



July/August in MANS

2023

04



What Will Happen to the Sky ECC Messages? This is the central topic of the show Reflektor on TV Vijesti, where guests, including the executive director of the NGO MANS, tried to answer the following questions:

- What is the fate of the Sky ECC correspondence between the arrested and fugitive police official and the head of the Kavac clan, in which, among other things, the financing of the **DPS party** and its former leader **Milo Đukanović** is mentioned?
- Since when have these transcripts been in Montenegro, and who has access to them?
- Will the troubling claims about ties between the state and organized crime lead to action by the authorities — or just end up as a stack of papers collecting dust?

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Responding to MANS's initiative to investigate whether the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APC) violated the Law on Financing Political Entities and Election Campaigns, the Agency issued a decision declaring itself an independent institution with legal entity status — but not a state authority bound by that particular law. While APC claims that the part of the law requiring the publication of travel orders and fuel expenses for official vehicles doesn't apply to them, MANS argues that the agency's management is using this legal interpretation as a way to freely misuse institutional resources.

07/07/2023

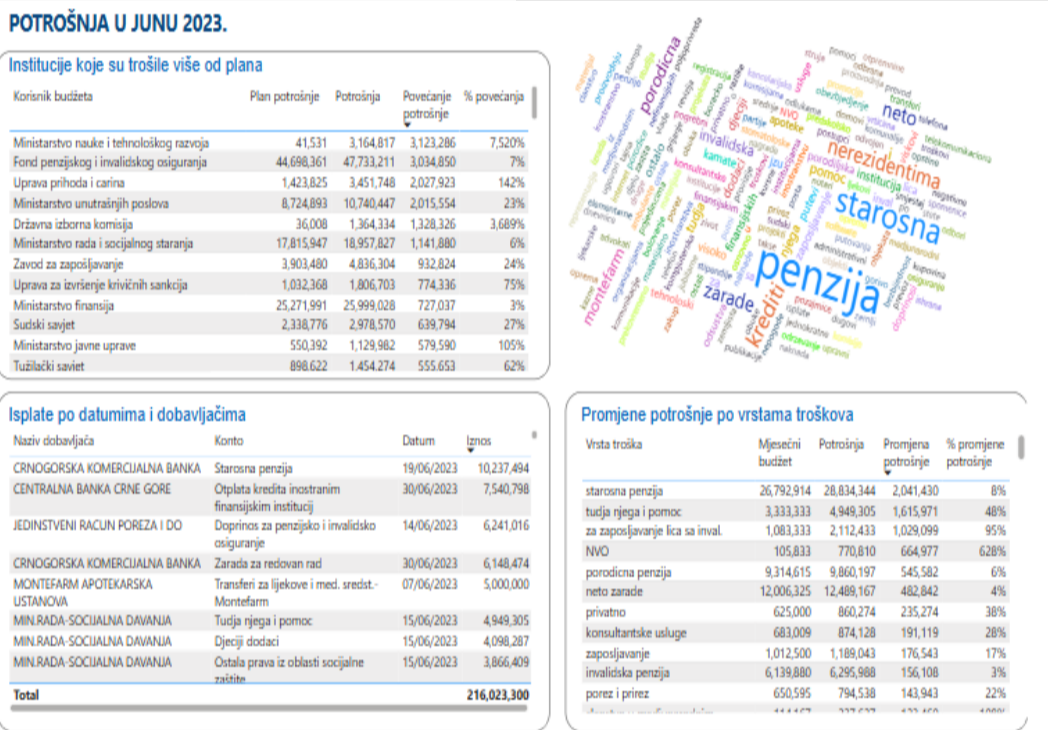
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Access to accurate and verified information is one of the necessary prerequisites for responsible journalism, dedicated to the common good and public interest. For many years, MANS has maintained a support service for citizens, media and other social actors interested in gaining access to information that is held by some state institutions. We continue providing that service for journalists as part of the #SustainMedia programme implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation GIZ, DW Akademie and Internews, with the financial support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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The trend of violations of the Law on the Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns, partly caused by an inadequate institutional response and insufficiently developed misdemeanor practice, by state institutions continued during June, when early parliamentary elections were held. This data, analyzed by MANS, shows that some institutions spent more than planned during the election campaign i.e. exceeded the monthly spending limit defined by the Law, especially in the part concerning the possible misuse of state funds. A complete analysis of other budget users is available at this link: <https://www.cistakampanja.me/povecanje-potrosnje-u-junu/>.

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The guest in the first interview with influential figures, organized by the Medical Union of Montenegro as part of the project **Dijalozi.me – A Citizen-Oriented Service**, was the executive director of the NGO MANS. In the interview, she talked about how she got started, the kinds of pressure she and her colleagues at MANS have faced, and the price they've paid in their fight to build a better and fairer society. She also touched on issues like organized crime schemes and their ties to those in power — both past and present governments — political changes in Montenegro, and plans for the future. You can watch the full interview at the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yp6wkloKcl>.

29/07/2023

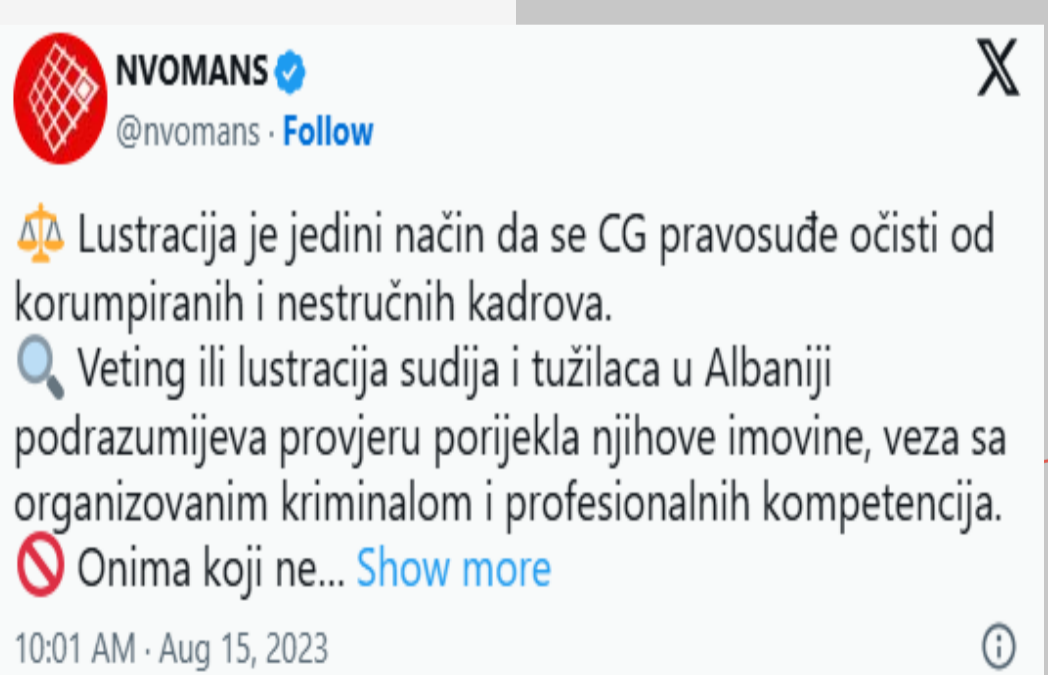
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The Network for Affirmation of the NGO Sector (MANS) has called on the new Government to propose a vetting law, with the aim of preventing future instances of justice being administered in the manner seen in the case of a woman from Kolašin, who was fined for exceeding the limits of necessary self-defense after being attacked by a Turkish national. Further supporting the need for such legislation is a ruling by the President of the Misdemeanor Court in Bijelo Polje, a former candidate for the Constitutional Court who had previously received the highest evaluations both as a judge and as court president, who found both individuals involved in the incident guilty of violating the Law on Public Order.

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NGO MANS points out that the issue of lustration or vetting, the only effective way to cleanse the Montenegrin judiciary of corrupt and unqualified personnel, has not been addressed in the three years since the fall of the previous government. **The experience of Albania, which includes verifying the origin of judges' and prosecutors' assets, their potential ties to organized crime, and their professional qualifications, has been confirmed as consistent with international standards by the European Court of Human Rights.** The full judgment on this matter is available at the link below: <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre#%7B%22tabview%22:%22document%22,%22itemid%22:%22001-208053%22%7D>

15/08/2023

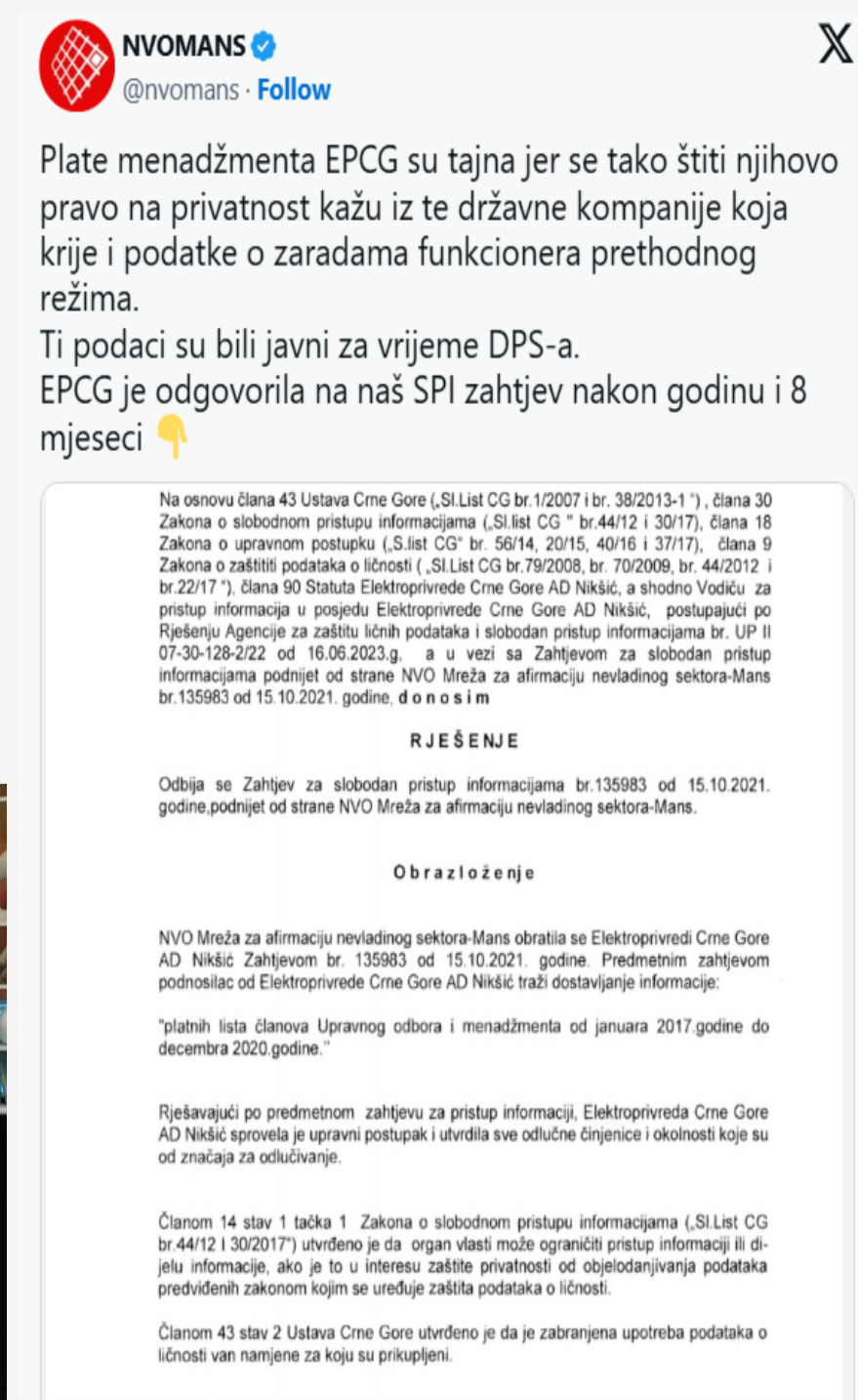
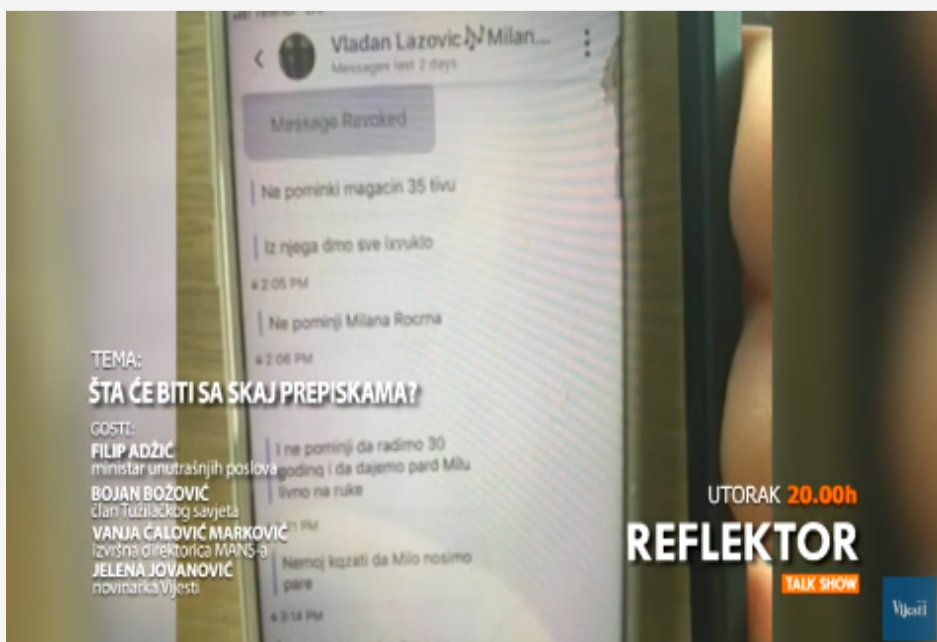
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MANS reminds the members of the newly elected Parliament of their obligation to uphold the Constitution of Montenegro and the Law on the Prevention of Corruption. Given that the legal deadline is approaching for members of Parliament to either resign from their executive positions or return their mandates, MANS will file initiatives with the competent Agency for the Prevention of Corruption against those officials who choose to hold both positions simultaneously.

28/08/2023

July/August in photos



July/August, 2023.

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