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## **In Volgograd Region State Duma deputy Nikolai Parshin charged with fraud**



The Volgograd Region investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee have charged deputy of the Russian State Duma of the Federal Assembly Nikolai Parshin with a crime under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code (fraud committed by a group of people in a previous concert on a very large scale).

According to investigators, in September 2008, administration of Srednyaya Akhtuba District sold an abandoned school and the plot of land under the school building located in the village of Rakhinka, Srednyaya Akhtuba District to a commercial organization for 250 thousand rubles. After a while, the head of district administration, CEO of the company, which had bought the property, Chekunkov, head of finance department of Volzhsky City administration Andrey Uvarov and deputy of the Volgograd Region Duma Parshin decided to steal budgetary funds by concluding a sales

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contract on that property, this way returning the ownership of it to the municipality, but that time at price 100 times higher than it had been sold at, namely at 25 million rubles. For this purpose, Tikhonov and Chekunkov prepared letters to the administration of the region claiming that Srednyaya Akhtuba District was in need of the property and the owner was willing to sell it. Nikolay Parshin actively supported the criminal idea through his powers of a Regional Duma deputy acting out of mercenary motives. He asked the governor to consider the possibility of allocating funds from the regional budget, and, together with Tikhonov, insisted on the necessity and importance of concluding the deal. Before financing the deal, the regional administration put forth one condition – the building had to be reconstructed into a preschool facility. District head Tikhonov deceived officials of the regional administration assuring them that all the conditions would be met. As a result, in October 2012, 22.5 million rubles was allocated from the regional budget and another 2.5 million rubles was allocated from the municipal budget for the purchase of the said property under a long-term regional target-specific program of developing preschool education. The money was transferred to the company's account, then cashed and distributed among the defendants. Nikolay Parshin “made” 11 million rubles off that deal, Tikhonov – 3 million 300 thousand rubles, and the rest of the money amounting to 10 million 700 thousand rubles was divided between Chekunkov and Uvarov.

In view of the fact that Tikhonov, Chekunkov and Uvarov pleaded guilty and signed pre-trial cooperation agreements, criminal cases against them have been separated and, with the approved indictment, referred to the court for consideration on the merits. On 3 September 2014, former head of Srednyaya Akhtuba District Tikhonov received a 2-year suspended sentence and a fine of 500 thousand rubles.

The criminal investigation against Parshin will be finished in the shortest possible time. At present investigative operations are underway to gather and ensure the evidence.

It should be noted that despite the fact that, under the contract, school building reconstruction should have been completed until 2014, it has not been launched yet. The children still have to study in a ramshackle building of a former kindergarten lacking basic conditions for studying.

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