

RUSADA dismisses German TV doping claims as 'speculation'

MOSCOW, RUSSIA: Russia's anti-doping agency RUSADA told AFP yesterday that they would wait for official censure from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) before investigating accusations made in a German television documentary.



Moscow. RUSADA considers the accusations to be nothing more than 'wanton speculation'. (Image: Wikimedia Commons)

A 60-minute documentary called 'Secret Doping Dossier: How Russia produces its Winners', aired by German state broadcaster ARD on Wednesday, made serious allegations of doping in Russian athletics, pointing the finger at Russian Athletics Federation president and IAAF treasurer Valentin Balakhnichenov amongst others.

However, RUSADA managing director Nikita Kamaev told AFP: "We have no real documents confirming these accusations.

"As long as there is no official request from the World Anti-Doping Agency into this matter, we consider this to be nothing more than wanton speculation."

The documentary featured hard-hitting accusations by 800m runner Iuliia Stepanova, who is banned until January for a doping violation, and her husband Vitali Stepanov, who worked for RUSADA between 2008 and 2011.

In a statement published on their website, WADA promised to "ensure that all matters raised are fully investigated."

The statement added: "WADA has in fact already received some information and evidence of the type exposed in the documentary. All of that information has been passed to the appropriate independent body within the international federation, the IAAF. We will await the outcome of that independent body's deliberations.

"Insofar as the particular allegations against Russian authorities and others are concerned, these will all be carefully scrutinised and if action is warranted, WADA will take any necessary and appropriate steps under the (World Anti-Doping)

Code."

The Russian Athletics Federation will make an "official statement" on the matter in due course, after a meeting to discuss "the scandal", vice-president Vadim Zelitchenok told the Itar-Tass agency.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge

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