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Kazakh premier proposes three officials' dismissal over land allocation

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Text of report by Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency

Astana, 29 October: Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Masimov believes that those involved in the unlawful allocation of land plots in Almaty's nature conservation areas should be relieved of their posts in the government. In particular, Karim Masimov named Emergencies Minister Viktor Khrapunov who previously held the post of akim (head of the administration) of Almaty.

"There are specific people who took illegal decisions on allocating land plots in Almaty's nature conservation areas. In particular, you, Viktor Vyacheslavovich, (Khrapunov - Interfax Kazakhstan) as the former akim of the city and a person who directly took such decisions, I think, cannot continue working in the government anymore. I will submit a relevant letter to the head of state," Karim Masimov said at a government meeting in Astana today.

Moreover, the prime minister thinks that the head of the Kazakh land resources agency, Bakhyt Ospanov, and Yakov Zayats, deputy akim of the city, should be relieved of their posts.

Source: Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency, Almaty, in Russian 1040 gmt 29 Oct 07