

## Billionaire Konstantin Malofeev turns his attentions to Africa

After getting involved in the pro-Russian Donbass region of Ukraine, the Russian tycoon Konstantin Malofeev has taken an interest in Africa. He has donated two kit-set laboratories to the DRC to help the country fight the Covid-19 pandemic.



Russian oligarch Konstantin Malofeev.  
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On 29 April, a **Turkish Cargo** plane touched down on the tarmac of Kinshasa's airport laden with two fully-equipped and ready-to-go microbiology laboratories, one

specialised in detecting cholera and Ebola and the other fitted with **Covid-19** tests. It was a no-fuss operation with little media attention, unlike China's deliveries to Africa since the start of the global coronavirus pandemic (*Africa Intelligence*, [01/04/20](#)).

The financier behind the tactical donation is Russian oligarch **Konstantin Malofeev**, founder of **Marshall Capital** and until now better known for his Russian Orthodox activism and ties with Ukraine's pro-Russian Donbass separatist region. For the past year, Malofeev has been focusing his attention on the African continent via the **International**



**Agency for Sovereign Development (IASD)**. This part-corporate bank, part-financial advisory offers to help African countries restructure their debt through bond issues.

IASD's teams put in a good show at the Russia-Africa Summit held from 23 to 24 October 2019 in Sochi and co-hosted by **Vladimir Putin**. Last year, Malofeev and IASD met with the Togolese head of state **Faure Eyadema** and his Nigerien

counterpart **Mahamadou Issoufou**, among others. Last month, the billionaire gifted 10,000 three-layer protective masks to Burkina Faso.

Malofeev, who doesn't speak French, relies on his advisor **Alexandr Okulov** for help with his dealings in Africa. Okulov, who is perfectly fluent in French, is also a member of IASD's supervisory board.

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