



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

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

**KABUL, Afghanistan, September 17, 2014** – MEC released its new six-month report today, identifying a number of areas for the Afghan government and international community to focus on in the ongoing fight against corruption.

This report marks the unveiling of MEC's innovative Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Tool, which provides Afghan and international stakeholders with specific measures they can take to mitigate the effects of corruption on Afghan society. Unprecedented in its scope and detail, the Framework and Tool provides detailed guidance and measurable benchmarks against which progress, or the lack thereof, can be assessed. The Framework and Tool will be the standard that MEC will use in the future to measure and report on Afghan and international anti-corruption efforts.

Among the other key findings included in this six-month report are a summary of MEC's second examination of the failure of the Kabul Bank and its continuing effects on the health of Afghanistan's financial sector, a review of the nationwide problem of land usurpation, and a report on allegations concerning the writing-off of the unpaid electricity bills of certain well-connected individuals and powerful institutions.

This report also summarizes MEC's recent Vulnerability to Corruption Assessments (VCAs), describing the progress that certain ministries have made in bringing their operations into conformity with MEC's recommendations. For example, MEC has discerned some improvements in the pension process at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and the Disabled. In other cases, however, ministries such as Higher Education failed to provide MEC with a timely progress report on their activities. During the Committee's most recent mission, they received updates on several ongoing VCAs that will be published in the coming months and approved MEC's first-ever in-depth assessment of corruption in the judicial sector.

MEC's Current Chairman, Mr. Yasin Osmani, stated:

The greatest challenge facing the government is corruption. Over the past six months, MEC has consistently called for improvements in the justice system, public-administration reform, and reform in regulatory agencies to promote transparency and accountability and to end the culture of impunity. Unfortunately, the most significant of MEC's recommendations have not been effectively implemented.

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