



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

B A C K G R O U N D E R

MEC's Latest Six-Month Report Reveals Limited Progress in the Fight Against Corruption

MEC released its six-month report in September 2014, its sixth such report since its creation

- MEC was established to independently monitor national and international efforts to fight corruption in Afghanistan. Its governing Committee includes three national and three international senior anti-corruption experts.
- MEC issues a report every six months to inform the public, the Afghan government, and international community on the status of anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan. The current six-month report covers the period from January to June 2014 and provides an update on MEC's activities during that period.

During the reporting period, MEC has identified numerous concrete actions that would help to stem the tide of corruption

- MEC issued recommendations to address the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency's ambiguous legal status and lack of accountability.
- Late last year, MEC released five reports examining vulnerabilities to corruption in various sectors of the Afghan government, the findings of which are summarized in this Six-month Report. As a consequence of these VCAs, MEC has discerned some improvements in certain areas, such as the pension process, but significantly less progress in others, including the implementation of reforms at the Ministry of Higher Education.
- MEC identified deficiencies within the Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and the Afghan Red Crescent Society and recommends increasing transparency and enhancing oversight at both institutions.
- MEC also issued recommendations to improve the hiring and training procedures at the Attorney General's Office.
- MEC suggested amendments to the new *Anti-Money Laundering Law* to transform it into an effective instrument against money laundering and corruption.

The report introduces MEC's recently developed Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Tool

- Since MEC was established, it has developed a large number of recommendations and benchmarks aimed at reducing corruption in Afghanistan.
- The new Anti-Corruption Framework and Tool provides a comprehensive inventory of concrete actions that the Afghan government and international community can take to fight corruption and is based on a consolidation of MEC's previous recommendations.



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- The Framework and Tool will be the standard that MEC will use to measure and report on anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan in the future.

MEC is planning to release its follow-up report on Kabul Bank

- August 2014 marked four years since the collapse of Kabul Bank and nearly two years since MEC released its first report on the Kabul Bank crisis.
- The follow-up report on Kabul Bank will set out the current status of financial recoveries, criminal proceedings, regulatory reforms, and the sale of the New Kabul Bank—none of which has progressed significantly.

Land usurpation remains a major problem

- In its upcoming Land Usurpation Public Inquiry Report, MEC will provide a detailed account of the surveying, registration, transfer, and distribution of land in Afghanistan and describe the formal and informal dispute-resolution procedures that attempt to settle disputes.
- Despite the importance of land usurpation in Afghanistan, there has not been a comprehensive effort to identify the steps required to ensure that land usurpation is eliminated and that violators are held responsible for their actions.
- The report will identify the challenges facing the Government of Afghanistan and provide practical recommendations to mitigate the risk of land usurpation in the future.

MEC's activities over the past six months have also included extensive consultations with key Afghan and international stakeholders and multiple trips to other provinces to assess anti-corruption efforts there

- MEC held two quarterly missions to Afghanistan during the reporting period. During these missions, the Committee met with representatives from the Afghan government and from various international institutions, conducted outreach sessions with civil society organizations, visited provinces, and approved new recommendations.
- MEC staffers also conducted consultations in several provinces, including Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, and Kapisa.

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