

Modernization of Public Administration of New Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

The article analyzes the reforms being implemented in the process of modernization of the country in the conditions of the new Uzbekistan. Special attention is paid to human rights in the new version of the Constitution. The main factors of modernization of public administration are revealed.

Keywords: Modernization, Constitution, human rights, civil society, modern Uzbekistan.

The theory and practice of building a democratic rule of law state is directly related to the formation and level of development of civil society. In modern Uzbekistan, the processes of democratization and modernization are considered in close connection with the activation of civil society institutions.

Currently, democracy in the new Uzbekistan means not only democracy with secured freedoms, rights and legitimate interests of citizens, but also the consistent implementation of their guarantees. This implies the establishment of an effective system of public control on the part of civil society institutions, primarily the media, Internet resources, bloggers and NGOs. Only through the interaction of civil society institutions with government authorities is it possible to ensure a decent quality of life for people, the rights and freedoms of citizens.

A significant event in 2020 was that Uzbekistan was elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council. This became possible as a result of ongoing reforms in the country to form a rule of law state and civil society.

The relationship between civil society institutions and government bodies within the framework of the classical model in Uzbekistan is carried out according to the following basic principles:

1. civil society turns to the state with its initiatives requiring support;
2. the state studies civil initiatives, supports and approves them;

3. The state provides civil society institutions with material, moral, and informational support.

In the process of forming an active civil society, a special role is assigned to Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (parliament) and councils of people's deputies at all levels. Currently, the activities of representative government bodies are aimed at close cooperation with civil society institutions, both in the development of legislative acts and in discussing pressing problems in the regional context. The head of state demands constant and steady interaction between deputies at all levels and civil society institutions. The leader of the country has set the task for both members of the government and deputies of the parliament of the republic to spend the main time of their work in regions, districts and mahallas . Currently, this work on the part of government bodies in interaction with civil society institutions: political parties, mahallas , media, trade unions and other civil society structures has sharply raised the level of public trust in government bodies.

Democratic transformations in the state and political life of the country are inevitably associated with the formation of new institutions of civil society that exercise control over the authorities. The creation of the Public Chamber is a new, logical stage in the socialization of state institutions. It is designed to ensure consistency in the process of resolving important issues of economic and social development, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as adhering to democratic principles. Overall this is a very progressive step. Hegel also argued that a sustainable civil society is possible when it is in a state of equal partnership and high-quality legal interaction with the state.

The Public Chamber is a public institution that is designed to ensure the interaction of citizens of Uzbekistan with government bodies, to promote the involvement of civil society structures in the processes of developing political decisions to improve the quality of decisions made and their practical implementation.

The main directions of the Public Chamber: developing social dialogue at the stage of making political decisions, ensuring information openness of government agencies, expanding the representation of civil society structures in supervisory structures in the legislative branch and state non-profit organizations, creating effective mechanisms for appealing actions and decisions of government agencies, as well as involving civil society in the provision of social services.

Of course, it is important to take into account the experience of foreign countries in this matter. Similar institutions that promote effective interaction between civil society and government are often found in countries with developed democratic systems. In France, for example, the Economic and Social Council, which is an advisory body, has been created and is functioning. Its activities are enshrined in the Constitution of the country and included in the system of public authority. An important role in the civil society system is played by public advisory councils operating in Germany, Italy, Greece, and Russia.

In modern society, large-scale reforms in all spheres of life are aimed at protecting human values, his legal rights and interests, maintaining loyalty to the ideals of democracy, freedom and equality, social justice and solidarity. Studying the experience and analyzing the legislation of world powers and developed countries shows that our country is ready to provide the leading principles of democracy. The implementation of innovative ideas and initiatives serves to build a developed and prosperous Uzbekistan. The life-affirming power of all transformations in the country is reflected in the essence of the adopted new Constitution of the country.

In April 2023, **a constitutional referendum was held for the first time**, the cornerstone of which was ensuring human rights and interests and protecting human dignity. The Constitution confirms commitment to the principles of human rights, freedom of speech and conscience, equality of all citizens, regardless of their nationality, language and religion.

It should be noted that a comparative study of the experience of Uzbekistan and foreign countries in the field of implementing constitutional reforms allows us to highlight a common pattern for them -

the focus of reforms on the person, the protection of his honor and dignity, the formation of a fair and open civil society. At the same time, the special role of constitutional law is to consolidate the statuses of the “triad” - **the individual, society and state**, including the expression “the relationship between the modern state and civil society”, as well as the definition of “**spheres of rights, powers and responsibilities**” each of them. In the constitutional legislation and constitutional practice of Uzbekistan, there is a change in the previously existing paradigm “state – society – person” to a new one: “**person – society – state**”.

In this regard, the new edition of the Constitution of Uzbekistan can be legally characterized as **the “Bill of Human Rights in Uzbekistan”**. For, the number of human rights norms in the text of the Constitution has increased almost **3** times.

The Constitution enshrined the entire catalog of human rights and freedoms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other fundamental international documents in the field of human rights, established the priority of human rights and freedoms over state interests, and proclaimed the principles of creating decent living conditions for people and social justice.

As is known, the transformation of the transition economies of post-Soviet states is one of the new, completely unexplored areas of modern economic theory and economic practice that characterize the transition to market relations. A balanced, well-founded approach to the study of causes, mechanisms and integration strategy allowed us to offer our own vision of a way out of the current situation. It requires a revision of the model of integration cooperation in order to create real opportunities for closer interaction, growth of domestic production and diversification of the economies of the CIS countries.

The modern world is rapidly changing under the influence of globalization, technological progress and sociocultural changes. Uzbekistan, as a sovereign state, pays special attention to sustainable development, improving the well-being of citizens, and strengthening its role in the international arena. These goals cannot be achieved without effective public administration that meets modern requirements. Uzbekistan, as a developing state, pays special attention to these reforms due to the need to modernize the management system to ensure sustainable economic growth, social justice and political stability. Therefore, the modernization of public administration is identified as one of the main priorities of constitutional reforms in Uzbekistan.

The updated Constitution is a vital necessity arising from the evolutionary development of the society of Uzbekistan, is extremely important in determining our next steps as a country, nation and people, and has become one of the huge steps towards building a just society.

The Constitution clearly states that Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, legal and social state.

It has been established that strong social protection and care for those in need is an important direction of public policy.

Uzbekistan is a rule-of-law state, therefore, it is a strict requirement that human rights and freedoms become the essence of our laws and the activities of every ministry and department. This is the basis for government bodies and officials to carry out activities solely in the interests of citizens.

In general, the effective result of constitutional reforms is directly related to the modernization of public administration, since properly organized administration is the main factor of progress.

The Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy for the next seven years, approved by constitutional reforms and the Decree of the head of state, establishes several key directions for modernizing public administration in the country.

The first is decentralization of power and strengthening of local self-government. This involves the redistribution of a number of powers and responsibilities from the central government to local

authorities, which makes it possible to organize more effective management at the local level and take into account the characteristics of each territory.

Within the framework of the goals defined by the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy, it is planned to continue the policy of decentralization of public administration based on the principle “The State is in the service of the people” and transfer at least 30 % of the tasks and functions of the executive authorities of the republic to local executive authorities.

The second direction is transparency and openness of government bodies. Achieving transparency and openness in the activities of public authorities and management is becoming important in increasing citizens' trust in public authorities. The openness of a government agency is necessary, first of all, for accountability to the public. It is through openness and transparency that it will be possible to fully implement the principle “It is not the people who serve state bodies, but state bodies must serve the people.” Today, for New Uzbekistan, transparency and openness of government bodies is an irreversible process. Our country consistently continues its policy of openness, guaranteeing the rights of citizens to receive, use and disseminate information. In this regard, the legal basis is the Law “On Public Control”, adopted in order to regulate relations in the field of organization and exercise public control over government bodies and their activities.

The third direction is the development of the e-government system. The use of modern information technologies in public administration makes it possible to speed up decision-making processes, improve the quality of services provided, and simplify interaction between the state and citizens. The introduction of e-government in Uzbekistan will help improve the efficiency of administrative procedures and improve the quality of service to the population. In the Development Strategy of the new Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, the main goal is to reform the activities of government bodies based on the principle of “Orientation towards serving citizens”, the introduction of a compact, professional, fair, highly efficient system of public administration, further increasing the role of the Chambers of Oliy Majlis and political parties in the consistent continuation of reforms, modernizing the rule-making process, ensuring strict implementation of legislative acts, developing the “electronic government” system, bringing the share of electronic government servants to 100% and eliminating bureaucracy.

One of the next important areas is the development of civil society. Modernization of public administration must be accompanied by the development of civil society. Citizen participation in public administration, support for civil initiatives and the formation of an active civil society help improve the quality of public administration and represent the interests of the population.

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