



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

NEWS RELEASE

**MEC Releases latest Six-Month Report Revealing Anti-corruption
Successes and Failures**

KABUL, Afghanistan, April 16, 2014 – MEC released its fifth six-month report, which identifies the best and worst performing organizations in the fight against corruption. The report provides MEC's latest evaluation of anti-corruption initiatives and highlights MEC's activities as the independent voice monitoring national and international anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan.

MEC conducted a detailed assessment of the implementation of all of its recommendations and benchmarks resulting in scores being assigned to implementing institutions based on their responsiveness. The ranking of institutions reveals that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MORR), and the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) are the worst performing institutions in the fight against corruption.

MEC's monitoring results continue to highlight serious concerns with the prosecution of corruption cases reflected by hundreds of corruption cases that have been reported to the Attorney General's Office by other government agencies without sufficient investigation or prosecution. Impunity is further illustrated in the high profile cases of Kabul Bank and the National Military Hospital, with criminal proceedings being unnecessarily delayed in the former and charges being dismissed in the latter.

Despite the overall lack of progress, there has been notable movement in implementing some of MEC's recommendations, including the establishment of CoST (Construction Sector Transparency Initiative) in Afghanistan which provides for multi-stakeholder monitoring and oversight of construction projects; the creation of an anti-corruption campaign to engage over 2,700 religious scholars; and the drafting of a new *Anti-Money Laundering Law*.

Mr. Drago Kos, MEC's current Chair, stated:

The results of all anti-corruption assessments carried during 2013 once more have shown that corruption still permeates all aspects of Afghan life. Over the past six months MEC has identified a number of measures to tackle corruption and calls on the relevant national and international institutions for effective implementation.

During the period covered by its report, MEC has enhanced awareness of corruption and anti-corruption efforts including several meetings with members of the National Assembly, four provincial missions and open letters calling for action. New recommendations have also been issued in relation to enhanced transparency in mining, election campaign financing, and governance and accountability within AISA.

MEC will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the anti-corruption efforts and give an independent perspective on a variety of other legislative and programmatic issues such as whistleblowing, government audit procedures and practices, land usurpation, a vulnerability to corruption assessment on the import of pharmaceuticals, and aid effectiveness.

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