

## Theoretical and Legal Basis of Accountability in the Activities of Executive Bodies

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### Abstract

This article analyzes the theoretical and legal foundations of accountability in the activities of the executive branch. A key tenet of governance is accountability, which holds public servants accountable for their deeds and choices. This study looks at the several theoretical stances that define responsibility, such as legal, ethical, and moral perspectives. Additionally, it examines current legislative frameworks and standards that control executive bodies' responsibility, emphasizing the connection between legal requirements and real-world application. It also evaluates how national laws and international accountability norms interact. The ultimate goal of this research is to promote democratic governance and public trust by adding to the conversation on improving the efficacy of accountability mechanisms in executive activities.

**Keywords:** Accountability, Democracy, State, Social Contract, Reports, Efficiency

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## I. Introduction

Today, strengthening of democratic principles in the system of legal frameworks of public administration on a global scale, especially in this regard, increasing the efficiency of the executive authorities, taking into account the important issues in the processes of globalization, is being paid special attention (Staudinger, 2022). In particular, as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoev rightly emphasized in this direction. Today, life itself requires proper organization of our work, ensuring its efficiency, raising the quality of the entire management system to the level of modern requirements.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to improving the performance of the executive power, in this regard, introducing the principles of accountability in the system of legal frameworks of state bodies. In particular, with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 02.02.2024 No. PF-28 "On measures to increase the efficiency of the activities of local state authorities", legislation on organizing the activities of local state authorities based on the principle of "Strong Council, accountable and initiative mayor" "Roadmap" on improving the documents was adopted. As noted in this Decree, in recent years, in our country, the powers of the local Councils of People's Deputies have been expanded to solve urgent issues related to the socio-economic development of the regions, social protection of the population, and comprehensive reforms have been implemented to fully realize the people's power.

Legal frameworks aimed at strengthening the control activities of local councils have been created. In order to expand the supervisory functions of the Councils of People's Deputies over the activities of local executive authorities, they were given more than ten additional powers. In particular, the accountability of the heads of the prosecutor's office, justice, internal affairs, finance, tax, ecology and health authorities was determined. The fact that principles and mechanisms related to accountability are widely applied to the system of public administration in our country requires a theoretical and legal analysis of the foundations of this political and legal institution (Zumofen, Mabillard, & Porumbescu, 2022).

## II. Methodology

It should be said that accountability is given special importance in the theory of democratic management today. In this regard, the Dutch scientist M. Bovens believes that accountability is a special "brand" of a modern democratic state. The scientist said that if the state authorities are not accountable for their actions and mistakes, their decisions and policies, and the use of financial resources, democratic processes will remain a red tape procedure. From this point of view, according to his views, accountability serves as an important institution for ensuring the people's power in practice (Han & Demircioglu, 2016).

According to E. Sinkova, one of the scientists who researched the basics of accountability in the activity of the executive power, accountability as a legal concept has existed since ancient times, and at the first stage of its formation in ancient Greece, it meant the subordination of a certain official to other officials or voters (Kulkarni, 2014). Views close to this opinion were also found in the scientific works of A. Radjapov, one of the scientists of our country. In particular, according to the scientist, the concept of openness and accountability in government appeared in ancient Greece in the 5th century BC. In this regard, the institution containing norms related to the accountability of officials to citizens is called "Euhyna".

According to these rules, after the end of their term of office, the officials of the state power have to give an account to the public on the work they have done during their time in office. When considering the accountability of officials, issues related to the use of state funds are handled by the ten-member "logistay" (accounting) commission, and issues related to the performance of their official duties and behavior in office are handled by the ten-member "euthynoi" appointed by the "boule" (people's representatives) council. (reviewed by the Board of Adjustment). Officials who did not successfully pass the "Evtina" exams were sent to court for consideration (Lane, 2020).

### III. Results

Based on the analysis, the process of implementation of accountability can be divided into several stages. In particular, first of all, relevant information and reports on the implementation of their service powers are submitted to relevant representative bodies or institutions of civil society. At the next stage of accountability, compliance of the accountable entity with established procedures and rules is considered. Based on the results of the review, the effectiveness of the activities of the state authorities will be evaluated. In this regard, it should be said that the accountability of the executive authorities is carried out according to the effectiveness and result of the activity. It should be said that these political and legal processes in ancient Greece, in turn, served as a strong impetus for the development of theoretical ideas related to the accountability of state authorities.

In particular, this situation was clearly reflected in the works of the ancient Greek scientist Aristotle. According to the scientist, the state is a political dialogue organized for the highest welfare of free citizens (Reykowski, 2020). On the basis of these ideas of Aristotle, political and legal doctrines about various forms of accountability in state administration were widely spread in later periods. For example, the ideas that the basis of the state should consist of citizens were later reflected in the works of Cicero, G. Grosius, I. Kant, I. A. Ilin, while J. Locke, T. Hobbs, B. Spinoza, representatives of the contract theory based on the priority of the communicative function of the state, In the views of J. J. Rousseau, active communication of citizens is approached as the basis of the state (Loewe, Zintl, &

Houdret, 2021). The views related to the accountability of the state to the citizens as a political organization in ancient times were also reflected in the works of Marcus Tullius Cicero, a political figure in Ancient Rome. In particular, according to Cicero, the state is organized for the welfare of people. In this regard, according to the ideas of the thinker, the state is the achievement of the people, which is made up of citizens united for common interests, and according to its essence, it arises from the needs of people to live together (Teachout, 2011).

In this regard, one of the scientists, according to the opinion of H. Mukhamedov, the first thoughts on ensuring the participation of the people in the adoption of laws belong to Cicero, and therefore the formation of the idea of a legal state is directly related to the ancient Roman Republic (Posner, 2010). The ideas of the French thinker J. J. Rousseau are of great importance in the development of the ideas that state authorities are responsible for the interests of society. In his teaching, J. J. Russo approached the system of state bodies as a passive aspect of the political organization formed as a result of the social contract. In this regard, it should be said that according to J. J. Rousseau's teachings, the state is a unique form of existence of civil society (Nussbaum, 1952).

Regarding the political and legal doctrines mentioned above, it can be said that in these ideas special attention was paid to the organization of state power through the participation of the people. Also, important opinions were expressed regarding the limitation of the monarch's power due to the negative consequences of the despotic rule that was widespread in the Middle Ages. It is these ideas that gained importance in the development of ideas related to the accountability of management bodies and the wide spread of forms of accountability in the 19th and 20th centuries.

#### **IV. Discussion**

At the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, special attention is being paid to ensuring the accountability of the administrative bodies of the state power. In this regard, foreign scientists R. Inglehart and K. Welsels believe that the accountability of management bodies is one of the main conditions for successful economic development, democracy, freedom, and human development (Uddin et al., 2023). Therefore, several models of implementation of accountability in the activities of state authorities are widespread today. In particular, in this regard, accountability for the performance of the executive power is one of the most common forms in the practice of democratic governance.

Accountability for the activities of the executive power is inextricably linked with the principle of separation of powers and, according to its content, primarily covers the interaction between the legislative and executive powers. In addition, accountability in the activities of executive authorities is used to ensure the direct accountability of political forces to society. Implementation of forms of accountability in the activities of executive authorities covers a single process by its essence.

Therefore, if we look at the experience of some foreign countries in this regard, accountability as an important process in public administration is regulated by a separate law. In particular, in Canada, since 2006, relations in the field have been regulated by the Federal Accountability Act.

### Conclusion

The mentioned circumstances require the following conclusions and proposals to be made regarding the effective application of norms related to the institution of accountability in the activities of the executive power in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

First, accountability in the activity of the executive power serves as an important principle of management, the main means of ensuring efficiency, and a mechanism for the practical application of democratic principles.

Secondly, the institution of accountability in the activities of the executive power is an important means of preventing violations related to the professional activity that may be committed by officials.

Thirdly, accountability in the activities of the executive power allows for targeted use of financial resources in ensuring the execution of the state budget.

Fourthly, the widespread use of forms of accountability in the activities of the executive power strengthens the democratic foundations of the state, allowing citizens to be widely involved in political activities.

Fifth, taking into account the fact that norms related to accountability in the activity of the executive power in our country are defined in various legal documents, taking into account advanced foreign experience (Canada) in this regard, it is necessary to adopt the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Accountability of the Activities of State Power and Management Bodies".

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