



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

**National and international institutions have made some progress in implementing MEC's recommendations, but a lot more needs to be done to fight corruption**

**KABUL, Afghanistan, March 24, 2013** – The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) released its third six-month report for the period of July -December 2012. The report describes MEC's achievements over the past six months; and national and international institutions' success in implementing MEC's anti-corruption recommendations.

To date, MEC has issued 74 recommendations to advance anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan. Recommendations cover a variety of areas aimed at improving anti-corruption activities, including strengthening the justice sector's response to corruption, and enhancing accountability for development funds.

The report indicates that only 20% of MEC's recommendations have been fully implemented, while 22% have not been implemented at all. Although there has been progress in the other 58%, national and international institutions need to improve their performance in the fight against corruption.

Notable success has been registered in the area of mining where mining contracts have been published and legal experts retained to facilitate in the negotiation of future contracts. However, there continues to be a lack of progress in the prosecution of corruption and coordination of the government's anti-corruption efforts. Other areas of concern relate to the international community's reluctance to register development projects with the Ministry of Finance and the verification of tax exempted goods imported into the country under military agreements.

Drago Kos, MEC's Chair, stated:

I think that the main message from our report is that not enough is being done to fight corruption in this country. Our Committee has developed a substantial body of measures that both national and international institutions can implement to make a difference for Afghans. It is incumbent upon all organizations to prioritize our recommendations and to take appropriate action.

MEC's latest mission to Afghanistan took place from March 4 - 18<sup>th</sup>. During this mission the Committee finalized 36 new recommendations and benchmarks for the Afghan government and the international community.

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