

Medvedev Estimates Putin's First Decree Will Cost \$125Bln by 2024, Media Reports

May 08, 2018



Dmitry Medvedev Kremlin Press Service

Implementing President Vladimir Putin's ambitious domestic policy goals over his six-year term will cost the Russian economy at least 8 trillion rubles, or more than \$126 billion, Prime Minister-nominee Dmitry Medvedev has estimated.

Putin <u>signed</u> a 17-point executive order after his inauguration Monday, setting out goals of halving poverty and transforming Russia into one of the five largest economies in the world. His plan to kick-start growth with spending on healthcare, education and infrastructure had previously been estimated to carry a price tag of \$162 billion.

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"At least 8 trillion rubles have to be collected for all this spending by 2024," four participants quoted Medvedev as saying at a closed-doors meeting in the State Duma on Tuesday, the RBC business outlet <u>reported</u>.

Duma lawmakers are scheduled to consider Medvedev's nomination as Russia's prime minister later on Tuesday. Two opposition parties with no controlling vote in the legislature have <u>announced plans</u> not to support the acting prime minister.

Although the Kremlin has reported meeting 90 percent of the goals set at the start of Putin's third term in 2012, it has <u>fallen</u> short on key indicators including investment and salaries.

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