



THE ROLE OF DECENTRALIZATION REFORMS IN INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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Abstract

This article discusses the issues of modernization of public administration and the essence of the concept of decentralization in the context of reforms. At the same time, the importance of the gradual reforms being carried out on the main measures aimed at the formation of effective public administration on the basis of the development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan was analyzed.

Keywords: decentralization, modernization of public administration, democratization, administrative reform, effective governance, self-governance, civil society.

Introduction

Today, our country is undergoing a process of radical renewal in various spheres of state and public life. The new Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022-2026 serves as the political, legal and organizational basis for these reform changes over the coming years. The 6th goal of this document is to streamline the administrative apparatus and optimize work processes in the public administration system, which also strengthens the decentralization of public administration and ensures the transparency of government agencies as a direction of reforms in this area.

The first direction of this important document is aimed at improving public administration, deepening democratic reforms aimed at improving state and society building and strengthening the role of parliament and political parties in modernizing the country, reforming public administration, developing the organizational and legal framework of the civil service. Improving the system of "government", improving the quality and efficiency of public services, the implementation of public control mechanisms, strengthening the role of civil society institutions and the media - are identified as key areas.





Indeed, the improvement of public administration is a dynamic and dialectical process that stems from the needs of the development of society. At this point, when thinking about public administration, we must first pay attention to the use of this term in a broad and narrow sense. While the term public administration in the broad sense is close to the meaning of public administration in general, directing public affairs, public administration in the narrow sense refers to the activities of public bodies that are directly part of the executive branch. Therefore, in our country, which is undergoing a process of deep renewal and modernization, it is vital to raise the activities of public administration to the level of modern requirements. The system of public administration bodies, ie ministries, state committees, committees, agencies, centers and inspectorates, exercise public administration by ensuring the implementation of laws in the area assigned to them and organize the implementation of the tasks assigned to them.

The system of public administration is a dynamically evolving and changing phenomenon in terms of its role in the state mechanism and the content of its activities. Consequently, in the context of globalization, the rapid development of social relations, the unprecedented development of science and technology, including information technology, is becoming more and more common for this system to face new requirements, tasks and problems. For example, the ever-evolving and evolving nature of information technology, on the one hand, allows to streamline public administration, facilitate the provision of public services to the population and save time and resources, and, on the other hand, deepen the knowledge and application of information technology. such as information security.

At this point, it is natural to ask why public administration has become such a topical issue. In his Address to the Oliy Majlis of December 22, 2017, President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, taking into account the scale of issues and tasks in the field of state building, including public administration, said Today, the need to effectively address the existing problems in society, the consistent continuation of large-scale reforms requires the creation of a completely new system of public administration.

It should be noted that the following have been identified as priorities for improving the system of state and society building in our country:

- Improving the activities of executive authorities;
- Introduce clear criteria and procedures for the rational use of human and material resources;
- Clearly define the procedure for the implementation of the tasks of the executive authorities, the scope of their responsibilities;





- Reduction of administrative impact on sectors of the economy and widespread use of market mechanisms;
- The need to transfer some government functions to the private sector;
- Gradual abandonment of highly centralized governance, improving the methods and techniques that ensure close cooperation between the representative bodies of power and the executive;
- Reforming the civil service, introducing effective anti-corruption mechanisms

It should be noted that large-scale measures aimed at reforming public administration are still being implemented in our country by the concept which was approved and implemented by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 8, 2017 "On approval of the Concept of Administrative Reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan".

This Concept includes a set of measures aimed at reforming public administration and adapting it to modern requirements arising from market relations. Among these measures, the issue of decentralization of public administration, ie the transfer of certain functions from the center to the ground, has a special place.

The head of state stressed the need for a gradual decentralization of governance in the field of public administration: "One of the most difficult problems for us is the over-centralization of functions and powers of the state.

It should be noted that there are different interpretations of decentralization in scientific sources, and it is difficult to give a definitive definition of it, which is recognized by many today. In fact, decentralization is a broad, complex concept that is a democratic process characterized by the transfer of relevant powers within the competence of central government bodies, the provision of various public services, budgetary rights to subordinate bodies. The urgency of the issue is whether these powers will be more effective if exercised by the Government and central authorities, or by local authorities represents the solution to the problem. Consequently, the unjustified concentration of state powers at the center, on the one hand, leads to excessive bureaucratic barriers for citizens, as well as the possibility of over-expansion of these bodies and distractions from key issues; limits the possibility of implementation, which means that it also has a negative impact on initiative. There is also a need to expand the powers of local public authorities in the selection and placement of staff, the allocation of credit and financial resources, the approval of many important decisions at the local level.

In his address, the Head of state cited the need for decentralization, citing specific examples: today there are 64 types of licenses, 21 of which are issued by the Government and 40 by central government agencies. Of the 220 permits, only 11 are





available in districts or cities. For the remaining 209, citizens have to apply to the republican and regional authorities.

On the basis of the President's opinion that such a procedure should be changed at the expense of giving more power to local authorities in this matter, a great deal of organizational work is being done.

It should be noted that decentralization in our country is planned in several areas:

- critically reviewing the powers of the government and central government and optimize overlapping tasks, functions and powers;
- Transferring of certain powers of central bodies to local authorities;
- Expanding the powers of local government bodies, including governors, in the selection and placement of staff;
- Strengthening the powers of governors in the allocation of credit and financial resources;
- Significantly expanding the powers of governors to make decisions on socio-economic development of the region;
- Increase the authority and responsibility of local authorities, especially governors, to attract investment to the relevant area, etc.

Among the measures aimed at the implementation of these tasks is the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the organization of the Agency for Public Services under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated December 12, 2017 No PP-3430 which has a special place in the reforms in this sphere.

The Government has adopted a resolution on measures to organize the activities of the Agency for Public Services under the Ministry of Justice, in which in 2018-2020, 58 public services will be gradually provided only by the Public Service Centers, in particular 10 public services, including birth registration, apostille of documents issued by judicial authorities, issuance of archival documents by civil registry offices and notaries, information on convictions, as well as nostrification, work permit abroad, duplicate of educational were available in 2019 and 22 types of public services, such as marriage registration, paternity, adoption, retirement, vehicle registration, through the Public Service Centers from 2020.

Today, based on the above, a number of organizational and legal measures are being implemented. In particular, the post of Deputy Governor for active investment attraction has been introduced in all khokimiyats, which should allow the regions to raise the task of attracting investment to a new level of quality. In addition, the appointment and dismissal of leaders responsible for socio-economic issues in the regions, ie the heads of medical associations, public education, economics, finance, tax inspection and other structures, is now carried out directly by district governors.





In addition, it is planned to revise and optimize the powers of regional and Tashkent city khokims in personnel matters. Naturally, the expansion of the powers of local authorities and territorial bodies, in turn, imposes on them a great responsibility and accountability. The direct responsibility of local authorities and their leaders for the results of socio-economic development of the area for which they are responsible and for the well-being of the population will increase. Thus, significant efforts will be made this year to further democratize public administration.

Specific measures to further democratize public administration were identified in the Decree "Year of Active Entrepreneurship, Support of Innovative Ideas and Technologies" adopted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 22, 2018 'On the State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021'. The measures outlined in the Program are aimed at modernizing the country and renewing the life of society, and their implementation will ensure the implementation of an important part of the Action Plan, which will lead to new goals in the life of our society.

Based on the above, the following can be summarized as follows:

- Decentralization is a complex process, which includes not only organizational, legal, material, but also spiritual and educational factors. Consequently, the transfer of certain powers from the center to the places means, in turn, the transfer of responsibility and accountability. The legal culture of local officials, their firm belief and aspiration to fully implement the policy of our state will contribute to the effective conduct of this process.
- The purpose of the transfer of part of the licensing and permitting powers to local government bodies and territorial bodies of central authorities - to facilitate the population, further democratize governance, ensure public service of public authorities, to prevent the use of these powers for malicious purposes. the importance of the changes that are taking place in the case. Law enforcement agencies have a great responsibility to prevent such cases. Public scrutiny is also expected to be active in this regard. Therefore, the expected purpose of the new law is the same, that is, to exercise public control over the rule of law in the activities of government agencies and officials.
- There is no doubt that the human factor plays an important role in the democratization of public administration, in particular, in the effective process of decentralization. Accordingly, factors such as the social activism of citizens, including entrepreneurs, and their desire to exercise their rights are also extremely important in achieving the expected result from this important process.





In conclusion, it should be noted that the improvement of public administration is not only a set of complex measures, but also a dialectical process under the development of society, the complexity of social relations, the setting of new tasks for the state.

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