

Communal Flats Live On

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There are still more than 104,000 communal apartments in St. Petersburg, with residents of 750 flats being relocated this year at a cost of 1 billion rubles (\$33 million), the city's Mayor Georgy Poltavchenko said Tuesday.

Last year, half that amount of money was spent to move a greater number of communal flat residents to new quarters, Poltavchenko said at a meeting of the city legislature, Interfax reported.

"If this trend continues, communal apartments could stick around until the 22nd century," Poltavchenko said.

As for the slow pace of relocating residents of the flats — holdovers from the Soviet period — Poltavchenko cited the poor quality of the remaining apartments, making them unattractive to investors and the high cost of building new residential properties.

(MT)

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