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EFFECTIVE AND RATIONAL USE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVE FUND

Saparov Ilyos Khudoymuratovich

Independent Researcher, National University of
Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

E-mail: isaparov@senat.uz

Abstract

This article examines the importance of the effective and rational use of the resources of the Citizens' Initiative Fund, ensuring transparency in the planning and allocation of funds, and strengthening public oversight of the selection and implementation of projects. It also sets out practical proposals aimed at improving the performance of budget funds.

Keywords: Citizens' Initiative Fund, initiative budgeting, local budget, budget funds, transparency, public oversight, efficiency, social infrastructure.

In recent years, particular attention has been paid in our country to ensuring the openness of budget processes and expanding citizens' participation in resolving issues of local importance.

Through the Citizens' Initiative Fund, residents are gaining the opportunity to raise pressing problems in their areas, support priority projects, and take part in their implementation. The effectiveness of this mechanism is determined not merely by the allocation of funds, but by whether the funds are spent for their intended purpose and deliver tangible results for the population.

The effective and rational use of the Fund's resources requires, first and foremost, that projects be selected on the basis of actual needs. In this process, the size of



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the population, the urgency of the problem, the social significance of the project, its feasibility, and its subsequent operating costs should be assessed comprehensively.

For example, initiatives such as repairing roads, improving educational and medical institutions, and developing drinking water supply or street lighting systems should be justified by a clearly defined problem and an expected outcome.

Thorough preliminary technical and legal examination of projects plays an important role in the rational spending of funds. Before a project is declared a winner, it is advisable to verify its cost estimate documentation, any land or property issues, the possibility of connecting to utility networks, and the implementation timeframe.

Such an approach reduces the risks of additional costs, delays, and the project proving impossible to implement once work is under way.

Public oversight is an important tool for ensuring the effective use of funds. Citizens should be involved not only at the voting stage; they should also monitor the quality of the project and compliance with the established deadlines while it is being implemented.

To this end, cooperation among mahalla activists, project initiators, civil society institutions, and the mass media can be strengthened. The system for reviewing complaints about identified shortcomings and informing the public of the outcomes should also function consistently.

Based on the analysis, a number of measures are proposed to improve the efficiency of the use of the Citizens' Initiative Fund's resources.

First, clear criteria that take into account social impact and the cost-to-result ratio should be applied when evaluating projects.



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Second, an implementation plan and performance indicators should be defined in advance for each project.

Third, technical supervision of procurement and of construction and repair works should be strengthened, and the volume of completed work should be reconciled with payment documents.

Fourth, it is advisable to publish open reports on the final results of projects and on any shortcomings identified.

In conclusion, the Citizens' Initiative Fund helps to resolve local problems with the participation of the population, ensure openness in budget management, and enhance the accountability of government bodies to the public.

However, the true effectiveness of the mechanism should be measured not by the amount of funds allocated or the number of winning projects, but by the quality of the work carried out, its long-term benefits, and the extent to which it meets the needs of the population.

Therefore, the principles of legality, transparency, accountability, and result-orientation must be strictly observed at every stage, from the planning of funds to the acceptance of completed projects.

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