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PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT IN UZBEKISTAN: LEGAL BASIS, PRACTICE, AND WAYS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

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Annotation:

This article examines the legal basis, practice, and ways to enhance the efficiency of parliamentary oversight in Uzbekistan. It highlights the importance of parliamentary oversight in ensuring government accountability, protecting citizens' rights, enforcing laws, and increasing transparency and public participation. The study identifies gaps in legislation and practice, emphasizes the role of media and civil society, and suggests establishing dedicated oversight committees and legal mechanisms to strengthen parliamentary oversight.

Keywords: Parliamentary oversight, legal framework, legislative control, government accountability, transparency, public participation, rule of law, Uzbekistan.



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Parliamentary oversight is one of the key areas of parliamentary activity, ensuring that government policies and actions align with societal interests and are effective.

“Parliamentary oversight is a special activity carried out by subjects of parliamentary oversight to examine and monitor the objects of parliamentary oversight, as well as to take measures based on the results of such oversight”[2]. It protects citizens' constitutional rights and legal interests, monitors the implementation of laws, and ensures their effective application in practice. Effective parliamentary oversight ensures the full enforcement of laws, identifies underutilized opportunities, and helps improve the functioning of state bodies.

Research shows that there are gaps in the legislation regulating the oversight function of the Legislative Chamber, as well as in theory and practice. Although the legal basis and practice of parliamentary oversight exist, further improvement is needed, including utilizing foreign experience and introducing new, effective forms. Effective parliamentary oversight produces two main results: improving processes and improving policy. Firstly, it promotes greater citizen participation in decision-making processes, and secondly, it ensures that decisions reflect the interests of society. Additionally, it increases accountability and transparency and contributes to reducing corruption.



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Each state organizes parliamentary oversight according to its political, cultural, and historical context. In almost all countries, the powers of parliamentary oversight are defined in the constitution and laws. However, in practice, parliaments sometimes do not fully exercise the powers granted to influence the government. In reality, the parliament should play a central role, and the effectiveness of its oversight is directly linked to its overall status.

Currently, there is no clear and unified definition of the term “parliamentary oversight.” Legal scholars provide various approaches, which causes difficulties and confusion in understanding. Therefore, it is appropriate to develop terminological, theoretical, and conceptual foundations of parliamentary oversight based on the country's historical and governance context. Providing a precise definition of this term in legislation will prevent varied interpretations.

Scientific research on parliamentary oversight and the practical implementation of the recommendations contributes significantly to the development of this field. It is also important to establish legal and procedural mechanisms to regulate cooperation between parliamentary oversight institutions, local government bodies, citizens' self-governing institutions, and other civil society organizations.

President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev emphasizes that, “Parliamentary committees and commissions should play a key role in identifying shortcomings in ministers'



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activities, visiting regions, studying public opinion, and jointly resolving issues”[3].

This statement highlights the relevance of strengthening parliamentary oversight today.

Moreover, the role of mass media in covering parliamentary oversight activities, ensuring transparency, and strengthening public monitoring is important. Expanding the practice of presenting the positions of party factions regarding the oversight-analytical activities of the committees of the Legislative Chamber is also essential.

Ensuring the rule of law and strengthening legality requires raising public legal awareness and culture. In this regard, improving citizens’ legal knowledge can establish public oversight over parliamentary oversight and enhance accountability.

Currently, national legislation does not specify what actions the Legislative Chamber or the Senate should take following a parliamentary inquiry. Introducing a mechanism to express confidence or no confidence in the government will enhance the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight and strengthen the parliament’s authority.

Additionally, establishing a dedicated parliamentary oversight committee operating within a specific scope will improve the effectiveness of this field. Parliamentary



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oversight should ensure the transparency and openness of executive authorities, financial accountability, and the supremacy of law.

According to Article 116 of the newly revised Constitution of Uzbekistan, the Cabinet of Ministers is accountable to the Oliy Majlis and the President [1]. To improve the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, draft government economic decisions should be reviewed and approved by the Legislative Chamber. Such a mechanism, which ensures that unapproved decisions do not have legal force, increases the efficiency of decisions in the economic sphere.

In conclusion, parliamentary oversight guarantees citizens' rights and legal interests, ensures the effective implementation of laws, and evaluates whether government, state, and economic officials fulfill their duties honestly and accurately. Strengthening the parliamentary oversight institution, identifying existing problems, and developing solutions are urgent tasks.

In summary, parliamentary oversight is aimed at ensuring compliance with citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, implementation of laws and state programs, efficient use of state resources and funds, and adherence to the principles of democracy and the rule of law. Although there are some gaps and shortcomings in



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legislation, theory, and practice regulating the oversight functions of the Legislative Chamber, improving the legal framework, strengthening the Legislative Chamber's oversight functions, and utilizing proven foreign experiences will significantly contribute to the development of New Uzbekistan.

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