

Comparative Legal Analysis of Reforms Conducted for the Development of the Information Sector in the New Uzbekistan

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Abstract

In this scientific article, the comparative legal analysis of the reforms carried out in the direction of the development of the information sector during the period of President Sh.M.Mirziyoev's power was scientifically analyzed from the legal point of view. It must be recognized that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has led a great deal in the development of the information sector, and this process continues today. Many regulatory legal documents have been adopted in the field of regulation of the process of information exchange. Organizations whose task is to develop the industry have started to operate. These aspects are covered in the article. The adopted documents, as well as the significance of the organizations that have started to operate for the development of the industry, have been extensively analyzed from the point of view of legislation. This analysis and presented opinions serve to improve the legislative documents regulating the process of information exchange in our country.

Keywords: *Republic of Uzbekistan, President, Agency of Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, law, resolution, decree, information, mass media, press, Internet, website, news agency, agency, journalist.*

INTRODUCTION

The turning point of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of information corresponds to the era of President Sh.M. Mirziyoev. During this period, the representatives of the information sector began to breathe a little more freely. After all, the President paid close attention to the field and undertook the guarantees of its real mission.

In particular, the year 2017 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the "Strategy of actions on the five priority directions of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021", approved by Decree No. PO-4947 dated February 7 [1], issues related to strengthening

the role of civil society institutions and mass media and turning them into a real "fourth power" are defined.

In particular, in the improvement of the public administration system according to the priority areas of improvement of the state and community building system:

- strengthening the role of mass media;
- protection of professional activities of journalists.

In addition, efforts are being made to raise the legal culture and awareness of the population on the priorities of ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system, and in this regard, to organize effective cooperation of state structures with civil society institutions and mass media.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, congratulates the representatives of the field on June 27 on the occasion of the day of press and mass media workers and wishes them success in their work, results and future goals. In particular, it is worth noting that in the greeting of the President in 2018, he spoke about the attention paid to the press and mass media in our country, freedom of speech and the role of mass media in society.

In particular, our people know well and highly appreciate the selfless work of mass media and members of the press in order to establish democratic values in our society, to ensure the constitutional rights of our citizens in the field of information, to provide prompt and truthful information about the socio-political processes and events taking place in the world and in our country. - it was noted that with the efforts, talent and skills of thousands of noble professionals, mass media of our country are increasingly close to the life of our people, their joys and concerns, and play an extremely important role in shaping the new, democratic image of Uzbekistan.

The most important thing is that along with such quantitative changes in the development of the industry, there are also qualitative changes. It was noted that the confirmation of this can be clearly seen in the example of the expanding and effective functioning of the non-state mass media network, which is an important condition of civil society in our national media space, and the rapid development of Internet journalism.

It is worth noting that the President said, "Mass media should rise to the level of the fourth power, not in words, but in practice." This is the demand of the times, the demand of our reforms" [2], he expressed his opinion.

That is, it is assumed that, first of all, urgent issues such as increasing the efficiency of media networks, turning them into a reliable means of communication with the people, forming a modern information services market, and a healthy competitive environment should be in the center of our constant attention.

In this congratulation, it is mentioned that the Parliament is actively working on amendments and additions to the current legislation aimed at further democratization and development of the information sector.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the past short time, attention has been paid to the information sector at the level of the head of state, which naturally contributes greatly to the development of the sector. Especially noteworthy are the works carried out on the improvement of legislation in the field of information.

Based on the action strategy, extensive work has been carried out in the past years to ensure freedom of speech and information and media development in the republic.

In particular, amendments and additions were made to the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Mass Media" and "On Protection of Journalism" in order to further liberalize the activities of mass media and ensure the rights of journalists.

According to them, the media status of websites has been further strengthened, a system of state support for media has been created, the rules of professional ethics of journalists have been determined by associations of journalists and mass media (exemptions on taxes, other mandatory payments and tariffs, as well as state by providing preferences, subsidies and social support).

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2019 No. 5653 "On additional measures for the further development of the information sector and mass communications", the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the Press and Information Agency of Uzbekistan [3]. As a result, the coordinating body of mass media was removed from the Cabinet of Ministers and transferred to the Presidential Administration.

As one of the main tasks of this authorized body - to ensure the realization of the constitutional rights of citizens to freedom of speech and information, to strengthen the role of mass media in the socio-political and socio-economic development of the country, to create equal conditions for them in the media market, as well as to protect the rights of journalists. defined.

In addition, the following regulatory legal documents related to the field were adopted:

1) Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On protection of children from information harmful to their health" [4] (September 8, 2017);

The purpose of this Law is to regulate relations in the sphere of protection of children from information harmful to their health.

Also, with this Law, the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Agency) is designated as a specially authorized state body in the field of protecting children from information harmful to their health.

2) Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve the activities of information services of state and economic management bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [5] (No. 125, 15.02.2018);

This decision aims to further increase the informational openness of state and economic management bodies, to quickly convey to the public timely, objective and complete information about the goals, tasks, progress and results of large-scale reforms being implemented, the harmonious integration of the country into the global information society, as well as the state and economy adopted in order to fundamentally increase the effectiveness of the information services of management bodies.

In the decision, the main tasks of the information service, the certification of the managers and employees of the information services, and the Model Regulation "On the information service of state and economic management bodies" [6] were approved.

3) Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve information security in the global Internet network" [7] (No. 707, 05.09.2018);

This decision was adopted in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Informatization", as well as in order to further improve the system of ensuring information security in the global Internet network, to protect the interests of individuals, society and the state in the information field.

According to this decision, in accordance with Article 121 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Informatization", the use of the website and (or) websites and (or) pages may be restricted by a specially authorized body - the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, The Regulations on the procedure for restricting the use of Internet websites and (or) website pages containing information prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Regulations on the procedure for state control over compliance with special conditions for processing personal data of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been approved.

4) Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Personal Information" [8] (July 2, 2019);

The purpose of this Law is to regulate relations in the field of personal data.

Also, the "State Personalization Center" under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was designated as the competent state body in the field of personal information.

5) Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the organization of the activities of the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [9] (DP-4151, 02.02.2019);

"Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan" established in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2019 No. 5653 "On Additional Measures for the Further Development of the Information Sector and Mass Communications" organizational structure, the structure of the central apparatus of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the model structure of information and mass communications departments of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions and the city of Tashkent, the regulation "On the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "In 2019-2020, the information sphere of the Republic of Uzbekistan and "Further development of mass communications" program was approved.

According to the decision, the Agency is the authorized body that develops and implements the unified state policy in the field of information of the Republic of Uzbekistan and supports the development of mass media, press, publishing-printing and information-library activities.

6) Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to ensure independence of mass media and development of information services of state bodies and organizations" [10] (DP-4366, 27.06.2019);

This decision is aimed at creating the most favorable conditions for the activities of the mass media, establishing high-quality communication between the state and society, providing prompt, impartial and complete information to the population about the goals, tasks and results

of the reforms, the transparency of the activities of state and economic management bodies, and local government bodies, was adopted in order to increase, as well as to fundamentally improve their interaction with the public and the efficiency of information services.

7) "On additional measures to control the introduction of information technologies and communications and improve the system of their protection" [11] Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (DP-4452, 14.09.2019).

To ensure the implementation of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 21, 2018 "On measures to control the introduction of information technologies and communications, and to improve the system of their protection" [12] No. adopted in order to increase, ensure information and cyber security.

According to the decision, the updated structure of the central apparatus of the State Inspectorate for Control in the field of Information and Telecommunications of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has a total staff of 198 people, including 110 people in regional units, and the model structure of regional units was approved in accordance with Annexes 1 and 2.

8) "On measures to further improve the activities of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan" [13] Decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (DP-4541, 02.12.2019).

This decision was adopted in order to quickly and qualitatively deliver unbiased news about the original content and essence of the fundamental reforms implemented in Uzbekistan to all segments of the population and the world community, to develop the national information space, to further strengthen the position of the republic in the global information space, as well as to further develop the activities of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan. done

In the decision, the main tasks of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan, the establishment of a Media Center within the UzA and its duties are defined, and the total limited number of employees of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan is 155, including the structure of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan, which consists of 13 management employees, and the Karakalpakstan Information Agency of the National Information Agency of Uzbekistan. the total limited number of employees is 13, including the number of management employees is 2.

9) The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Licensing, Permitting and Notification Procedures" [14] and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Fundamentally Improve Licensing and Permitting Procedures" [15] dated August 24, 2020 PO-In accordance with Decree No. 6044, Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 86 of February 22, 2022 approved "Uniform regulation on the procedure for issuing certain documents with the nature of authorization through a special electronic system" [16].

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Licensing, Permitting and Notification Procedures", the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures to Ensure the Independence of the Mass Media and the Development of Information Services of State Bodies and Organizations" [17] dated June 27, 2019 It was adopted in accordance with the decision No. DP-4366 and in order to further improve the system of public services in the field of mass information and communications.

With this decision, the model charter of public service on state registration of mass media was approved.

10) Resolution [18] of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Additions to Resolution No. 707 of September 5, 2018, "On Measures to Further Improve Information Security on the Global Internet" (No. 807, 23.12.2020)

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Informatization", it was adopted in order to further improve the measures of public information monitoring in the Internet world information network, to protect the interests of individuals, society and the state in the information field.

With this decision, amendments have been made to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers "On measures to further improve information security on the global Internet" dated September 5, 2018 No. 707, according to which, information prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan from being distributed on the website and (or) website page if it is detected in the text of comments left by users of this website, as well as in social networks or messengers, on the side of the Center for Mass Communication Issues of the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Also, the procedure for sending a notice to the owner of the website, website and (or) messenger page, as well as to the blogger on the removal of information prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In addition, the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan has launched a call center with a short number (1213) in order to provide timely answers to problematic questions that may arise in the field in our country.

- Licensing of certain types of mass media, private publishing houses and printing services;
- counterfeit stationery products, books or publications;
- issues related to the activities of mass media, information services, television and radio companies;
- free access to information, journalistic activities and other issues.

CONCLUSION

As can be seen from the above, several laws and regulations have been adopted in the field of information in the last few years. All these documents are aimed at the development of the information sector and its improvement. In particular, a modern mechanism for the protection of the rights of the mass media has been created by establishing "dialogue platforms" and other collegial bodies, including mass media and bloggers, under the Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main purpose of this mechanism is to identify cases of interference with journalistic activities, to analyze and fix each case in depth, to submit the cases to the Information and Mass Communications Agency for primary investigation and submission to relevant state agencies.

In a short period of time, more than 30 issues related to journalistic activities and bloggers were resolved through "dialogue platforms".

In conclusion, in the last five years, as a result of the adoption of effective regulatory legal documents and extensive reforms in the field, the number of mass media has increased dramatically.

In particular, according to statistical data, in 1991, there were 343 newspapers, 50 magazines, 1 television station, 1 news agency in the territory of the republic, and a total of 395 mass media operated (officially, the Internet edition was not registered as a mass media) [19].

In 2016, 691 newspapers, 309 magazines, 15 newsletters, 4 news agencies, 65 television stations, 35 radio stations, 395 internet publications (websites) operated, and a total of 1514 mass media operated. [20].

By 2018, this figure reached 1,636 in total. In addition to print publications, TV and radio channels, 480 websites registered as a new media type are also operating [21].

In 2022, 626 newspapers, 539 magazines, 18 newsletters, 79 television stations, 37 radio stations, 5 news agencies, and 677 Internet publications (websites) are operating, and the total number of mass media is 1,981. is organizing. The number of mass media is increasing mainly due to internet publications. Speaking about this, it should be noted that a modern internet platform and its mobile application have been established to integrate television and the Internet, and the number of internet publications in our national information space has almost doubled in the last 6 years, reaching 677 [22].

The increase in the number of mass media also leads to an increase in its quality. An increase in the number of information distributors is seen as an achievement for information consumers. After all, readers will have a wider opportunity to choose the information distributor they like from the existing information market.

Remarkable work has been done in recent years in the direction of democratization and support of the information sector, organization and comprehensive development of information services, ensuring the openness of the activities of state bodies and organizations, and effective implementation of public control.

Today, the Internet and social networks have become the main source of information in the world. The information sector of Uzbekistan cannot be imagined without it. In such a situation, various negative information regarding the events and incidents happening in our country are observed in mass media and Internet resources. The main reason for this was the fact that state bodies and administrations could not properly convey to our people the work they are doing in their areas, lack of information about industries and sectors, and improper cooperation with mass media.

In order to solve such problems, on the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoev, large-scale reforms are being implemented in our country aimed at ensuring the openness of the activities of state authorities and management bodies, developing the activities of the mass media, and increasing the freedom of speech and information.

For this purpose, on June 27, 2019, the decision DP-4366 [23] "On additional measures to ensure the independence of the mass media and develop the activities of information services of state bodies and organizations" was adopted.

On the basis of this document, for the first time, information services were organized in district and city governments. This, in turn, makes it possible to study the problem on the spot, express a quick response, and widely cover the results of the reforms being implemented.

In the past period, the necessary conditions were created for the operation of the information service in many state bodies and organizations, local governments. This type of activity has proven how important it is to ensure openness and transparency in our society. This was not

achieved by itself, of course. Systematic work was carried out to ensure the execution of the decision.

Analytically, it can be seen that the share of information services in the composition of media products in the daily information flow has increased significantly. The fact that the sources of information distribution of information services are 559 in 2019, 1,487 in 2020, and about 3,000 in September 2021 confirms the opinion once again.

Until today, almost all state bodies and organizations, representatives of local governments have achieved satisfactory results regarding the launch of telegram and other channels as official blogs in addition to the organization's official channel on social networks. Today, in addition to local, district and city governments, the heads of information services of about 160 state organizations and agencies have their own pages on official telegram channels and other social networks.

In the above mentioned decision of the President, as one of the main tasks of information services, monitoring and analysis of the information space, prompt response to critical and widely discussed information attacks are included.

Another important indicator of the effectiveness of the head of the information service is his regular delivery of news and information about the organization to citizens through his information sources. According to the presidential decree, information should be posted at least once a day on the websites, social networks, and mobile messenger channels of state bodies and organizations.

In conclusion, it should be noted that during the last 5-6 years under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, great attention was paid to the information sector, and serious changes in the development of the sector took place. Presidential decisions, decrees and other important documents for the development of the field were adopted. Serious steps have been taken by the president to ensure that the country's population has access to information on the activities of each organization. In particular, the head of state congratulates the representatives of the field on June 27 on the occasion of the day of press and mass media workers, and future plans are defined in the form of an annual report, focusing on the achievements and shortcomings in the field. In addition, the establishment of the "Information and Mass Communications Agency under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan" is of great importance for the development of the sector. After all, this Agency today covers all aspects of the information sector in our country and is considered to have such great power that it determines its future. Also in this direction it is important to study the best foreign experience and to accelerate the research work in this direction and the improvement of the legislation in Uzbekistan.

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