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Challenges before Afghanistan’s anti-corruption Campaign

Corruption is an overwhelming issue in Afghanistan’s government machinery and has威尼斯 havoc on the country’s economy and undermined its international reputation. The crackdown of National Unity Government on corruption within the last two years failed to put an end to this syndrome. Like the United Nations International’s annual Corruption Perceptions Index, the rank of Afghanistan was 177th out of 180, trailing only Syria, South Sudan and Somalia. This indicates that Afghanistan made no progress in ending corruption within the last 17 years. There are several reasons behind the corruption lingering in the government. First, the warlords and corrupt political figure, who occupied high government posts following the collapse of the Taliban regime, violate the law with impunity. A number of MPs are purportedly involved in land grabbing, illegal mining and other such activities in the country and some are not truly representative of their constituents with critical kidnappings for ransom and other illegal activities. For example, in the Kabul Bank scandal, which is leading to the loss of 10 to 20% of the country’s liquidity include, cabinet ministers, MPs and warlords, were involved. Second, bribery prevails in the judicial system left destitute and intimidation continues unabated. That is the poor law enforcement could not eradicate the corruption. Third, the “corrupt networks” are involved not only in bribery, fraud extortion but also in cultivating and smuggling drugs. The Taliban fighters are only the main beneficiary of drug trafficking and illegal economies. Being frustrated with meager progress in fighting corruption, the NUG established the Anti-Corruption Center (ACC) in 2016 and opened investigation into the Kabul Bank corruption scandal. In March, the ACC convicted four Urban Development and Housing Ministry officials on charges of embezzlement and abuse of power and sentenced them on the basis of the law. The ACC has made fighting corruption a priority since taking office. Starting from the Kabul Bank scandal, Gani’s administration has now ushered in pressing warlords. To ensure the transparency of upcoming parliamentary election and mitigate corruption, the names of some warlords, who are allegedly involved in illegal activities, have been removed from the list of candidates under the NUG. The anti-corruption campaign is seen to be seasonal rather than being in an organized way and therefore the efforts made in the past three years do not bear the desired result. For example, although the Former Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdul Raeis Wahil was suspended and prosecuted after being accused of corruption and misuse of power, he was pardoned and released soon. He is not the only one. ~x, the powerful and influential figures will perpetrate crime with impunity. In short, they use their leverage in judicial system. In such a case, the law is not applied equally on all individuals. The government’s lack of emergency and involvement of Mafia members in the issue are the second obstacle before fighting corruption. Due to the insecurity, local people cannot report this situation to the government and lack control over the restores. Worst, the Taliban support cultivating and smuggling drug in such areas. Meanwhile, due to the presence of some corrupt officials in the government, the government is not in a position to fight against corruption, and their inability to install legal activities, there seems to be no strong will for fighting corruption. As the government is constitutionally obliged to “maintain public law and order and eliminate every kind of administrative corruption”, it has to fight against corruption on the basis of law and far from political or ethnic tendencies. Not the law on all – it be grassroots or officials – is equally. It is not the case of saying that only one institution is not able to tackle the deep-rooted corruption. To eradicate this problem, all the government institutions will have to work in line with one another. If all the three powers, i.e., the legislative, executive and judicial powers, move parallel with one another in a genuine way, the bulk of the challenges will be resolved in the future. If the government relevant to the warlords will continue to exist without change. Hence, the government will have to start fighting corruption from within and bring the high-ranking corrupt figures into justice.