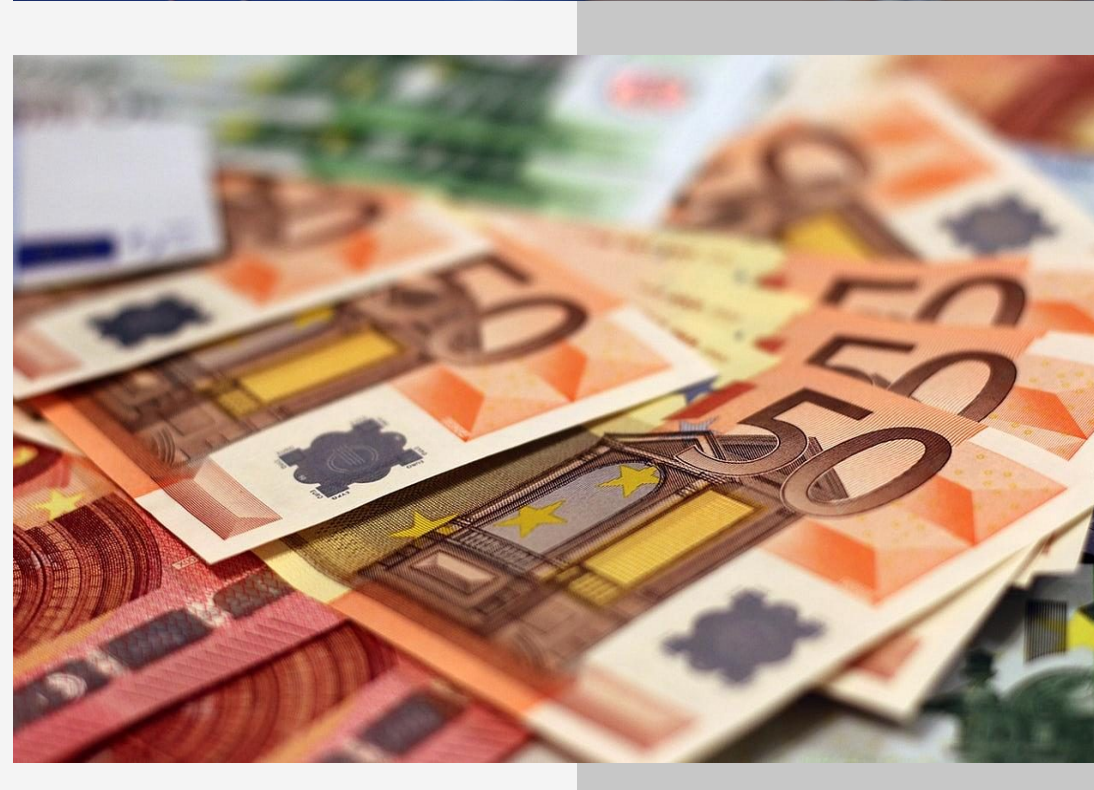
The documentation obtained by the MANS Investigative Centre shows that **less than two weeks before the parliamentary elections, the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) continues to hide most of the data on its financial operations, including the costs and sources of its financing.** Since the beginning of the year, MANS has asked DPS, as a reporting entity of the Law on Free Access to Information, for copies of statements from all accounts, which for the period January-May show that **this party deleted data on most transactions made through the account. DPS did not stop at deleting data on natural persons, but most of the data on legal entities with which DPS did business, including the purpose of payment and invoice numbers, also "disappeared" from the statements.** 19/08/2020

19



MANS submitted two initiatives to the Council of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) for continuous violation of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns. **The first initiative submitted to the Council concerns the conduct of APC in relation to the media that are allowed to illegally provide advertising services during the election campaign. From the beginning of the election campaign. The second initiative submitted to the Council refers to the documentation submitted to APC by the reporting entities of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns, as well as to the minutes on their control that APC has conducted so far. We expect an urgent response from the Council on initiatives to prevent further violations of the law with far greater consequences.** 19/08/2020

21



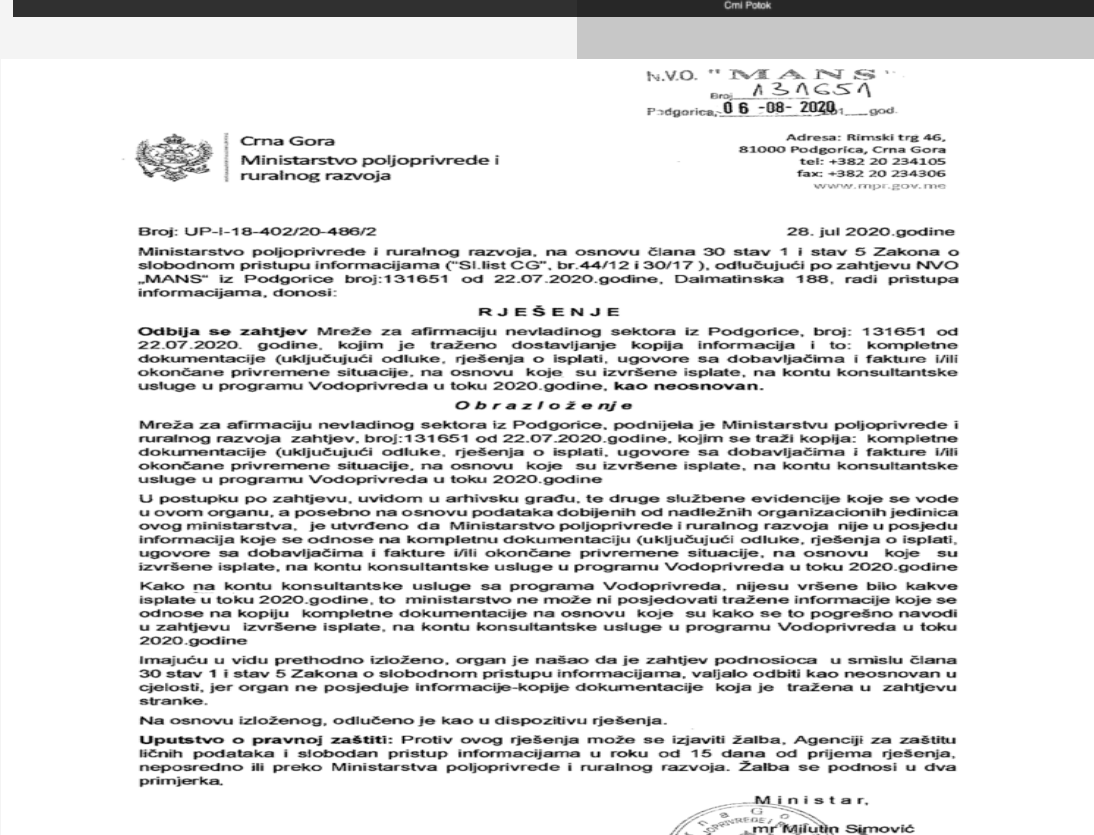
MANS Investigative Centre published the documentation which shows that since the beginning of this year, **the Maritime Safety Department Bar has spent over € 20 thousand on paying of employees under temporary service contract, which is information that the state institution tried to hide. On that basis, €6,000 was paid in June this year alone. Hiring of workers under temporary service contracts has been recognized as one of the mechanisms of putting pressure on voters in the pre-election period, especially after the recordings from the main board of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) came to light, which recognize this type of employment as a way to influence public sector employees.** 21/08/2020

22



The latest data of the NGO MANS Research Center show that **Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) received unlawful donations from the owners and directors of companies that manage small hydropower plants (SHPPs). Igor Mašović, Tamara Kokić and Milica Novović are connected with companies that have active concessions for the production of electricity from small hydropower plants, and before this year's elections they donated a total of € 13 thousand to DPS on the same day - July 20 this year.** You can read the complete research story with all the details at the following web address: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/concessionaires-donated-e-13000-for-dps-campaign/> 22/08/2020

24



**The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Milutin Simović, deceived the public and tried to hide the payments of over € 630 thousand, which his department distributed to the consultants in the first half of the election year.** On July 22 this year, MANS asked the Ministry for detailed information on the use of water management programmes for consulting services, including invoices and contracts with suppliers. In response to the request for information, claims that: **"no payments were made based on consulting services from the Water Management programme during 2020." Documents submitted to MANS by the Ministry of Finance, which contain data on spending of all budget users, show that Simović tried to hide enormous payments by misinforming the public.** 24/08/2020

25



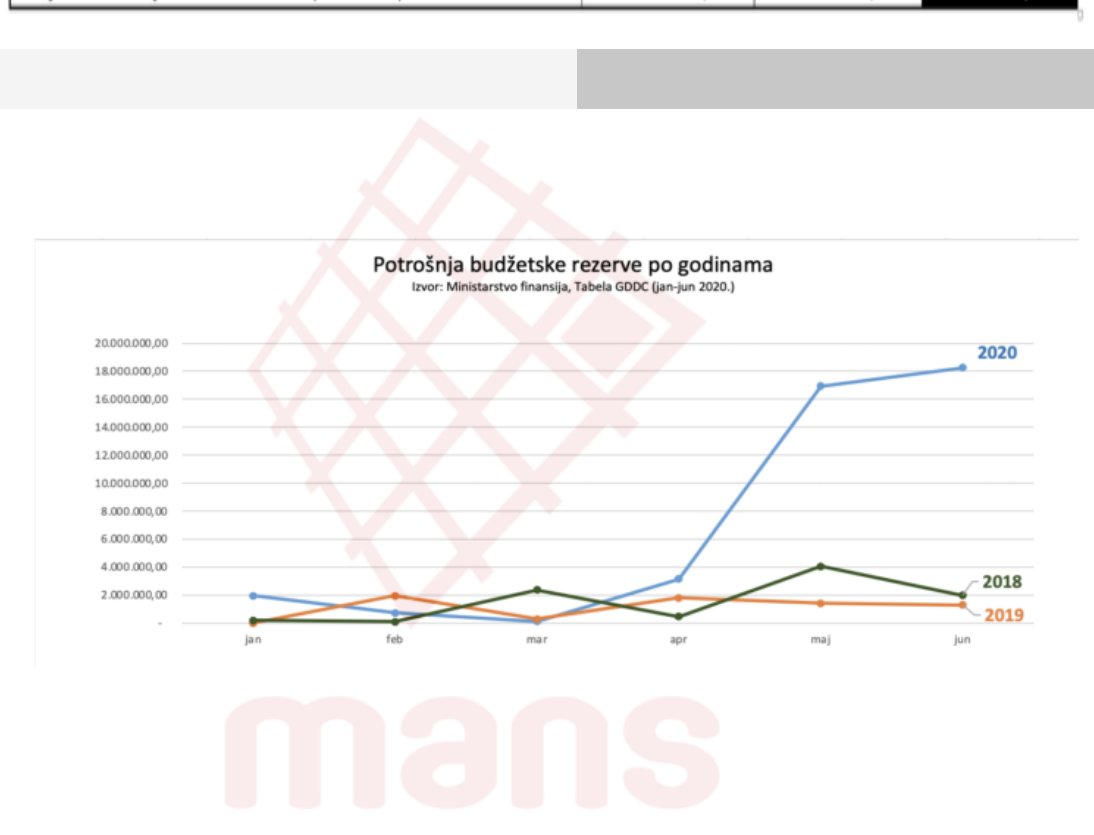
Opening of streets, bridges, parks, and announcing of future projects were an integral part of what the civil sector calls an "official's campaign." **MANS Investigative Centre points to examples that confirm that the desire to promote DPS was often more important than compliance with regulations.** Thus, it is revealed that the new bicycle paths in Podgorica, recently built, were not foreseen by the Spatial-Urban Plan (SUP) of the Capital City Podgorica and lower plans, and their construction is illegal. That the party campaign is more important than the law and the story with all the details can be read at the website below: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/party-campaign-more-important-than-the-law/> 25/08/2020

26

UPRAVA JAVNIH RADOVA				
Budžetski program	ukupno potrošnja feb-15 avg 2020	ukupna potrošnja feb-15 avg 2019	Povećanje	
Unapređenje turističke ponude	12.446.000,00 €	3.706.000,00 €	8.740.000,00 €	
Izgradnja i rekonstrukcija prostora za rad državnih organa	6.807.000,00 €	647.550,00 €	6.159.450,00 €	
Izgradnja lokalne infrastrukture (lokalni putevi, ulice i parkovi)	3.299.000,00 €	2.291.000,00 €	2.008.000,00 €	
Izgradnja i rekonstrukcija objekata socijalnog stanovanja	3.190.000,00 €	2.542.000,00 €	1.648.000,00 €	
Izgradnja i rekonstrukcija sportskih objekata	1.759.000,00 €	941.000,00 €	818.000,00 €	
Projekat obnove životne sredine (vodovodi)	509.000,00 €	197.000,00 €	312.000,00 €	

The analysis of the MANS Investigative Centre shown that in just six months this year, **the Public Works Administration spent over € 12 million on improving the tourist offer, which is almost nine million more compared to the same period last year when there were no elections. This is just one of the drastic increases in spending in the election year, which indicate that this institution was one of the key ones in the so-called officials' field campaign of DPS. How the Public Works Administration supported the officials' campaign of ruling DPS you can read at the link below: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/how-the-public-works-administration-supported-the-officials-campaign-of-dps/> 26/08/2020**

27



During June this year, the Government spent 14 times more money from the budget reserve than in the same month last year, while part of the data on spending for July and August was declared a state secret, thus, their amount is unknown to the public. The Government has previously claimed that they have increased the planned funds in the budget reserve due to the epidemic, although at the end of last year, before the virus appeared in Montenegro, they proposed a three times larger budget than in 2019. That the budget reserve was used as a pre-election cash machine and all the details of the MANS analysis can be read at the following web address: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/budget-reserve-as-a-pre-election-cash-machine/> 27/08/2020

27



The analysis of the pre-election campaign for the parliamentary elections has so far shown that most of the mechanisms from the "Tape recording" ("Snimak") affair are still used, especially when it comes to misuse of budget funds for political purposes, while the situation with the coronavirus epidemic legitimizes such practice. 27/08/2020

## August in photos



Ime kandidata	Strana	Broj glasova	Procent
...	...	...	...

