



ACADEMICIA
**An International
 Multidisciplinary
 Research Journal**
 (Double Blind Refereed & Peer Reviewed Journal)



DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2021.01722.5

**FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES
 IN UZBEKISTAN AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN BUILDING CIVIL
 SOCIETY**

Musayeva M.N*

*Researcher,
 Candidate of Political Science,
 UZBEKISTAN

ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the process of the formation and development of a multi-party system in Uzbekistan, as well as regulatory documents governing the activities of political parties. It also highlights the features of the country's political parties. This limits the direct participation of the population in government decision-making, which, in turn, leads to the emergence and spread of other forms of political participation to express individual and group interests. Thus, the ongoing political reforms provide for the emergence of political parties as independent political institutions. From the point of view of national politics, a political party operating in a country, participating in elections, trying to win a majority of seats in parliament, enter or influence government, is part of the national political system.

KEYWORDS: *Public Association, Political Party, Financing Of Political Parties, People's Democratic Party Of Uzbekistan, Social Democratic Party "Adolat", Democratic Party "Milliytiklanish", Movement Of Businessmen And Entrepreneurs - Liberal Democratic Party Of Uzbekistan, Ecological Party Of Uzbekistan, Electoral Code, Vote Distrust.*

"Any political party can survive as a political force only if it keeps pace with the demands of the times and meets its acute requirements ..."

SH.M. Mirziyoev¹

INTRODUCTION

Political activity is manifested in the ability of an individual to actively participate in the political process, that is, in various elections, to demand it with a good knowledge of their rights and freedoms.

The participation of citizens in politics, in turn, is one of the characteristics of political systems and determines the level of democracy. It should be noted that political participation covers various forms of political activity – from the management of political parties and covert armed activities against the government. In the first case, political parties seek power through elections through one of the important political institutions - parliament, and in the second – only through a coup d'état, an armed coup, that is, the illegal use of force. The latter is condemned in many countries and in all international legal instruments.

Parliament, as an expression of the will of society, makes important political decisions on laws and public administration, combining the interests of the various social groups within it.

The principle of representation changes the specific forms of citizen participation in political processes. This limits the direct participation of the population in government decision-making, which, in turn, leads to the emergence and spread of other forms of political participation to express individual and group interests. This usually happens due to the formation and development of parties, social, commercial, religious and other associations that are an integral part of civil society and seek to express and fulfill certain requirements.

Political parties play an important role here. Thus, the ongoing political reforms provide for the emergence of political parties as independent political institutions. From the point of view of national politics, a political party operating in a country, participating in elections, trying to win a majority of seats in parliament, enter or influence government, is part of the national political system. This element has a certain impact on the power in the state, regardless of its position. “The electoral system influences the political life of a country through parties”¹, - said Moris Duverger, a prominent French political scientist. Since political parties participate in the public life of the state, they become their supporters or opponents, having direct contact with the people of the country.

Each party has its own clear and unambiguous program of action as a defender of the interests of this category, relying on a certain social stratum. It should reflect the goals and objectives of each party, alternative proposals for the development of society. “Political parties are an integral part of the modern democratic system, as one of the main participants in the election campaign, a real instrument of political competition, a way to fight for power”².

In a multi-party system, if one party wins the elections, the other will be in opposition. This is evident in the experience of developed countries (USA, Germany, England, etc.). “In a democracy, the role of a constructive, healthy opposition will be enormous”. Such opposition contributes to the political, social and economic development of society”³.

In practice, multiparty system is a platform for debate between different views and ideas, as well as political competition for different parties, including opposition parties.

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has set itself the goal of building a democratic state based on the rule of law and the formation of a civil society. In the transitional

period of the formation of a civil society, the emergence of democratic institutions, such as a multi-party system, representing the interests of the population of Uzbekistan, is of great importance.

In practice, multiparty system is a platform for debate between different views and ideas, as well as political competition for different parties, including opposition parties.

As generally known multiparty system is considered as one of the main requirements of the democracy. Because the presence of a multi-party system in society creates competition in the struggle for power. This maintains a balance between power and people.

In practice, multiparty system is a platform for debate between different views and ideas, as well as political competition for different parties, including opposition parties.

It should be noted that an important factor in ensuring the stability of society is the relationship between strong state power (in which the executive power should not be subordinate to the party) and political parties and movements that represent the interests of different segments of the population. This issue is very important for Uzbekistan.

Therefore, I would analyze the regulatory framework for the activities of political parties in our country, as well as multiparty system.

It is safe to say that the multiparty system was formed in 1995, and in this year, the number of parties in the country increased to four: The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDP), "The VatanTaraqiyoti" Party (VTP), "The Adolat" Social Democratic Party (SDP), and Democratic Party of National Revival (DP).

The first party of independent Uzbekistan was the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDP), and on November 1, 1991, its First Constituent Assembly was held. The Congress adopted the Charter and Program of the party, identified priority areas for its socio-political activities.

The main goal of the policy of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan is to increase the social effectiveness of economic reforms.

The main focus in achieving this priority is to make Uzbekistan, in the near future, one of the well developed countries in the world in terms of living standards and quality of life through sustainable economic development.

The party believes that in determining the ways to achieve this goal, it is necessary to proceed from the socio-economic interests of the following segments of the population in need of social protection and support by the state and society:

- Pensioners with insufficient pensions and social benefits, persons with disabilities, parents raising children with disabilities, women in large families, children deprived of parental care, single elderly people and other vulnerable segments of the population;
- Able-bodied unemployed residents, people with difficulties with employment, including graduates of educational institutions who have just entered the labor market;
- Persons who do not have a permanent place of work and a stable income due to lack of the necessary professional qualifications, including internal and external labour migrants.⁴

The “VatanTaraqqiyoti” Party (VTP), was formed on May 24, 1992. As noted in the VTP program, the party organizes activities in the political system of society as a parliamentary party. The party conducts its policy through elected representatives to state authorities and governments.⁵

The Social Democratic Party “Adolat” (SDP) was founded on February 18, 1995. Today, the main goal of the party is to ensure effective protection of the interests of workers and general laborers, highly qualified specialists, public sector employees, teachers, doctors, scientists and engineers, service workers and other supporters, who are the main electorate of the party.

The Democratic Party of “National Revival” (NDP) was founded on June 3, 1995. The Program of the Party, its goals and objectives of are as follows:

- further deepening of democratic reforms and enrichment of the spiritual sphere as a necessary condition for the qualitative development of the political culture, democratic consciousness and thinking of the people;
- providing conditions for the involvement at all levels of government of people with high moral, professional qualities and responsibility for the fate of the country and the people, high patriotic thinking;
- supporting moral, spiritual and religious values that are traditional for Uzbekistan;
- uniting all social groups and segments of the population to solve the problem of continuous spiritual growth as a basis for improving the welfare of society and the people, protecting its interests from various threats and aggression.⁵

The National Democratic Party “Fidokorlar” (FNDP) was established on December 28, 1998 and registered with the Ministry of Justice on January 3, 1999.

The main goals of the party were declared as follows: the transition to a society based on a market economy in which various forms of ownership operate; The social ideal of the party is the creation of a civil society that guarantees political, economic, social, legal conditions for the self-realization of a person and the full realization of his rights and freedoms.⁶ In April 2000, “VatanTaraqqiyoti” party merged with the National Democratic Party “Fidokorlar”.

At the stage of formation of multi-party system in Uzbekistan, 2003 was a turning point. In the same year, one of the country's leading political parties, the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP) was formed. October 4-5, 2003 – a group of entrepreneurs – representatives of small business, entrepreneurs and farmers, highly qualified production specialists and managers, initiated the formation of a nationwide political organization, the party, which represents and protects the interests of business. On November 15 of the same year, the Constituent Congress of the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurs - the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP) was held. It approved the party's Program and Charter, elected members of the Political Council and the Central Control and Audit Commission.

With the transition of the country's parliament- the OliyMajlis(Supreme Council)the unicameral parliament to the bicameral system in 2005, political parties have become equal subjects of a liberated society. In particular, for the first time in the history of multiparty Uzbekistan in the

lower house of parliament - the Legislative Chamber on February 14, 2005, the Bloc of Democratic Forces was formed, consisting of the UzLiDeP, the SDP "Adolat" and the NDP "Fidokorlar," that is, the parliamentary majority. At the same time, parliamentary opposition appeared in the form of a faction of the PDP of Uzbekistan.

We also see a tendency to unite political parties in the Uzbek multi-party system.. This process took place in 2000 and 2008. Parties with similar programs and political views came up with the initiative to unite. In particular, on June 20, 2008, a merger convention of the Democratic Party "MilliyTiklanish" and the National Democratic Party "Fidokorlar" was held, and on the basis of these two parties a new Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "MilliyTiklanish" (UzMTDP) was formed.

In March 2015, deputies of UzLiDeP and UzMTDP formed a Bloc of Democratic forces in the newly formed Legislative Chamber. On March 17, the SDP Adolat and on March 18, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan declared themselves in opposition to the Bloc of Democratic Forces.

It should be noted that the republic has created the necessary legal bases for the formation of multi-party. During the period of democratic reforms, a political and legal framework is being created to increase the role and role of political parties in public administration and their wide participation in the processes of political modernization of the country. These include the Law on Political Parties, which regulates the establishment and operation of political parties and their rights and obligations. For example, under the right of political parties to freely disseminate information about their activities, they may establish and use other media in order to promote their ideas, goals and decisions in the manner prescribed by law. Today, all political parties have their own press body.

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Political Parties" (December 26, 1996), the formation and operation of the following political parties is prohibited:

- aimed at forcible change of the constitutional order;
- opposing the sovereignty, integrity and security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the constitutional rights and freedoms of its citizens; - promoting war, social, national, racial and religious hatred;
- violating the health and spirituality of the people;
- National and religious parties.

A citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan may be a member of only one political party at a time.

Any restriction of a citizen's rights on the basis of party affiliation, as well as granting him privileges or advantages, is prohibited.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is obliged to suspend or completely terminate membership in or participation in a political party during the term of office of the President as a guarantor of respect for the rights and freedoms of all citizens of the Republic.

Cannot be members of political parties:

- Judges;

- Officials of the Accounts Chamber of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Prosecutors and investigators of the prosecutor's office;
- Employees of the Internal Affairs, National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan, State Security Service;
- Military personnel;
- Citizens and stateless persons of foreign countries.

Membership in political parties is registered individually⁷.

This does not mean that no one represents the will of the military personnel. In a number of developed countries, such as the United States and France, the military is prohibited from engaging in politics. According to Russian Lieutenant colonel D. Ivanov -the military deputies are a sign of instability in the country. The reason is that ordinary citizens can also represent the interests of the Army and the military in parliament⁸. In the supreme legislative body of each country, there are standing commissions and committees dealing with the development and maintenance of the Army, defense and security, and representing the will of the whole nation, including the Committee on Defense and Security in both chambers of the OliyMajlis. These committees, in turn, work in the interests of the military personnel.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Financing of Political Parties" (April 30, 2004) has played an important role in increasing the role of political parties. This law defines the basic concepts and mechanisms of state funding of political parties. According the law, political parties that are current members of the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament are annually financed by the state depending on the number of their deputy mandates (for example, in 2019 for 36 seats in the Democratic Party "Milliy Tiklanish" - **20 billion 103 million 594 thousand** sums⁹, the Democratic Party was allocated **14 billion 454 million 589 thousand** sums for 27 seats¹⁰).

The funding sources of political parties are:

- Entrance and membership fees, if in the charter of a political party indicated such payment;
- Income from entrepreneurial activity in accordance with the Law;
- Funds of the State budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan allocated in accordance with this Law;
- Charitable assistance provided by legal entities and citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with this Law.

In accordance with “the Law on the Financing of Political Parties”, the activities indicated in the Charter of political parties which have at least nine deputies elected in the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Legislative Chamber) to organize a faction of the Legislative Chamber will be financed by the state depending.

Charitable assistance to political parties in the form of funds, the provision of property, the provision of services, the performance of work (including through the allocation of grants, technical assistance, payment of expenses related to travel, as well as training, seminars, conferences held in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and abroad) is not allowed:

- Foreign States;
- Legal entities of foreign countries, their representative offices and branches;
- International organizations, their representative offices and branches;
- Enterprises involving foreign investment;
- Foreign nationals;
- Stateless persons.

It is also not allowed charitable assistance to political parties in the form of money, the provision of property, the provision of services to citizens' self-administered bodies, religious organizations and anonymous persons or with assumed names.

Thus, sufficient laws have been passed to make parties an independent political institution representing the interests of the various segments of the population of the Republic.

One of the main directions in the reform of political parties was the Constitutional Law "On modernization and further democratization of public administration and strengthening the role of political parties in the modernization of the country" (April 11, 2007). This law came into force in January 2008. It clearly defines the concept of factions of political parties in the Legislative Chamber and their rights such as to declare oneself an opposition (dissatisfied with the newly formed government program or certain of its directions). The law strengthens the role of political parties in the appointment and dismissal of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the governor of the region and the city of Tashkent as well.

In order to increase the effectiveness of oversight functions, party groups in regional and Tashkent city Kengashes (Council) of People's Deputies have the right to initiate the submission of conclusions based on the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the unsatisfactory performance of persons approved for the post of regional and Tashkent city khokims (governors). If the leading party groups support such an initiative, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall appoint a discussion of this initiative in the Kengashes of People's Deputies and make a decision in accordance with the results of the discussion.

In 2011, the role of political parties was further strengthened, the nomination of the Prime Minister by the winning party to the President was enshrined in the Constitution. That is, according to Article 98 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **"... the nominee for Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be nominated to the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan by the political party with the largest number of seats or political parties with similar results.**

Within ten days after considering the nominee for the post of Prime Minister, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall nominate him for consideration and approval by the chambers of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A candidate for Prime Minister shall be deemed approved if more than half of the total number of deputies of the Legislative Chamber and members of the Senate of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan have voted for him. ... ”

At the same time, the role of political parties in public administration and the power to control the activities of the executive branch have expanded. On November 12, 2010, at the suggestion of the First President Islam Karimov, the article on the announcement of a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister by the OliyMajlis was strengthened in the legislation.

“... The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan are constantly at loggerheads with at least one-third of the total number of deputies of the Legislative Chamber to the joint session of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan the issue of expressing a vote of no confidence shall be included.

A vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister shall be deemed adopted if at least two-thirds of the total number of deputies of the Legislative Chamber and members of the Senate of the OliyMajlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan vote, respectively.

In this case, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall make a decision on dismissal of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this case, the entire Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall resign together with the Prime Minister ”.

The reforms of the years of independence show that the foundations of a new democratic system based on the diversity of political institutions, ideologies and ideas in the country and ensuring the broad participation of citizens in the governance of the state and society have been formed.

All of us today are witnessing great changes and updates in the socio-political life of our country. Indeed, these reforms mean that a qualitatively new phase of our development has begun in our country, based on human interests, based on justice and the rule of law, which has strengthened the confidence of the population in tomorrow.

Undoubtedly, the political, legal and ideological basis of today's radical reforms is the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, announced by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev on February 7, 2017.

In accordance with the Strategy for Action, large-scale reforms are being carried out in order to realize the priorities for improving the system of State and public construction. During 2017, the most important change in the activities of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis is the participation of the Parliament, as well as deputies and senators in the systematic analysis and solution of problems that concern him, not limited only to the consideration of submitted bills, but also going directly to the field, receiving information about the living level of the people.

Also, the legal framework for the activities of deputies in constituencies is being strengthened in the framework of the implementation of tasks to further strengthen the role of the Oliy Majlis in public administration.

In order to address the problems in the work of the National Parliament and further intensify their work, a meeting with representatives of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, political parties and the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan was held on 12 July 2017 with the participation of President Sh. Mirziyoyev.

In the meeting, along with the achievements of the national Parliament, were critically analyzed the past activities of government agencies, political parties and the Ecological Movement, and identified important tasks for further deepening the reforms.

It was noted that today deputies and senators, party representatives are appointed to high and responsible positions, they are entrusted with important areas. An example of this is the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On amending and supplementing certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the democratization of the procedure for forming the Government and strengthening its responsibility" which entered into force on April 1, 2019. The Act establishes two new democratic principles. First of all, the members of the Cabinet of Ministers will now be approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and dismissed on the proposal of the Prime Minister after approval by the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis. The next step is for the Prime Minister, together with members of the Government, to submit a quarterly report to the parliament on the implementation of the state program for the year.

This is very responsible power for the Parliament. The point is, Now the deputies, having approved a member of the Government, will assume half of the huge responsibility associated with his activities. Therefore, deputies can not only approve the candidate, but also reject it. In turn, a candidate approved by the deputies will be able to receive support from members of parliament who support him in the future. Another important aspect of the law is that if before the parliament exercised the power to approve a candidate for the post of Prime Minister and gave a general, holistic assessment of the Cabinet of Ministers, now in the process of consideration and approval of a candidate for the Government, each branch of executive power identifies, critically reviews.

Of course, these changes will also contribute to increase the role and importance of factions of political parties. That is, each party, based on its pre-election program and platform, discusses the candidate in committees, faction meetings, the plenary session of the chamber, and influences the main directions of the Government.

Also, as noted above, on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, the quota of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan in the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis for 15 seats was reduced. On November 14, 2018, representatives of the Environmental Movement took the initiative to create a political party. The founding congress of the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan was held on January 8, 2019, and on January 24, 2019, the party was registered by the Ministry of Justice.

In the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis on December 22, 2019, 150 single-member constituencies were formed, which were attended by 5 political parties - PDP, UzLiDeP, Social Democratic Party "Adolat", Democratic Party "MilliyTiklanish" and the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan .

In 2020, in order to increase the activity of the factions in the Legislative Chamber of the OliyMajlis the UzLiDeP, UzMTDP, SDP "Adolat", PDP and the Ecological Party have developed and approved specific programs and "Road Maps" to address issues raised by the population at election meetings.

It is worth noting that a number of works are being carried out in the political parties of our country to increase the political consciousness of its members. All political parties have youth and women's wings. For example, the women's wing of the People's Democratic Party is "Active Women", the youth wing is "Istiqbol", the Social Democratic Party "Adolat" - "Women's Wing", "Young Justice". The UzLiDeP also adopted a program to form a reserve of personnel for positions in the party and public authorities among the members of PDP organized the Political Knowledge Centre and the Political and Civic Knowledge System. The main task of these structures is to train young highly qualified party personnel for service in government and management bodies.

The organization of the practice of monthly departure of deputies elected to the Oliy Majlis from political parties for twelve days contributes to the more effective use of the institution of parliamentary control, as well as the introduction of new content in the activities of the deputy corps. Our deputies are sending parliamentary inquiries to officials of various state authorities and administrations on the issues identified on the ground.

In addition to the above achievements, there are a number of shortcomings in the activities of political parties in the country. They are:

- delays in initiating legislation by factions of political parties. In Uzbekistan, major bills, such as Russia and France, are submitted by the government.
- lack of effective work of political parties with the population to attract new members. For example, as of January 1, 2020, the number of members of the Democratic Party "Milliy Tiklanish" is **275,576**, and the number of primary party organizations is **6,510**. As of January 1, 2020, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan has about 500,000 members. Party members are united in 9942 primary organizations¹¹.
- Publications of political parties are much slower;
- The ideological and political platforms of the parties and the mechanisms for regular communication of their initiatives to the public are not well developed.

To address these issues, we consider it appropriate for political parties to:

- use the opportunities of political media, mass media, training and meetings to attract the electorate and promote the program;
- ensuring a "feedback" mechanism with voters, i.e reporting to their constituents;
- members of the faction exercise the right of legislative initiative and actively participate in the development of current draft laws;
- interaction of factions with groups of deputies in local councils to study the implementation of laws on the ground;
- the main thing is the transition to a mixed electoral system so that political parties are active not only in the election year, but always. The reason is that in a mixed system, in addition to the majority, there is also a proportional system that evaluates the activity of a political party.

In conclusion, the development of Uzbekistan's multiparty system during the construction of a democratic State and civil society is an important process. Problems in public administration

directly related to the activities of political parties will not be left without their influence. Each political party, based on its electoral program and platform, defends the interests of its electorate at plenary session of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, assemblies of factions and Councils of People's Deputies, adopts legislative acts and influences the main directions of the Cabinet of Ministers, becomes a solid foundation for the construction of civil society.

REFERENCES:

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. - T.: Uzbekistan, 2017.
2. The Constitutional Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On renewal and further democratization of public administration and strengthening the role of political parties in the modernization of the country" // www.lex.uz
3. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Political Parties" // www.lex.uz.
4. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On financing of political parties" // www.lex.uz.
5. Mirziyoev Sh.M. We will resolutely continue our path of national development and raise it to a new level. Volume 1 - T.: "Uzbekistan", 2018.
6. Karimov I.A. From a strong state to a strong society. - T.: «Sharq», 1998.
7. Islomov Z.M. Political competition and democratic elections. Elections to the bicameral parliament: issues of theory and practice (materials of the scientific-practical conference). - T.: TSIL. 2004.
8. Kirgizbaev M. Partology. T.: "Academy", 2007.
9. Kirgizbaev M. Civil society: genesis, formation and development. - T.: Uzbekistan, 2010.
10. Theory and practice of building a democratic society in Uzbekistan. Study guide. / Edited by M. Kirgizbaev. - T.: "Navruz" publishing house, 2014.
11. Handbook for employees, members and activists of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. Compilers: M. Rashidova, S. Shonazarov. - T., 2020.
12. Duverger M. The Influence of Electoral System on Political Life // «International Social Studies Bulletin». 1971, №3, summer. – P.314.
13. Shils E. The fortunes of constitutional government in the political development of the new states // Development: for what? Durham, 1964. – P. 25.
14. Campell A., Converse P., Warren M., Stokes D. The American Voter. – N.Y.: 1960. – P. 50.
15. Program of the National Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Fidokorlar". - Fidokor, 1999, 11 February.
16. Program of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. Adopted on October 28, 2019 at the XI Congress of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. // www.xdp.uz