

UZBEKISTAN - A NEW STAGE IN THE BUILDING OF A DEMOCRATIC STATE

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the norms of the Revised Constitution and its implementation mechanisms, the role of the mixed electoral system, the emergence of new forms of democracy as a result of the participation of political parties in elections, the fact that more than half of the voters are women, increasing the socio-political activity of women, ensuring and protecting their rights and interests, activating their participation in socio-political reforms, ensuring their active participation in every aspect of society, and the fact that as a result of such opportunities, the number and share of women in the parliament and local councils of our country are increasing, and issues related to the principles of building a social state.

Keywords: Democracy, mixed electoral system, changes in the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan, political parties, women, local councils, senate, Oliy Majlis, social state, democratic state, Third Renaissance.

Introduction

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, state power is exercised solely in the interests of the people and by bodies authorized by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the laws adopted on its basis. [1, P.7]

Today, Uzbekistan is entering a new stage of its development. Changes, achievements and problems related to the construction of a democratic society in our country can be assessed only by recognizing the specific features of national development. This can never be correctly assessed by drawing on the experience of building a democratic society in another country. Such an approach is not objective. Because a democratic society cannot be built on the basis of a single model for any country or transferred to other peoples. The construction of a democratic society has its own diverse national characteristics. [2, P.16]

Each people builds democracy on the basis of its national-cultural heritage, political mentality, character, values, and contributes to enriching the universal meaning and content of democracy. Certain moderate scientific concepts about democracy and democratic society have been developed all over the world. They increasingly reflect the image, foundations, generally recognized opportunities for life and development of a democratic society, as well as its aspects related to the national and spiritual characteristics of each state and people. Currently, in more than 160 countries of the world, democratic systems are recognized as universal and national values.

It is precisely in this era that life itself proves that democracy is the most acceptable way of developing the way of life of humanity. [3,P.8]



The large-scale reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan also mean that new forms of democracy are emerging in practice. In particular, the adoption of the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 90.21% of the participating citizens in the referendum held on April 30, 2023 indicates that it reflects the hopes and aspirations of citizens based on the universal principles of democracy in New Uzbekistan. The new edition of the Constitution created the political and legal foundations for the implementation of the New Uzbekistan Strategy, determined the priority areas for the further development of the state and society at a historically important stage in the development of national statehood, and was reflected in the norms that bring democratic state building to a new stage in our country.

The referendum also became a reliable expression of the unity and harmony of our great multinational people, their firm determination to build a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state.

In particular, the Constitution established a new strategic goal of state building - building a social state, introduced the principles of social justice and solidarity, and strengthened the constitutional foundations that provide for completely new mechanisms for protecting human rights and freedoms.

Indeed, elections are a mirror of democracy. The elections held this year in the new Uzbekistan, unlike previous elections, were held for the first time on the basis of a mixed electoral system. It is worth noting that Uzbekistan is the 37th country in the world to introduce a mixed electoral system in the practice of constitutionalism.

Of course, this system is a new practice for us. We witnessed a real struggle for each vote of voters. This, in turn, is due to the fact that each political party, in an environment of intense healthy competition, put forward well-founded proposals and initiatives, noble ideas that serve to gain the trust of voters and fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

By the way, elections are a great test for each party, as well as a great opportunity and responsibility. Especially in this year's elections, which were held in a new mixed system, the competition and ideological struggle between political parties have risen to an even higher level. The elections held this year played an important role in the rise of democracy to a new level in our country. It should be noted that political parties play a significant role in raising the legal and political awareness of citizens, their knowledge of the laws adopted in the country, which is the most important factor in building a legal and democratic state and civil society.

For this reason, political parties pay special attention to the issues of women's socio-political activity, increasing their legal knowledge, social protection, alleviating their burden, increasing their influence in the family and society, ensuring their active participation in state and social construction, and gender equality in their election programs. It is certainly a gratifying fact that, according to electoral legislation, the number of women constitutes at least forty percent of the total number of candidates for deputies nominated by a political party.

This is consistent and consistent with the gender equality policy being implemented in our country and reforms aimed at increasing the role of women in state and social life.

More than half of our country's voters are women. Therefore, their active participation and voting in the electoral process have become important in determining the future, prosperity, and future development path of the Motherland. In this process, important work has been carried out to improve their legal culture as voters.



Articles 70 and 91 of the Electoral Code proposed to increase the minimum number of women from 30 percent to 40 percent of the total number of candidates when political parties nominate candidates for deputy. This proposal was taken into account and the relevant amendments were made to the Electoral Code. This, in turn, indicates that the parties have a high attitude towards women and, most importantly, high trust in them. In recent years, special attention has been paid to the issue of further enhancing the status of women in public life, ensuring and protecting their rights and interests, intensifying their participation in socio-political reforms, and increasing their initiative, ensuring their active participation in every aspect of society. [4,B.66.78]

Today, increasing the status of women in state and social construction and ensuring their rights has risen to the level of state policy. As a result of such opportunities, the number and share of women in the parliament and local councils of our country is increasing.

If all the proposals put forward during the election process to further increase the socio-political and legal activity of women, create broad opportunities in the family and in life, and if the tasks set by political parties in this regard are implemented, great changes will occur in the social life of our women. Our lives will become even more prosperous.

Important political processes are currently taking place in our country. A new parliament was formed as a result of the recent elections. As a result of constitutional reforms, the composition of the Senate has become more compact, and the number of its members has decreased from 100 to 65. At the same time, the powers and responsibilities of senators have increased several times. In particular, the upper chamber's participation in parliamentary oversight and the formation of a number of important state bodies has been significantly expanded. Previously, senators did not have clear authority to address problems identified in laws during oversight activities or meetings with voters. The issue was resolved with the Senate being granted the right to submit legislative proposals in the updated Constitution. It is clear that the previous composition of the upper chamber made a worthy contribution to the implementation of the grand tasks aimed at building a new Uzbekistan. In particular, the Senate has been particularly active in ensuring women's rights and protecting women and children from violence. The parliament's influence in the international arena is also growing significantly. Over the past period, the number of interparliamentary friendship groups with foreign countries has increased from 26 to 73. The Senate has hosted major international events such as the Asian Women's Forum and the Interparliamentary Forum of Central Asian States. The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, i.e. the anniversary conference, to be held in our capital next year is also worthy of special attention.

The elections held in our country have also ushered in a new era in the activities of local councils. The newly elected local councils are completely different from the previous situation in terms of their composition and status. This is evidenced by the fact that their composition has been renewed by almost 60%, and more than 3 thousand of our compatriots have become deputies for the first time.

At the first meeting of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis after the parliamentary elections, it is possible to see that a new approach to the activities of the Senate has been significantly implemented and renewed. The most encouraging thing is that the share of female deputies in the councils has reached 32%, and the number of deputies under the age of 30 has increased 3.5 times, which now plays an important role in organizing the activities of the Senate based on a



new approach and vision.

One in three senators has a scientific degree. The fact that almost 27 percent, or 16, are women plays an important role in strengthening legislative activity and parliamentary oversight on family, motherhood and childhood, women's rights, and social issues in general. [5]

Currently, thanks to democratic reforms, Uzbekistan's position in international rankings is improving. Our country's rating has risen by 8 places in the rule of law, 18 in e-government, 49 in economic freedom, and 10 in logistics and innovation.

The President emphasized that every proposal put forward by the parties during the election campaign and supported by our people will certainly be considered and implemented.

The proposals of the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businessmen - the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan on strengthening the inviolability of private property and improving the business environment were supported.

The Democratic Party of "National Revival" agreed with the proposals of the Democratic Party of "Milliy Tiklanish" on recruiting teachers in schools on a competitive basis, educating our children in the spirit of our national values, and creating wider conditions for teaching them their native language and foreign languages.

The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan supported the initiatives to further improve conditions for persons with disabilities and further strengthen the guaranteed rights of our population to retire.

The position of the Social Democratic Party "Adolat" on prohibiting the privatization of recreation parks, parks, and squares was approved, as well as the aspirations of the party to strengthen control over medicines, prevent artificial price increases, and reduce the list of over-the-counter medicines.

The proposals of the Ecological Party on the creation of green parks on the territory of state bodies and enterprises, and the adoption of a program to improve environmental culture were supported.

For the first time in our history, a citizen with disabilities was elected as a deputy of the Legislative Chamber. It was recognized that this was another important step towards transforming our parliament into an inclusive body in the true sense of the word and further expressing the interests of this group. As the President noted, this will be the case if parliamentary committees pay attention to close cooperation with ministries when working with them. This also indicates that democratic manifestations in our country have reached a new level. If healthy competition in elections and the struggle of opposing opinions move to parliament, this will certainly serve the development of laws in line with the interests of the people.

In the new era, the parliament should become a true people's house, and its lower house should become a generator of ideas, a field of healthy competition, debate and discussion.

New Uzbekistan, which is entering a decisive stage of its development with its new parliament, demands that it cannot work in the old way, with yesterday's demands and criteria.

At the first session of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis in the new composition, the Head of our state expressed his wish to the newly elected deputies to make a worthy contribution to building the foundation of New Uzbekistan and the Third Renaissance, to adopt popular and fair laws and set an example for everyone. Today, the foundation for a new awakening - the Third Renaissance - is being created in Uzbekistan. This is the highest level of building a new



democratic state.

Because in New Uzbekistan, pleasing the people is the top priority of all leaders, and gaining the trust and love of the people is the highest happiness for a person. However, building a new state should become the work of all of us, not just the leaders. To achieve this great goal, we all need to work together. As our President said, "If we work as one, we will definitely build New Uzbekistan," creating the foundations of the Third Renaissance, we will achieve national progress, and we will be able to build a harmonious and prosperous society!

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