



CREATING HARMONIOUSLY DEVELOPED INDIVIDUALS: THE FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE OF NEW UZBEKISTAN

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| Received: 20 th February 2025 Accepted: 14 th March 2025 | The development of a harmoniously developed generation remains a key priority of the country's leadership. Uzbekistan's ambitious and determined young people are witnessing tangible results of large-scale reforms aimed at their empowerment. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized that youth are the backbone of achieving high national goals and building a new Uzbekistan. |

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In a recent video conference with youth representatives, the President discussed measures to further expand opportunities for young citizens. Uzbekistan possesses enormous potential, with its ambitious, independent, and responsible youth playing a crucial role in shaping the country's future. Numerous state programs and projects support the development of young people, unlocking their potential and fostering their diverse growth.

Comprehensive reforms have been carried out in the country. A completely new system of youth engagement is in place—youth leaders now operate at the grassroots level in mahallas. Billions of sums are allocated to addressing social issues, supporting entrepreneurship, and launching new business projects. The Youth Balance program has been introduced, mobilizing resources and leveraging global experience to improve education quality at all levels. Significant investments are directed toward the development of both mass and professional sports among youth.

The entire national agenda is oriented toward the younger generation, whom President Mirziyoyev calls the "golden fund of the country" and the creators of the Third Renaissance. He asks: "What other conditions and opportunities should be created to ensure the full and harmonious development of the young generation, on whom our future depends?"

At the beginning of his speech, the head of state expressed sincere joy at meeting with energetic and

goal-oriented youth, emphasizing: "In you, I see the present and future creators of a new Uzbekistan." The great Uzbek poet Abdulla Aripov once said, "Youth is the golden string of the heart." To which the President added: "Youth is the golden fund of our nation and homeland." The fact that 60% of the population consists of young people reinforces this statement.

"Today, we set ambitious goals and raise high standards because we believe in our courageous and resilient people, in our energetic youth. Where will the new Abu Rayhan Beruni, Ibn Sina, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Alisher Navoi come from, who will lay the foundation for the Third Renaissance? Who will accomplish these grand tasks? I will never tire of repeating: it is you, the youth of the new Uzbekistan, who will implement these noble ideas!" said the President.

The achievements of young people in various fields serve as an example for their peers. Today, more than 1,500 Uzbek students' study at the world's leading universities—an unprecedented phenomenon in the country's history. Recently, at a major forum in the UAE, the Presidential School in Tashkent was recognized as a winner in one of the most prestigious global nominations.

"If you ask what the main reason for this success is, I would first answer: the state's approach to youth has changed fundamentally," said President Mirziyoyev. "Our young men and women understand that youth



policy has become a priority area of state policy, and this gives them incredible strength.”

Five years ago, the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis established a Youth Parliament, where young people gained practical experience in political leadership, democracy, and parliamentarism. As a result, in the last elections, two young representatives were elected to the Legislative Chamber.

“All leaders are now obliged to hear the voice of youth. Those who fail to understand that youth are the key element of our great future have no right to be among us,” stated the head of state.

Every year, over 600,000 young people enter Uzbekistan’s labor market. By 2030, this figure will reach 1 million. This places great responsibility on both the state and society. In response, the “Youth Notebook” support system has been introduced. In 2024, assistance totaling 345 billion sums was provided to 180,000 young people.

Over the past eight years, the number of young entrepreneurs has tripled. Today, nearly 40% of business representatives are young people. Youth unemployment has decreased by half, and the number of mahallas free from unemployment has reached 1,889. However, high unemployment rates in districts such as Shurchi, Buvayda, Furkat, Kazbek, and Varash highlight the lack of responsibility among local leaders. Previously, at least ten applicants competed for one university spot in Uzbekistan. However, as the President noted, the number of universities has tripled in a short time, and the higher education enrollment rate has reached 42%.

Thanks to state-funded tuition support, the number of female students has increased elevenfold. “I will never tire of repeating one important thought: if we educate one girl, we educate an entire family. If a family is educated and enlightened, the entire society becomes educated and enlightened. We will continue to actively promote this initiative,” said the President.

Another significant achievement is that in the past 25 years, 800 students were sent abroad for education at state expense, whereas in the last seven years alone, three times as many were supported through the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation.

Now, the Agency for Youth Affairs will share responsibility with the Agency for Civil Service Development for every student studying abroad—from identifying their needs to ensuring their successful return, employment, and career growth.

The number of young people with academic degrees has doubled, reaching 4,357. Interest in foreign

language studies has grown significantly, with 1,600 points on the SAT being a remarkable example.

The idea of a “reading nation” has transformed into a nationwide movement to foster a culture of reading among youth. The number of participants in the traditional “Yosh Kitobxon” (“Young Reader”) contest has increased sixfold to 3 million, with over 1 million young people embracing reading as a habit.

In an era of rapid information exchange, the creation of national content for young audiences, especially children, is a pressing task. It has been emphasized that such content should be actively promoted in kindergartens and schools. To further this goal, the President announced three major initiatives to usher in a new era of youth entrepreneurship.

As Uzbekistan enters a new historical phase of development, youth remain at the center of its progress. The state’s continuous dialogue with young people ensures their engagement in building a prosperous and modern Uzbekistan. As President Mirziyoyev stated, “No matter what reforms we implement, the happiness and future of our youth will always come first.”

Uzbekistan’s future depends on its youth—bold, innovative, and determined to lead the nation into a new era of success and prosperity.

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