



THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN FORMING A RULE OF LAW AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENSURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article analyzes the role of political parties in the process of forming a rule of law and civil society in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Political parties, as political institutions of society, play an important role in state administration, contribute to the development of democratic principles and serve as an important factor in the formation of civil society. After Uzbekistan gained independence, the principle of multi-party system was introduced in the political system, and political parties have been actively participating in the process of determining state policy and implementing it. The article discusses the impact of political parties on the development of the country, their participation in the legislative and executive branches, their role in increasing the political activity of citizens, and their contribution to strengthening the principles of the rule of law.

Keywords: Political parties, rule of law, civil society, democracy, electoral process, legislation, public administration, political reforms, political institutions, civic activity.

Introduction

The formation of a legal state and civil society in the Republic of Uzbekistan since independence has been one of the priority directions of the state policy. Political parties, which are an integral part of the democratic system of governance, play an important role in this process. Political parties perform tasks such as expressing the political will of citizens, protecting their interests, ensuring political stability and



social activity in society. The role and importance of political parties in Uzbekistan has increased markedly since independence. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted in 1992 defines the legal framework for the activities of political parties. In particular, according to Article 58 of the Constitution, political parties are a means of forming and expressing the political will of citizens¹. Later, the Law "On Political Parties" (1996) and other normative legal acts further defined the legal status of parties, the principles of their activities and their role in the life of the state and society².

Today, there are several political parties in Uzbekistan representing the interests of different social strata. The Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP), the Democratic Party of National Revival, the Social Democratic Party of Justice, the People's Democratic Party and the Ecological Party are one of the most important components of the country's political system. These parties are pushing socio-economic reforms in parliament and in local authorities based on their programs.

The role of political parties in strengthening the rule of law and the development of civil society largely depends on their position in electoral processes, legislative initiatives and measures aimed at increasing political activity of the population. This article analyzes the role of parties in the political system of Uzbekistan, their participation in public administration and their interaction with civil society institutions.

Results

The role of political parties in the process of formation of the rule of law and civil society in the Republic of Uzbekistan is increasing markedly. The reforms being carried out in the country serve to further improve the activities of political parties, expand their participation in public administration and strengthen their interaction with society. After Uzbekistan gained independence, the Constitution adopted in 1992 established the legal basis for political parties. This legal framework was further strengthened in connection with the adoption of the Law "On Political Parties" in

¹ CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN. – Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1992. (Article 58)

² Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Political Parties". – December 26, 1996.



1996. This law clearly defined the role of parties in society and public administration and defined their rights and duties.

1. Participation of political parties in the electoral process In recent years, the improvement of the electoral system in Uzbekistan has further intensified the activities of political parties. In particular, the "Electoral Code" adopted in 2019 is aimed at ensuring the transparency of the electoral process, which clearly defines the participation and powers of political parties in elections. In the 2019 parliamentary elections, five political parties took part, with the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan winning the largest number of votes and became the leading force in the government.

2. Legislative initiatives and their role in public administration Political parties, as an important institution representing the interests of different segments of society, are actively involved in the legislative process. In the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis there are factions of parties that put forward bills in economic, social and political spheres. For example, in 2022, the Social Democratic Party of Justice put forward a bill to reform the education system, while the National Recovery Party took initiatives to preserve national culture and historical heritage.

3. Role in the formation of civil society and increase of political activity Political parties work to increase the political activity of citizens, increase their legal culture and promote democratic values. In particular, various social projects and propaganda events organized by parties make it possible to involve young people and other social groups in the political process.

4. Institutional development and problems of political parties Despite the growing role of parties in the political system of Uzbekistan, their influence in society is still relatively limited. Many experts believe that party initiatives fail to have enough influence on practical political decisions. Also, political parties face some challenges in terms of financial independence and strengthening organizational capacity.

In general, political parties in Uzbekistan play an important role in the formation of the rule of law and civil society. Their participation in the electoral processes, legislative initiatives, cooperation with civil society and democratic reforms contribute to the sustainable development of the country. At the same time, the tasks facing the parties include increasing their social influence, strengthening the



mechanisms of direct dialogue with people, and expanding the possibilities for real influence on reforms.

Discussion

What role do political parties play in the formation of legal state and civil society in Uzbekistan? To find an answer to this question, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth analysis of the country's political system, reforms and the activities of parties. After gaining independence in 1991, the Republic Uzbekistan realized a number of important reforms towards formation of a democratic legal state and civil society. Political parties are one of the key factors in this process, contributing to the development of the country's political system, by representing the interests of different segments of society, participating in electoral processes and promoting legislative initiatives. The legal framework for the activities of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan is enshrined in Article 58 of the Constitution adopted in 1992. According to this article, political parties are a means of formation and expression of the political will of citizens. The Law on Political Parties, adopted in 1996, clearly defined the role of parties in public administration. At the same time, the "Electoral Code" adopted in 2019 aims to ensure transparency and fairness of the electoral process, which strengthens legal guarantees for the participation of political parties and their election campaigns. Currently, there are five main political parties in the political system of Uzbekistan: the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP), the Democratic Party of National Restoration of Uzbekistan, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Social Democratic Party of Justice of Uzbekistan and the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan. These parties seek to contribute to the development of the country by focusing on various social, economic and political issues according to their programmes.

The role of political parties in the development of society is also manifested in their legislative initiatives. For instance, in 2022, the Social Democratic Party of Justice put forward a bill to improve the education system, while the National Recovery Party came up with a number of initiatives to preserve and develop the national culture. Meanwhile, in 2021, the Environmental Party put forward a series of bills to protect the environment and transition to a green economy. Political parties also play an important role in electoral processes. Five parties took part in the 2019 parliamentary elections, in which UzLiDeP won the majority of votes and won the main position in



the government. At the same time, the parties conducted propaganda campaigns to increase citizen activity in the electoral process. And in 2021, presidential elections were held, in which political parties put forward their candidates.³

The activity of political parties is not limited to electoral processes, they contribute to the formation of civil society. The parties are implementing various social projects, establishing cooperation with public organizations and initiatives to increase the political activity of citizens. For example, UzLiDeP implements programs aimed at developing entrepreneurship and expanding business opportunities for youth, while the Justice Party works in the direction of ensuring social equality and justice. Nevertheless, it is felt that political parties in Uzbekistan are still at the early stages of their development. International experts say the parties' initiatives and programs still do not have enough impact on public policy. In addition, the need to strengthen the financial independence, organizational potential and direct contacts of the parties with citizens remains urgent. In this regard, it is necessary to continue reforms to further democratize the political system of Uzbekistan, strengthen political parties and increase their role in public life. Parties should be active not only before elections, but throughout the entire political process, cooperate closely with the public, develop strategies based on real actions to protect the interests of their electorate.

In conclusion, political parties in Uzbekistan play an important role in the formation of a democratic legal state and civil society. Their participation in the electoral processes, legislative initiatives, public relations and activities in the development of civil institutions contribute to the steady development of the country. However, it is necessary to deepen reforms in order to eliminate existing problems and further increase the influence of the parties. In the process, political parties should pay greater attention to work directly with their electorate, seek to find solutions to real problems of the people, and become an active participant in the political process.

Conclusion

The role of political parties in the process of ensuring the development of Uzbekistan, formation of a legal state and civil society is invaluable. As a result of the reforms carried out since the country gained independence, political parties have taken a

³ Data of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan. – Tashkent, 2019, 2021, 2022.



significant role in public administration, electoral processes and socio-economic development. The Constitution and legislative framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan strengthen the legal status of political parties and guarantee their participation in the formation of political will of citizens. In particular, the law "On Political Parties", the "Electoral Code" and other regulatory acts defined the clear rules for the activities of parties. Five major political parties operating in the country – UzLiDeP, National Revival, People's Democratic Party, Justice and Ecology – represent the interests of various segments of society through their programs.

Political parties have the opportunity to influence public policy through legislative initiatives. Their representatives in parliament promote bills in various directions, support socio-economic reforms, and contribute to ensuring sustainable development of the country. At the same time, parties serve to increase the political activity of citizens, as the main participants in electoral processes. However, the process of development of the Uzbek political system is still underway, and the parties face a number of problems. In particular, the issues of strengthening the parties' ties with citizens, increasing social activity in the period outside the elections, ensuring organizational and financial independence remain urgent. International experience shows that in the path of democratic development, political parties should be active not only during the election period, but throughout the entire political process.

In the future, a number of measures should be taken to further develop the activities of political parties in Uzbekistan. Parties should strengthen the system of direct work with citizens, more effectively influence public policy, and take initiative in solving social problems. In addition, it is necessary to develop an atmosphere of political competition and ensure fair and transparent competition between parties. In a conclusion it can be said that political parties are one of the key institutions for ensuring the development of Uzbekistan and building a democratic legal state. Their activities serve to increase the political culture of society, to ensure the effectiveness of public administration and to form civil society. It is possible to accelerate the process of democratic development of Uzbekistan by further developing the political parties and strengthening their role in the life of the state and society.



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