

**THE ROLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES (MAHALLAS)  
IN THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UZBEKISTAN**

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**Abstract.** The article analyzes the role of the state in the formation and improvement of the activities of self-government bodies "mahalla". Their role in the social protection of low-income segments of the population, in supporting pensioners, war veterans, women and youth, in increasing the political activity of the population is highlighted. Introduction of interaction of mahallas with business structures, with school, public organizations. Strengthening the role of the Mahalla in the implementation of large-scale reforms to combat poverty through the implementation of the programs "Iron Notebooks", "Women's Notebooks", "Youth Notebooks".

**Keywords:** mahalla, local self-government, social protection, mahalla enterprise, aksakal, "Prosperous mahalla", "Iron notebooks", "Women's notebooks", "Youth notebooks".

**Introduction.**

Since the second half of the 20th century in developed democratic countries, as a result of the decentralization of state administration, self-government bodies have become one of the main institutions of society. The concept of "local self-government" (in the West it is understood as "municipal") reflects the representation of the population in certain administrative-territorial units. Western social scientists have also developed theoretical aspects of the concepts inherent in local self-government, according to which "local government" refers to all levels following the state government, and "local khokimiyat" refers to organizations that express the interests of their voters through an elected council and its executive bodies. And "local self-government" means the regulation and management of most of the problems of the public on the basis of the interests of the local population of democratic autonomous units, located at the lower level of the national government [1].

This paradox between radical democratization and national integrity is also experienced in Uzbekistan, as in other post-Soviet countries. Uzbekistan is one of the leading countries in the region, which is sincerely committed to the ideals of building

a democratic state and society, where separation of powers of power structures, the rule of law, social protection of citizens and their participation in important government decisions are ensured. In this sense, the Government of Uzbekistan perceives civil society initiatives as key components of these goals. In matters of ensuring social protection, the state not only did not relieve itself of responsibility, but also delegated some functions to various public organizations, including self-government bodies of citizens – mahallas.

### **Analysis and results.**

In Uzbekistan, in 1992, the President of the country signed a number of important decrees “On the establishment of the Mahalla Charitable Foundation” and “On the allocation of public funds to support the Mahalla Charitable Foundation” [2]. The Mahalla Foundation was established in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 12, 1992 in order to provide support to socially vulnerable segments of the population, protect low-income families, youth and women, maintain a wide promotion of historically established national and spiritual values, popularize the best folk customs and traditions, expansion of cultural and educational work among the population [3]. The authority of the mahalla was enhanced by the definition of its status in Article 105 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the consistent strengthening of the legal foundation for its development and systemic state support.

Of particular importance for the creation of self-government bodies was the law "On civil self-government bodies", adopted in September 1993 at the XII session of the Supreme Council. The law noted that the self-government of citizens is guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an independent activity of citizens in resolving issues of local importance, based on their interests, historical features of development, as well as national and spiritual values, local customs and traditions. An important component in the activities of self-government bodies - makhalla, the tasks of educating the younger generation were determined, work with difficult teenagers was established, and assistance was provided to young people in choosing a future profession.

Since 1998, Presidential Decree No. UP-1990 has deeply analyzed the activities of citizens' self-government bodies and taken measures to provide them with practical assistance. The key document aimed at the economic cooperation of the mahalla with medium and small enterprises, microfirms, individual entrepreneurs was the adoption in 1999 of the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers. The Decree on economic interaction and cooperation "Enterprise-mahalla" provided for the

development of industrial and commercial cooperation between citizens' self-government bodies and between enterprises and business entities.

In 2010, at joint meetings of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, on the initiative of the head of state, amendments and additions were initiated to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the election of the chairman (aksakal) of the gathering of citizens and his advisers", providing for measures to further improve the system of electing chairmen of self-government bodies citizens, guaranteeing the election of the most deserving citizens by aksakals and their advisers, increasing the importance and role of the mahalla in ensuring the public activity of citizens [4].

The adoption in 2004 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Election of the Chairman (Aksakal) of the Assembly of Citizens and His Advisors" was of great importance in enhancing the role of the mahalla in the system of public and state building, solving specific problems of socio-economic development on the ground. The introduction of amendments and additions to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On self-government bodies of citizens" in 2003-2008 provided for the formation of conciliation commissions, public formations "Mahalla posboni" under self-government bodies of citizens, the introduction of the position of consultants on religious education and spiritual and moral education, and others measures [5].

Cardinal changes in the sphere of regulation of the activities of self-government bodies have been outlined since the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-4944 dated February 3, 2017. The decree provided for the strengthening of the material and technical base of mahalla committees, their unification into associations representing the interests of citizens' gatherings. For enterprising citizens and representatives of public structures who have made a worthy contribution to the implementation of the tasks of citizens' self-government bodies, the mahalla iftikhori badge was established. Until December 1, 2018, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions of the republic, it was planned to build separate complexes "Mahalla Center"[6].

In August 2017, a unified interdepartmental electronic system was introduced to ensure the connection of ministries, departments, executive authorities to the Unified interdepartmental electronic system of performing discipline "Ijro.gov.uz" and the portal "Jamoatfikri.uz" was introduced. As part of the activities of the Single portal of interactive public services, a mechanism for public control over the execution of acts of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan by the population, senators, deputies, business entities and non-state commercial organizations was created[7]. Studying the possibilities of each family, involving them in entrepreneurial activities, providing individual targeted assistance to various

categories of the population formed the basis for the activities, first of all, of self-government bodies.

An in-depth analysis of the state of individual areas with outdated socio-economic infrastructures contributed to the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. UP-5467 "On the Obod Mahalla Program (Prosperous Mahalla). In accordance with the State Program for the improvement of mahallas, lists of building structures were determined that were to be built in each mahalla, including "mahalla guzars", necessary household and social service points, playgrounds, recreation parks, handicraft centers and business zones[8]. Based on the specifics of these areas, from the opportunities and initiatives of entrepreneurial structures, it was planned to form "tourist neighborhoods", "tourist villages".

In the context of the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in Uzbekistan, a powerful mechanism for social support of the population was developed through the creation of a transparent record of citizens "Iron Notebooks", which included families in seven categories of the population who were left without work and in need of social protection. For social support of women under 30 years old, a temporary order of the system solution "Women's Notebooks" was introduced from 2020, "Youth Notebooks" were formed to provide social support for the younger generation. A "Social Register" has been introduced, containing information about needy families included in the "iron notebooks" and allowing the provision of more than 30 types of social services in electronic form.

More than a thousand vocational training centers have been created across the republic in all mahallas, and for this 100 billion soums have been attracted at the rate of up to 1 million soums for each student. For persons who have completed training, subsidies of up to 7 million soums have been allocated to start their own business. Mahalla committees were entrusted with the obligation of house-to-house visits to families in order to attract the population to entrepreneurial activities, and families wishing to engage in agriculture began to be allocated from 10 acres to 1 hectare of land for farming [9].

In the reports of state control over the activities of self-government bodies, there is a significant increase in the public activity of the population, its political and civil self-awareness, broad support by citizens for progressive advancement along the path of deepening reforms and modernizing state power. In the context of the implementation of the Action Strategy program, the role and importance of citizens' self-government bodies in the implementation of state programs in the field of targeted social support for the population, the development of private entrepreneurship and family businesses, as well as ensuring effective public control over the activities of public authorities.

### **Conclusion.**

Thus, the creation in Uzbekistan during the years of independence of strong institutions - governmental, non-governmental, public funds, self-government bodies played a central role in expanding the welfare of the country's population. An important role in the growth of social equality was played by raising the status of the mahalla, which takes an active part in solving various social problems of citizens living on its territory, protecting the social interests of the elderly, veterans, orphans, internationalist soldiers, low-income and large families. Imposing responsibility on the mahalla to carry out activities on its territory to support an ecologically clean zone through "hashar", attracting the population to the improvement of a certain area, explanatory and educational work on environmental protection serves as an important source of protection for the flora and fauna of the region. Raising the status of the mahalla served as the main source of increasing the activity of citizens in the preparation and conduct of national referendums, elections of people's assessors, in the elections of the President of the Republic, the participation of the people in the discussion of Laws, as well as the Constitution of the Republic.

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