



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

NEWS RELEASE

Responses to the Kabul Bank public inquiry and other recent developments jeopardize the recovery of stolen money and the potential for systemic change

Kabul, Afghanistan, March 17, 2013: The report on the public inquiry into the Kabul Bank crisis was released in November 2012 by the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC). The report had 48 recommendations directed to a number of government institutions and the international community aimed at resolving outstanding Kabul Bank issues; and correcting structural governance and justice sector deficiencies in Afghanistan.

The Afghan government and international community, including Da Afghanistan Bank and the Ministry of Finance, were asked to respond by March 12, 2013 regarding their intention to implement the report's recommendations. Unfortunately, many key institutions did not respond to the report.

The lack of response to key recommendations related to expanding criminal investigations, assistance from the international community in recovering stolen money, transparency in prosecutions, oversight of audit and accounting firms, political financing, and whistle-blower protection, calls into question the commitment to resolving outstanding issues related to Kabul Bank.

Of additional concern, is the recent judgment issued by the Special Tribunal on Kabul Bank. MEC had recommended that the Special Tribunal engage financial expertise to consider detailed evidence and scrutinize charges brought against some regulators, but neither appears to have happened. The lack of assistance and witnesses means that the Tribunal did not consider a large amount of primary evidence contributing to what appears to be an inappropriate judgment.

Drago Kos, the Chair of MEC, stated:

Kabul Bank represents much of what is wrong in Afghanistan and its fight against corruption. Key institutions of the government – including the Attorney General's Office - have been completely silent on their intentions to implement the recommendations. Given what we saw recently at the Kabul Bank Special Tribunal, this is not a good sign for recovering millions of dollars of stolen money, and for broader systemic change in Afghanistan.

MEC will continue to monitor the implementation its recommendations and will report to the public on progress to help ensure that all outstanding issues are resolved and that the money that was stolen from Afghans is returned.

**For more information please contact MEC at: +93(0)790 660 432 contact@mec.af
www.mec.af**