



IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LOCAL COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BODIES IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS

Bekchanov Davron Masharipovich

Associate Professor of the Academy of
Public Administration under the President
of the Republic of Uzbekistan, PhD in Law
davronmb@gmail.com

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 11 th February 2024 Accepted: 20 th March 2024	<i>This article reveals organizational and legal problems in the interaction of local representation and executive bodies in the economic development of regions, and provides suggestions on the relevant legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the improvement of the activities of local state authorities.</i>
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The relationship between local representation and local executive bodies plays an important role in the development of regions and directly affects the effectiveness of local governance. Local representative bodies are elected by the residents of the region and adopt normative legal documents on a number of issues based on their interests. Also, this body exercises control over local executive authorities.

Local executive bodies are tasked with implementing decisions made by representative bodies. They carry out the day-to-day operations of local government, manage public services and are often represent the local government. The effectiveness of local executive bodies largely depends on their ability to mobilize resources for the economic development of regions through cooperation with representative bodies.

The economic development power of local government relates to the authority and autonomy which is granted to the local administration bodies by central government. These might be like control, adoption of regulations, initiation and implementation of development projects. If we see the experience of the foreign countries' globalization triggered to the development of regional economies by specializing in certain areas of competitive advantage¹. Advancements in information technology have helped to enhance this trend, promoting flatter and more flexible organizations². We can see that local government

should have to have wide authority in regional economic development.

There are number of tools which enhance the regional economic development by the local governments, but according to the ideas of Sammis White: "all (economic development) tools work some of the time, none of the tools work all of the time, and a few tools can be said to work only under special circumstances."³ That's why which tool to use in certain period should be determined by the local governments by considering the interests of the local people.

In recent years, not only developing but also developed countries have been taking appropriate measures to improve the regional economic development system and strengthen the activities of local representative bodies. This makes it possible for the local economy to adapt to the changes taking place in the economic space of the country and the world at a faster pace and with less losses. For this reason, fundamental improvement of the local management system is one of the important tasks in the economic development of regions.

Establishing close and constructive relations between local representative and executive bodies is important for the following reasons:

- ***Local policy implementation:*** Effective collaboration ensures that decisions made by representative bodies are effectively implemented by the executive, leading to

¹ John Newhouse, "Europe's rising regionalism", Foreign Affairs, 76, January-February 1997, 67-84

² Timothy J. Conlan "Federalism and policy instability: Centralization and decentralization in contemporary American federalism". *Revue française de science politique*

(English Edition) , 2014, Vol. 64, No. 2, The American State (2014), pp. 27-48

³ Sammis B. White, Richard D. Bingham, and Edward W. Hill, *Financing Economic Development in the 21st Century* (Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2003).



more effective governance and better outcomes for society.

• Accountability and transparency: Establishing a constructive relationship between local representative and executive bodies ensures accountability and transparency, which guarantees that these representative bodies control the activities of executive bodies and ensure that they are in line with the interests of the local population.

• Distribution of resources: In the development of programs aimed at the development of the region, the cooperation of local representatives and executive bodies is required in the proper distribution of available resources in the region. This, in turn, ensures efficient use of resources in the interest of the people of the region.

• Resolving disagreements and disputes: when disputes arise between different stakeholders regarding the economic development of regions, constructive relations between local representatives and executive bodies, increases the possibility of timely resolution of various disputes which guaranties the stability of local administration.

In recent years, a number of reforms have been carried out to fundamentally improve the system of local state administration in Uzbekistan, and in revised version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Chapter XXI which is entitled "Fundamentals of local state power"⁴, it was established that local representative and executive bodies shall operate separately. At the same time, it was forbidden for the governor of the region to be the head of the representative and executive body. Also, it was determined that the implementation of this norm of the Constitution will be carried out in 2024 at the level of Tashkent city and provinces, and from 2026 in cities and rayons.

In accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2024 No. PF-28 "On measures to increase the efficiency of the activities of local state authorities", local representative bodies were given a number of powers and tasks for further improvement of their activities.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the current state of relations between local representation and executive bodies in the economic development of regions in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the reforms implemented in this regard and the problems that may arise as a result of them, and to develop scientifically based proposals for improving this system.

At the present, when Uzbekistan is progressively integrating into the international community, it is important to solve many socio-economic issues locally and local governments should have an opportunity to develop and implement innovative approach and ideas for the economic development of the regions.

Currently, the activity of local governments in Uzbekistan is in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Local State Authority"⁵, the mayors are the heads of representative and executive bodies at the same time. Moreover, all deputies of the representative body, except the head of the Council's secretariat, work on volunteer basis.

Permanent and temporary commissions and party groups of deputies are main part in the structure of local councils. Permanent commissions mainly work in the areas of their own direction, while party groups work based on the interests of their electorates, that is, they study their problems and introduce issues to the Council session regarding their solution, and control the activities of executive bodies in the region.

In accordance with the decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Approving the Model Regulation of People's Deputies of the Regional, District, City Council and the Model Regulation of the Standing Committees of the People's Deputies of the Region, District, City Council", responsible permanent commission for the issues of economic development of the region is "On issues of local budget, implementation of economic reforms, investments and entrepreneurship development"⁶.

In the economic development of the regions, the interaction between the local Council and the executive bodies (Fig. 1) is carried out in the following two directions: through the responsible permanent commission and political party groups of deputies.

Local council

⁴ National database of legislative information, 06.02.2024, No. 06/24/28/0099

⁵ Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Local State Authority"

⁶ Decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Approval of the Model Regulation of the

Regional, District, City Council of People's Deputies and the Model Regulation of the Standing Committees of the Regional, District, City Council of People's Deputies".

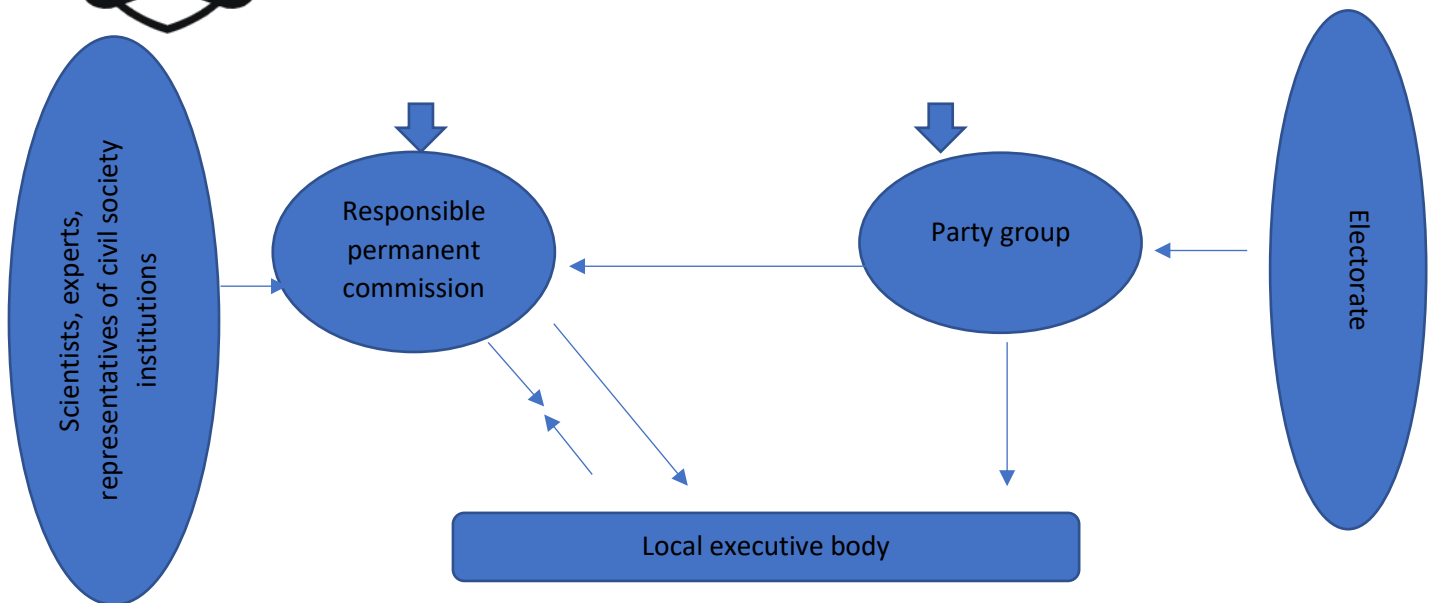


Figure 1. Interaction between the local Council and the executive bodies

The responsible permanent commission, in the case of regional economic development the permanent commission "On issues of local budget, implementation of economic reforms, investments and entrepreneurship development" can carry out the following activities regarding the economic development of regions: 1) participates in the development of the long-term economic development strategy of the region and its implementation ; 2) conducting the research on economic problems of the region; 3) development of draft decisions on the solution of existing problems in the region and submission to plenary session of the council; 4) control over the issues related to regional economic development; 5) giving directions on issues related to the development of the regional economy.

The permanent commission can widely involve experts in the related field, scientists and representatives of civil society institutions in the implementation of its activities. The relevant permanent commission will ensure the correct and effective use of this opportunity, the introduction of new ideas and initiatives in the economic development of the regions.

Political party groups of deputies: 1) advocate the interest the interests of the party electorate in the development and implementation of the long-term economic development strategy of the region; 2) study of economic problems in the region from the point of view of the party program; 3) develop draft decisions based on the party program on the solution of existing problems in the region and submit them to the session for discussion; 4) control over issues related to regional economic development; 5) giving directions to relevant executive bodies on issues related to the development of the regional economy.

As can be seen from the above, there are a number of problems in effective use of local representative bodies despite the fact that the current legislation has given a number of powers to local representative bodies regarding the economic development of regions. These are, 1) weak participation of relevant permanent commissions in researching the problems and opportunities of economic development of the regions; 2) low participation of deputies and the general public in the process of development of regional economic development programs; 3) highly qualified specialists are not involved in the development and implementation of regional economic development programs; 4) new innovative ideas and initiatives related to the economic development of the regions are not sufficiently developed; 5) the participation of the relevant standing commissions of the local Councils in the implementation and control of the adopted programs is weak.

In order to eliminate the above existing issues, the following is proposed:

First, it is necessary to organize the work of permanent commissions of local councils on a permanent basis. Along with the deputies, it is necessary to employ a highly qualified specialist who has the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of economic development of the regions. Deputies are usually representatives of different sectors and may not have deep knowledge of regional development issues. An expert who is engaged on a regular basis will have the opportunity to study the problems of the region in constant contact with the deputies and develop specific proposals based on their solution. This will create an opportunity to solve the economic problems of the



region at the level of the local council, and the local executive bodies will focus on the implementation and it increases the efficiency of their activities.

Second, to establish a fund "Regional Economic Development Research" under the local councils and allocate 5% of the collected tax revenue to it at the beginning. And then include the financing of this fund in the local budget parameter. At least once a year, this fund will finance the engagement of highly qualified experts working in various fields, including representatives of academia, non-governmental, noncommercial organizations, entrepreneurs, legal experts to research the existing economic problems in the region and develop concrete proposals for their solution (normative act), as well as to monitor the implementation of decisions and programs in this regard. This will create a basis for the improvement of the quality of programs and decisions regarding the economic development of the region and the introduction of new innovative ideas and approaches to the region.

Third, to create a system of effective control over the activities of the relevant local state bodies over the implementation of regional economic development programs and decisions adopted by the local council, the permanent committee responsible for the economic development of the regions. In this case, the responsible permanent commission should be obliged to study the activities of relevant local government bodies on programs and decisions once a month, and to publish their conclusions in mass media and in social networks.

Fourth, under the district and city branches of the political parties, the "Regional Economic Development Group" consisting of representatives of the electorate and civil society institutions should be formed, and the members of the group should have to meet at least once a quarter, discuss the issues of economic development of the region, and give suggestions and initiatives to the deputy groups in the Council. The implementation of this practice ensures the opportunity for political parties in the decisions and programs adopted by the Council, as well as the opportunity to reflect the interests of their electorate, and at the same time, it creates the basis for increasing the participation of political parties in the management of the territory.

Increasing the role of local representative bodies and establishing constructive relations with relevant executive bodies is one of the important factors in the economic development of regions. Therefore, the implementation of the proposals presented in the article will ensure the creation of an effective structure that is

engaged in the continuous development of the economy of the region. This, in turn, will help solve many economic problems in the regions, create an environment of healthy economic competition between the regions, and increase the living standard of population.

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