

03



Several international organizations and experts joined over 40 Montenegrin NGOs and close to 30 media representatives in calling on the Ministry of Public Administration to postpone public debate on the Law on Free Access to Information. The decision of the Government to continue the public debate was criticized by the Secretariat of Transparency International from Berlin, leading global anti-corruption organization, OCCRP - Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and Access Info Europe from Madrid.

03/04/2020

06



NGO MANS asked the National Coordination Body (NCB) to promptly disclose complete documentation on the basis of which it ordered and paid medical equipment that was shipped from the PR China at the beginning of April. **At the time of the global pandemic, and the expected culmination of the coronavirus epidemic in Montenegro, there should be no room for abuse of any kind. The case of discrepancy in the weight of medical equipment purchased by the Government became especially important when bearing in mind that the Law on Free Access to Information, whose new solutions give state bodies' greater freedom in withholding public information, is currently under public discussion.**

06/04/2020

09



Nearly 50 NGOs and over 30 editors and journalists of the Montenegrin media sent **an open letter to the Prime Minister of Montenegro, requesting that he postpone public debates and consultations on amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information until the end of the coronavirus epidemic.** Among other things, they point out in the letter: **"the debate on the Law at the time of the epidemic is by no means fitting into the dialogue that you have started within the Alliance for Europe, and it completely refutes everything that is presented as the aim of the initiative"**. You can read the open letter to the Prime Minister at: <http://www.mans.co.me/en/ngos-and-the-media-are-asking-the-prime-minister-markovic-to-postpone-the-debate-on-the-law-on-fai/>

09/04/2020

14



NGO MANS was pleased that the pressure from the domestic and international public produced a concrete result and that the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) after all recognized the importance of the Law on Free Access to Information (FAI) and postponed the public debate after the coronavirus epidemic. **"Postponing the debate during the epidemic was the only decision that is in the public interest bearing in mind that Montenegro is facing perhaps the biggest challenge in its modern history, thus, it is necessary for each part of the state apparatus to show that it recognizes and accepts responsibility for its decisions."**

14/04/2020

15



NGO MANS reminds that the practice of misusing state resources for party needs continues to be part of the political manner before every election, predominantly because it is not sanctioned at all. Insisting on it in times of epidemic, and in an atmosphere of collective fear, is the culmination of political opportunism, bearing in mind the fact that the description of the work of the Vice President of the Parliament includes only activities related to the legislative house, as well as that the list does not include visits to local communities, hospitals, offering assistance to the Red Cross, or evaluation of the doctors' work. These "protocol" visits without a doubt carry a strong political message with them.

15/04/2020

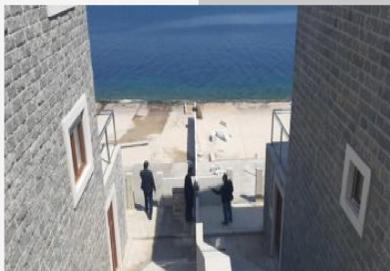
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In an interview with the independent weekly "Monitor", the director of the MANS Investigative Centre expressed concern when it comes to media freedom and freedom of speech in general in the era of coronavirus. **"The measures that are being implemented, especially when it comes to freedom of speech and expression, are demeanour of the darkest totalitarian regimes. This is particularly evident when it comes to space of which state authorities have little or no control, such as social networks."** You can read the entire interview at the link below: <http://www.mans.co.me/ne-smijemo-dozvoliti-da-gusenje-sloboda-nadzivi-koronu/>

24/04/2020

27



NGO MANS filed criminal charges with the High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica **against Miloš Medenica, the son of Supreme Court President Vesna Medenica, and his business partner, on suspicion of occupying part of the state property in Krašići and building on it illegally.** They note that the Constitution of Montenegro **"does not prescribe private property over the coastline"**, but this, **"by all accounts, is not enough for state institutions to protect our resources from devastation by family members of high state officials and privileged businessmen from their circles, who are now going to add a part of the beach to their villas right by the sea"**.

27/04/2020

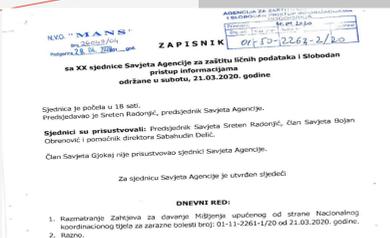
27



The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) made an analysis of public procurements during the COVID-19 pandemic, which shows that in the period since the outbreak of the pandemic, health institutions have conducted 21 urgent procurements, with a total value of €1.87 million. The analysis states that procurements from funds from donations, which are paid to the National Coordination Body for Communicable Diseases (NCB), are carried out contrary to the Law on Public Procurement, and that consolidating procurement at the national level is a necessary response to more successful procurement of much needed goods.

27/04/2020

29



NGO MANS came into possession of the minutes from the extraordinary session which confirms that the Council of the Agency for Personal Data Protection (APDP), without discussion, issued an opinion and accepted the request of the National Coordination Body (NCB) - to publish lists of persons in self-isolation. According to the minutes from the session held on Saturday, March 21, in the afternoon hours, the only item on the agenda was the request of the NCT asking for the Agency's opinion regarding the publication of lists of persons in self-isolation, which AZLP Council approved that evening.

29/04/2020

April in photos

