

Important Aspects of Organizing The Activities of Local Representative Bodies of State Authorities Based on The Principle of "Strong Kengash, Accountable And Initiative Khokim"

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.47134/jtp.v2i3.1455>

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Received: 21-01-2025

Accepted: 22-02-2025

Published: 22-03-2025



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Abstract: This article examines key aspects of the functioning of local representative bodies of state power in the context of the principle of "Strong Kengash, accountable and proactive khokim". The main attention is paid to local representative bodies of state power, their structure, mechanisms of interaction with the executive power and tools for increasing their effectiveness. The study uses methods of comparative analysis, systems approach, as well as studying the regulatory framework governing the activities of local representative bodies. An analysis of the best practices for organizing their work is carried out, taking into account modern requirements for local management. The results of the study allow us to identify key areas for improving the activities of local representative bodies, as well as to offer recommendations for increasing their effectiveness within the framework of the principle under consideration.

Keywords: State, Local Government, Principle, Society, Strategy, Law, Constitution.

Introduction

Development of local self-government and increasing the efficiency of local authorities are important aspects of the modernization of the state governance system in Uzbekistan. In recent decades, special attention has been paid to issues of improving the organization of activities of local representative bodies and executive authorities (Romankina, 2020).

Today, such concepts as "local government" and "local self-government" are used in scientific literature. These concepts have become the object of scientific research since the beginning of the 19th century by the ideologists of the bourgeois revolution. Many scientists in their scientific works noted that the evolution of local government and self-government bodies was carried out in stages. The initial stage is associated with the period of bourgeois revolutions, followed by the second, conditioned by the needs of industrial growth, at the end of the 19th century. The third, most significant stage of reform began in the 1960s and continues to this day. The key trend of this stage is to increase the competence of local government structures (Ermashov, 2020) (Melnikov, 2012) (Chikhladze, 2013).

Historically, local governments in Uzbekistan have faced a number of challenges, such as insufficient coordination between the legislative and executive branches, weak accountability to the population, and limited initiative on the part of local khokims (heads of territorial units). In response to these challenges, reforms have been adopted in recent years to improve interactions between kengashes (local representatives) and khokims (Vincent, 2021).

The main focus has been on ensuring that khokims, as heads of local administrations, show initiative in decision-making and ensure transparency and accountability in their activities. At the same time, kengashes, as representative authorities, should play an important role in control and decision-making at the local level, ensuring the legitimacy of the actions of the executive branch and close interaction with the population.

The organization of the activities of local representative bodies of state power plays a key role in ensuring sustainable development of regions, management efficiency and compliance with the interests of citizens. In this context, the principle of "Strong Kengash, accountable and proactive khokim" acquires special significance, as it contributes to increasing the transparency, responsibility and efficiency of local authorities. The purpose of this article is to consider the main aspects of the implementation of this principle and its impact on the local government system (Kostruba, 2020).

Methodology

The materials were collected from 2020 to 2024. The object of the study is local representative bodies of state power (kengashes) and executive bodies of power (khokims) in the context of implementing the principle of "Strong kengash, accountable and proactive khokim". The type of research is analytical, applied.

It includes a comprehensive analysis of existing practices of organizing the activities of local representative bodies and executive authorities based on the principle of "Strong Kengash, Accountable and Proactive Khokim". The study is aimed at studying the theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of local authorities, as well as identifying problems and proposals for improving the local self-government system in Uzbekistan. The study uses methods of comparative analysis, systems approach and analysis of legislation to study the effectiveness of implementing this principle in the activities of local authorities (Langeslag, 2023).

The legislative framework regulating the activities of Kengashes of People's Deputies was studied, and the need for its further improvement in order to expand their powers and improve the efficiency of their work was identified. The analyses of reports and reports of Kengashes and khokimiyats were considered, which allowed assessing the real state of affairs at the local level, determining priority areas of activity and identifying problem areas requiring special attention.

A comparative analysis of international experience made it possible to identify the most effective models of local government organization and adapt them to the conditions of Uzbekistan. The system approach method made it possible to consider the functioning of

Kengashes in relation to other elements of the public administration system, identify interdependencies and determine ways to optimize interaction.

The use of the expert assessment method allowed us to obtain valuable information about the problems and prospects for the development of local government directly from specialists with practical experience in this area. Expert opinions were taken into account when formulating recommendations for improving legislation, optimizing the structure and increasing the efficiency of local representative authorities (Podorova, 2019).

Result and Discussion

The strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" defines key goals aimed at strengthening the rule of law, creating public administration for the benefit of citizens and implementing the important principle of transition from strong state power to a prosperous civil society (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023).

New active actions are being taken to achieve these significant goals, fully implement the provisions of the updated Constitution, and reform the system of state power and governance. It is important to note that these measures have been expected for a long time.

In accordance with the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the powers of representative bodies of state power at the local level and executive bodies at the local level, the positions of the chairman of the local Kengash and khokim are separated, which has become an important step in ensuring the implementation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers at the local level (Meiners, 2021).

In order to fully implement the provisions of the updated Constitution, eliminate difficulties in the activities of local government bodies, and ensure the consistency of legislation, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2024 No. UP-28 "On measures to improve the efficiency of local government bodies" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024) and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2024 No. UP-28 "On measures to improve the efficiency of local government bodies" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024) were adopted.

According to the decree, in order to increase the importance of local representative bodies in solving key issues in the public and state spheres, 33 tasks, functions and powers will be transferred to the jurisdiction of local Kengashes. In particular, it is planned that the decision-making on the creation and closure of state kindergartens and schools, the organization of reserves, natural nurseries, recreational areas, botanical and dendrological gardens, the determination of tariffs for passenger and freight transportation by urban transport, the preparation of routes for urban passenger transport, the approval of tariffs for water supply services and other topics will be transferred to local Kengashes. Also, in accordance with the requirements of the updated Constitution, this program document clearly states that tasks and functions can be assigned to local Kengashes only by legislative acts (Gromova, 2024).

Interference of state structures and organizations in their activities is not allowed, and local executive authorities are obliged to bear responsibility for the implementation of tasks

that are not related to the legal powers of local Kengashes, transferred to local authorities on the basis of regulatory legal acts. It was also decided to introduce the practice of a clear division of responsibilities between local representative and executive authorities when creating draft legal acts. In accordance with this, the Senate will approve an action plan for organizing training, which will be aimed at increasing the political and legal knowledge of local Kengashes and employees of their secretariats. A register of powers, tasks and functions of local Kengashes will be formed and maintained. In addition, together with the Cabinet of Ministers, the "Concept for the Development of the Activities of Representative Bodies of Local Government in Uzbekistan until 2030" will be developed (Drexel, 2021).

Currently, the Commission for the Organization of the Development of the Concept for the Development of the Activities of Representative Bodies of State Authority at Local Level in Uzbekistan until 2030 continues its work in the Republic of Uzbekistan (Resolution of the Kengash of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024).

Fulfilment of the tasks set out in the Decree will facilitate the effective functioning of local government bodies in the new legal conditions, strengthening the influence of representative bodies on state and public administration, as well as on the socio-economic development of regions. This will also lead to an increase in the responsibility of the executive power to local Kengashes (Sannino, 2019).

It is important to mention that in accordance with the document of historical significance, a differentiation of functions between legislative and executive authorities took place in the local government body. These practical and legal changes, which have been discussed for several years, are now coming into force. It is emphasized that this is one of the significant historical achievements of the modern statehood of Uzbekistan.

Since 2017, Article 99 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan as amended in 1992 was amended by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 29, 2017 No. 3PY-439 "On elections to district Kengashes of people's deputies of the city of Tashkent" (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017).

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 14, 2020 No. ZRU-636 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Connection with the Improvement of the Activities of the Kengashes of People's Deputies," in accordance with the amendments made to the Law "On Local Government," the functions of organizational, technical and other support for the activities of regional, district and city Kengashes of People's Deputies were transferred from the apparatus of the khokimiyats to the secretariat of the relevant Kengashes of People's Deputies (Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020).

In accordance with the law, the secretariat of the relevant body is responsible for the organization, technical support and other types of support for the activities of the regional, district or city Kengash of People's Deputies. This secretariat functions as a legal entity and is financed from the budget of the relevant local government.

The structure, positions and number of employees of the secretariat of the regional, district or city Kengash of People's Deputies, as well as the level of their remuneration and provision of material and technical resources, together with maintenance costs, are

approved by the relevant Kengash of People's Deputies. The head of the secretariat of this level of the Kengash of People's Deputies is elected from among the deputies of this Kengash and appointed for the term of his/her powers. Additional rules were also defined.

The second and third tasks of the roadmap for the implementation of the New Uzbekistan development strategy, drawn up in 2022, were aimed precisely at this. They included turning the Kengashes of People's Deputies into the main link in solving problems in the regions and bringing the institutional foundations of local government bodies into line with modern requirements (Petróczi, 2024).

It is important to emphasize that the Decree of the President of our country "On measures to improve the efficiency of functioning of local government bodies" is a logical continuation of significant political reforms that are aimed at transforming public administration at the local level and introducing a truly people's system of governance (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2024).

It should be noted that in our country the powers of local Kengashes of People's Deputies are increasing in terms of solving urgent problems of socio-economic development of regions and protecting citizens. Large-scale reforms are being carried out, which are aimed at the full implementation of the principles of democracy.

The delineation of the functions of representative bodies of local self-government and executive bodies of power, as well as the separation of the positions of the chairman of the local Kengash from the khokim in the updated version of the Constitution became a significant step in the implementation of the principle of separation of powers at the level of local structures.

A legal framework aimed at strengthening the control functions of local Kengashes has been provided. In order to increase the supervisory capabilities of the Kengashes of People's Deputies in relation to the work of local executive authorities, they have been granted over ten additional powers. In particular, the accountability of the heads of the prosecutor's office, justice, internal affairs, finance, tax service, ecology and health care agencies has been ensured.

For the first time in the history of local government in Uzbekistan, the decree established important provisions aimed at transforming the work of local government bodies based on a new model. This model is called the principle of "Strong Kengash, accountable and proactive khokim", which is of particular importance.

In particular, the principle of independence of local Kengashes in their work, independent of state bodies, is consolidated. From now on, it is established that the tasks and functions of local Kengashes are determined exclusively by legislative acts, and state bodies do not have the right to interfere in the activities of local Kengashes.

At the same time, future drafts of normative legal acts will provide for a clear division of the relevant tasks between local representative bodies and the executive power. At the same time, it is expected that local executive bodies will be responsible for the implementation of tasks that the current legislation imposes on local state bodies, but which do not relate to the activities of the Kengashes.

It is important to note that these transformations will become the basis for the work of local Kengashes, aimed exclusively at the benefit of their voters and the corresponding region. It should be emphasized that, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a system is gradually being created that fully meets international standards.

Conclusion

Thus, firstly, the tasks and powers will be divided due to the fact that in many areas significant information remained unnoticed and was not subject to careful analysis. Now the head of each region will report directly to the Council. This will require efforts, aspiration, determination and initiative.

Secondly, due to the fact that local Kengashes received many tasks similar in content when reviewing reports of local khokimiyats, state structures and organizations, it became necessary to review, optimize and systematize them.

Several powers and duties that have been assigned to local Kengashes for a long time are being streamlined. The obligation to report to the Kengashes applies exclusively to khokims, as well as to the first heads of territorial state bodies in a given region, which in the future will contribute to increasing both their political and professional responsibility to the Kengashes. The functions of local Kengashes and khokimiyats overlapped in many ways, which caused delays in solving local problems and a lack of attention to them. The management of both systems by one person, on the one hand, complicates the work of the apparatus, and on the other, interferes with the productive work of deputies.

First of all, it is necessary to define the functions of the khokimiyat and the local Kengash in relation to the tasks they solve. In our opinion, a deputy must be well informed about the situation, requests and needs of the population. Based on this, he proposes to local khokimiyats for implementation those problems that were identified in this area, after preliminary discussion in the standing committee and at the session. Until now, the report of the representative of the executive power was usually presented by his deputy. However, when the hokim himself presents the report, this not only increases the prestige of the deputy, but also strengthens the professional skills of the hokim himself. In addition, such transparency contributes to better awareness of the deputy.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the "Road Map" was approved and the relevant ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Justice, were instructed to jointly prepare proposals for updating the powers in the relevant legislative acts.

It is stated that the Kengashes will act autonomously from state organizations. Now the functions and tasks will be determined for local Kengashes exclusively by legislative acts. In addition, the law strictly prohibits any interference of state authorities and administration in the work of local Kengashes. Usually, when introducing any innovation in the sphere of state and public administration, there are always both supporters and opponents of such reforms. However, when the issue of creating a balance of powers between khokimiyats and kengashes, strengthening the importance of the kengash and developing the initiative of khokims is discussed, the number of supporters turns out to be

significantly greater. This increases confidence that these reforms are being introduced at the right time and will be successful.

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