
In Buryatia former high-ranking official to stand trial for exceeding authority in accepting large healthcare project



The investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee for the Republic of Buryatia have finished investigating a criminal case against former head of Capital Building Department for the Government of Buryatia Yevgeny Vaskanyants, 58. He is charged with a crime under part 1 of article 286 of the RF Penal Code (excess of authority).

According to investigators, in the period between 14 January 2008 and 4 September 2009, Vaskanyants served as the head of the Main Office of Capital Building Department. The facility acted as a builder in the projects paid by the money from budget. In July 2008, The Buryatian Ministry of Construction and Modernization of Housing and Communal Facilities and Vira-Nord firm concluded a state contract on construction and placement in operation of the 3rd surgical building of the Republican clinical hospital worth a total of over 250 million rubles. The contract

also provided for the contractor to be obligated to provide the building with high-tech medical equipment, including an expensive angiographic apparatus Innova 3100 Medical System S.C.S., France, designed for unique operations on heart with minimal surgical intervention. The contractor failed to provide the apparatus on the stipulated time and therefore had not to be paid for. However, on 23 December 2008, Vaskanyants illegally signed a fictitious acceptance certificate for non-existent medical equipment. Based on the documents signed by the official, the payment was transferred to the account of Vira-Nord, including full cost of the angiographic apparatus worth over 100 million rubles.

Several months later the apparatus was finally brought at the hospital. However, it lacked a number of important parts making it impossible to use. The Vira-Nord company was soon declared bankrupt making it impossible to get back the money from the dishonest contractor. Moreover, Vaskanyants trying to hide the shortage of money ordered to buy for budgetary funds cheaper equipment instead of the one that had not been supplied. Eventually, only in 2013, the senior officials of the hospital managed to find funds and buy equipment for normal operation of the angiographic apparatus.

During the preliminary investigation Vaskanyants was also recognized a defendant in a civil action; the state sued him for 6 million rubles and arrested his property.

By now the investigators have gathered enough evidence, so the criminal case with the approved indictment has been sent to court to be tried on the merits.

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