

Moscow to Auction Off 100 Burial Plots Online

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Moscow's competition policy department will hold an online auction for 100 family burial plots located in 13 of the capital's cemeteries, it said in a statement Thursday.

The online auction will be held on Nov. 11 and Nov. 18 and prices for 3.6-square-meter plots will range from 226,000 rubles (\$3,467) to 3.8 million rubles (\$58,307), the department's head Gennady Dyogtyev was cited as saying in the statement.

The auction is part of a wider bid to improve the quality of the funeral services sector, the head of Moscow's trade and services department, Alexei Nemeryuk, was cited as saying in the statement. He added that potential buyers would soon be able to see 3-D images of the capital's cemeteries online.

Moscow's funeral services industry is widely regarded as corrupt, with many funeral agents taking advantage of the lack of regulation to demand kickbacks at every stage of the burial process.

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