

Ex-Vice Governor Arrested in Russia World Cup Fraud Case

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The  **Moscow Times**

St. Petersburg's former vice-governor has been charged with stealing funds earmarked to build Russia's flagship 2018 FIFA World Cup venue.

Marat Oganessian is suspected of pocketing 50 million rubles (\$780,000) intended for the construction of the Zenit football arena, [Russia's Central Investigative Committee confirmed.](#)

Oganessian allegedly used a sub-contractor, a company providing video screens for the venue, to siphon off the funds in 2014.

Corruption, court cases, and delays: read more on [Russia's costly football World Cup preparations.](#)

The Zenit arena project, which first began on St. Petersburg's Krestovsky Island in 2007, is already gone an estimated five times over budget.

Some 505 million rubles (\$7.8 million) originally reserved for the city's schools, and 1 billion rubles (\$15.3 million) allocated for local hospitals have since been relocated to the project.

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