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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

No Garages in Moscow

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Moscow authorities have botched a program to construct parking garages, with only 1.6 percent of the garages scheduled to be built from 2008 to 2010 actually constructed by this month, Moscow's Audit Chamber said on its web site.

A total of 182 garages were planned, but only three, capable of accommodating 1,600 cars, were built, the chamber said in a report released late last week. It said there are currently 918,000 parking slots in garages citywide for the 3.1 million vehicles registered in Moscow.

The watchdog did not specify what prompted the delays, but said it found no indication of embezzlement in the program, which was underfunded by the city this year. The city budget for 2011 allots 7.8 billion rubles ($254 million) for garage construction.

(MT)

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