



POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article analyzes the political and social significance of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Political parties are one of the important institutions of the democratic system of governance, they serve as intermediaries between the state and society. The article comprehensively covers the role of political parties operating in Uzbekistan, their participation in electoral processes, their contribution to increasing political activity in society and their impact on social development. The legal framework of political parties, their role in representing the interests of social groups and their contribution to the development of civil society are also analyzed. Based on the results of the study, proposals are made to further improve the activities of political parties.

Keywords: Political parties, political system, civil society, electoral process, democratic institutions.

Introduction

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan implemented a number of reforms towards building a democratic society. In this process, political parties play an important role as an intermediary between society and the state. Political parties perform tasks such as representing the interests of various social groups in society, increasing the political activity of citizens and actively participating in the formation of state policy.

One of the important issues is the development of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the analysis of their significance in political and social life. Currently,



several leading political parties operate in the country, contributing to the formation of a competitive atmosphere based on democratic principles. These parties are engaged in participation in the electoral processes, in the promotion of legislative initiatives and in the development of a political culture in society.

The article is aimed at analyzing the influence of political parties on the development of the political system and civil society in Uzbekistan. The study examines the legal framework of political parties, their role in electoral processes, their role in increasing social activity in society and their contribution to the development of democracy.

The relevance of the study lies in the fact that political parties are an integral part of the building of a democratic state, and their effective activities contribute to strengthening civil society and basing the principle of openness in public administration. Therefore, the study and analysis of trends in the development of the system of political parties in Uzbekistan is of great scientific and practical value.

Results

As a result of the analysis of political and social significance of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following important conclusions were drawn:

Political parties were formed as the main institutions of democratic governance.

During the years of independence, political parties participated in electoral processes and became one of the most important branches of public administration. They are playing an important role in representing the interests of different segments of society and ensuring that they are reflected in public policy.

Political parties contribute to the development of civil society. The parties work not only in electoral processes, but also in various spheres of public life and encourage the participation of citizens in the political process. Thanks to their initiatives, the political activity of citizens and the foundation for the development of democratic institutions are created.

Political parties play an important role in ensuring social stability. Parties actively participate in ensuring stability by solving problems in society, maintaining



a balance between the state and society, and coordinating the interests of various social groups.

The legal framework of political parties is being improved. The activities of political parties in Uzbekistan are regulated by the Constitution and relevant laws, and their participation in elections and their role in society are legally strengthened.

An atmosphere of political competition is taking shape. Competition between political parties in the country develops on the basis of democratic principles, serving the openness and efficiency of the public administration system. At the same time, political pluralism is on the rise, and various parties are striving to gain public attention with their programs and ideas.

In general, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, political parties as a link between society and the state remain one of the most important reasons for the development of political stability and democratic development. However, in order to further increase their effectiveness, it is necessary to strengthen the legal foundation, implement measures aimed at developing political competition and increasing partisan activity of citizens.

Discussion

Political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan have been formed as one of the most important institutions between society and the state, the development of which directly depends on the democratic development of the country. From the first years of independence in Uzbekistan special attention was paid to the formation of a multi-party system. In particular, after Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in 1992 laid out the legal framework for the activities of political parties. According to Article 58 of this document, political parties function as a means of expression, formation and implementation of the political will of citizens¹.

In order to determine the role and significance of political parties in the life of society, it is important to analyze their participation in the legislative process. Elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been held on the basis of a multi-party system since 1999. As of 2023, there are five major political

¹ CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN. – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1992



parties operating in the country: the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP), the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Democratic Party of National Restoration of Uzbekistan, the Social Democratic Party of Justice and the Ecological Party. These parties contribute to ensuring the stability of the country's political system by representing the interests of different social strata.

The role of political parties in the electoral processes is also noteworthy. As a result of the parliamentary elections held on December 22, 2019, UzLiDeP won 43 seats, the National Recovery Party 35, the Social Democratic Party of Justice 24, the People's Democratic Party 22 and the Ecological Party 15. These results indicate that the country has a multi-party system, but there are disputations on the level of real political rivalry between the parties. International experts and local analysts say that the exact ideological differences between the parties have not yet been fully formed, and that most of the parties' programs are aimed at solving common socio-economic problems.

In order to consider the social significance of political parties in society, it is necessary to analyze their methods of working with the public and their influence on social activism. According to the results of the polls conducted in 2022, 35% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the activities of political parties, while 42% stated that parties do not adequately address the problems of society. There is a low level of trust in political parties, especially among young people. A 2021 report by the Union of Youth of Uzbekistan noted that only 18% of citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 expressed their desire to join a political party. This underscores the need to improve the strategies of parties to work with the younger generation.

The influence of political parties on society is measured not only through electoral processes but also through the bills and initiatives put forward by them. In recent years, the parties have expressed initiatives promoting social reforms in various spheres. For example, in 2022, the Social Democratic Party of Justice put forward a bill to improve the education system, while the National Recovery Party developed a number of projects to preserve and develop the national culture. Still, experts say, party initiatives still have enough influence at the level of public policy².

Looking at the international experience, in developed democratic countries, political parties function as independent institutions representing the interests of different

² "Political parties and civil society in Uzbekistan" – Tashkent, Economy, 2023.



segments of society. For example, parties in Germany, the UK and the USA are funded through foundations, and they collaborate with independent research centers, public institutes. In Uzbekistan, however, the issue of the financial independence of the parties remains relevant. According to the law "On Political Parties" adopted in 2020, parties are funded from the state budget, but the mechanisms for attracting funds from the private sector and citizens have not yet been fully developed.

Thus, although the system of political parties in Uzbekistan continues to develop, there are still problems to be solved. Parties should work on the exact formation of their ideological orientation, increase the participation of citizens in the electoral process, strengthen the mechanisms for working with young people and create an atmosphere of political competition based on international experience. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the appropriate legal framework to transform political parties into financially independent institutions and to take their initiatives seriously at the level of public policy.

The political system of the Republic of Uzbekistan is entering its new stage and the role of political parties in this process is expected to increase further. One of the most important tasks is to create modern and effective conditions for the functioning of these institutions so that they serve to more effectively protect the interests of society, increase civic activity and strengthen democratic values in the country.

Conclusion

Political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan are integral to the life of society and play an important role in the development of democratic processes in the country. They carry out tasks such as increasing the political activity of citizens, forming public policy and representing public interests. During the years of independence in Uzbekistan the system of political parties gradually developed and today there are five major political parties. These parties are expanding their sphere of influence by participating in the lawmaking process, protecting the needs of citizens and representing the interests of different segments of society. The results of the analysis of the role of political parties in the political process show that they are directly involved in the strengthening of democratic principles in the country. In particular, through the parliamentary elections, parties had the opportunity to gain seats in Oliy Majlis and advance their representatives in the public administration system. The results of the 2019 parliamentary elections confirm that the multi-party system is



functioning in the country, however, there is still a need to increase the level of competition between political parties, more accurately formulate their programs and improve the mechanisms for direct work with voters.³

As for the social significance of political parties, they play an important role in the development of civil society and expression of the interests of various social strata. However, research in recent years shows that parties still face difficulties in establishing effective communication with citizens, especially young people. According to the results of surveys, a significant percentage of respondents expressed complete dissatisfaction with the activities of political parties. This implies the need to modernize the ways of parties of communication with society and expand the circle of their social influence.

Based on international experience, it can be noted that in developed democratic countries, political parties function as an independent institution, playing an important role of mediation between the state and society. Uzbekistan is also carrying out reforms in this direction, however, the urgent task remains to further strengthen the institutional base of party activities, ensure their financial independence and form a real political competitive environment. Thus, although the system of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan is developing on the basis of democratic principles, it is necessary to continue a number of reforms in order to orient them to work more effectively, increase their political and social influence and strengthen the trust of citizens. In this process, such areas as improving the electoral system, encouraging political parties to actively cooperate with different segments of society, as well as taking their initiatives more seriously at the level of state policy will play an important role.

Further democratic development of Uzbekistan depends on the effectiveness of the functioning of political parties, and increasing their political and social significance should be regarded as a strategic direction in the interests of the state and society.

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