

MEASURES TAKEN TO DEVELOP PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS IN THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: This article is about the measures taken to develop physical education and sports in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Key words: sports industry, physical culture, athletes, physical education, Paralympic Games, National Olympic Committee, sports schools, Children's Sports Development, Cabinet of Ministers.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev's Decree of February 15, 2017, "On Measures to Further Improve the Management System in the Field of Culture and Sports," marked the beginning of a new era in the development of sports in our country. According to the decree, the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established. Its main tasks were defined as engaging a wide range of the population in sports, fostering a physically healthy generation, developing the sports industry and infrastructure, organizing mass sports events and competitions in cities and districts, selecting, training and improving the skills of talented athletes in cooperation with the National Olympic Committee, sports federations and associations, training personnel, introducing modern technologies into the field, and expanding international relations ¹.

The executive apparatus of the Uzbekistan Children's Sports Development Fund under the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as nearly 300 sports educational institutions, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the State Committee. In order to increase the effectiveness of work on the development of physical education and mass sports, to study public opinion, to analyze, and to develop proposals for improving work in the field, the Council for the Development of Physical Culture and Mass Sports was established. Representatives for physical education and sports began operating in 201 districts (cities) within the regional governing bodies. These representatives play an important role in fully ensuring the implementation of state policy, decrees, and resolutions related to the field, and in developing sports from the grassroots level. In addition, in 2017, more than 20 documents related to the field - Presidential decrees and resolutions, and resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers - were adopted. This also demonstrates the attention of our state to the development of physical education and sports ².

¹ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг 2017 йил 15 февралдаги «Маданият ва спорт соҳасида бошқарув тизимини янада такомиллаштириш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида»ги ПФ-4956-сон Фармони.

² Ўзбекистон Миллий архив, И 2310-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 212-иш, 58-варақ.

As a result of the implemented reforms, qualitative changes were observed in the field. In particular, our athletes won 13 medals at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil and 31 medals at the Paralympic Games, achieving the highest results in the history of our country's sports. In 2017, our athletes won a total of 1,413 medals at local and international sports competitions, including 483 gold, 394 silver, and 536 bronze medals ³. International competitions were successfully held in the republic. At the Asian Boxing Championship held in Tashkent in May 2017, our athletes won gold medals in nine out of ten weight categories ⁴.

Due to the special attention paid to the training of qualified personnel and coaches for the sports sector in Uzbekistan, specific work has been carried out on the tasks set by the head of our state regarding the training, retraining, and professional development of personnel in the field of physical education and sports. In this regard, the main educational institution, the Uzbekistan State Institute of Physical Culture, was moved to the city of Chirchik. As a result, the institute acquired the necessary infrastructure for training and educating qualified athletes and coaches, and the opportunity to create a modern sports town was created. Also, starting from the 2017-2018 academic year, distance learning was introduced at the institute ⁵.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of June 3, 2017, "On Measures for Further Development of Physical Culture and Mass Sports" became another important document in the field. With this resolution, a program for further development of physical education and mass sports in the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted. The program envisages the spending of more than 995.2 billion soums for the further development of physical education and mass sports in 2017-2021, the construction, reconstruction, major repair, equipping, and re-equipping of 167 sports facilities, including 90 sports complexes and 77 swimming pools, in order to strengthen the material and technical base of sports schools ⁶. Within the framework of the program, 153 children's playgrounds were renovated in 2017, and 232 modern playgrounds and a sports complex specializing in Olympic and national sports were opened in Nukus ⁷.

There are shortcomings in the sports sector of Uzbekistan. In particular, the construction and reconstruction of 39 sports facilities were not carried out with funds from the Children's Sports Development Fund. The work was not effective due to delays in equipping swimming pools with modern equipment. The cooperation between sports schools, republican higher sports mastery schools, and sports

³ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг 2016 йил 19 сентябрдаги «Рио-де-Жанейро шаҳрида (Бразилия) бўлиб ўтган XV ёзги Паралимпия ўйинлари ғолиб ва совриндорларини пул мукофотлари билан тақдирлаш тўғрисида»ги Фармойиши.

⁴ Ўзбекистон Миллий архив, И 2310-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 212-иш, 61-варақлар.

⁵ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг 2017-йил 10-августдаги «Ўзбекистон давлат жисмоний тарбия институти фаолиятини янада такомиллаштириш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида»ги ПҚ-3197-сонли Қарори.

⁶ Ўзбекистон Миллий архив, И 2310-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 656-иш, 61-варақ.

⁷ Ўзбекистон Миллий архив, И 2310-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 656-иш, 74-варақ.

federations in identifying talented young people, as well as selection work, was not properly organized, which resulted in physical achievements not being as effective ⁸.

The preparation of our country's athletes for prestigious international competitions, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games, was discussed. As part of the implementation of the head of our state's decree of March 9, 2017, on the preparation of Uzbek athletes for the XXXII Summer Olympic and XVI Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo (Japan) in 2020, the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan, the National Olympic Committee, and sports organizations have cooperated in selecting talented athletes and forming national teams, organizing local and foreign training camps for athletes, and ensuring their proper participation in prestigious competitions ⁹.

The medals won by Uzbek athletes in international competitions were not limited to boxing, judo, weightlifting, and wrestling, but also included significant achievements in other potential sports such as gymnastics, trampoline, athletics, taekwondo, canoeing and kayaking, and cycling.

In the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev of August 10, 2017, "On the Broad Involvement of Uzbek Athletes Who Have Achieved High Results in Prestigious International Sports Competitions in Public and Sports Activities and on Incentivizing Athletes and Their Coaches," the hard work of Uzbek sports stars and their coaches was duly recognized. Sufficient material and moral potential was created to effectively utilize their experience and potential, provide them with higher and specialized education, and ensure their health restoration. Also, under the direct initiative and leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, the system of material incentives for athletes and coaches in Uzbekistan was further improved, and a reserve of athletes who could successfully participate in prestigious international competitions was created ¹⁰.

In the New Uzbekistan, the upbringing of a healthy and physically strong young generation is recognized in state programs as a key factor in the development and progress of society and the determination of its future. The notion that a strong and prosperous society can only be formed and advanced with a physically fit and healthy population is becoming a matter of state policy. Historical sources show that the higher the level of development of physical culture and sports, the more the spiritual maturity of the population flourishes with new ethical aspects. This is why countries are increasingly focusing on measuring their prestige through sports achievements.

⁸ Раҳимов Б.С. Ўзбекистоннинг мустақиллик йилларида ижтимоий-иқтисодий ва маданий ҳаёти (Сурхондарё вилояти мисолида 1991 -2018 йиллар). – Тошкент: Янги нашр, 2019. – Б. 120-132.

⁹ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг 2021 йил 25 июндаги ПҚ-5160-сонли «2021 йилда Токио шаҳрида (Япония) бўлиб ўтадиган XXXII ёзги олимпия ва XVI паралимпия ўйинларида Ўзбекистон спорт делегациясининг иштирокини таъминлаш ҳамда олимпия спорт турларини янада ривожлантириш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида»ги Қарори.

¹⁰ Миллий тикланиш газетаси. 2017 йил 1 ноябр №45- (477)

In accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Further Improve the Management System in the Field of Culture and Sports," on February 15, 2017, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan were established within the system of the Ministry of Culture and Sports Affairs. The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that it marked the beginning of a new era in the development of sports in our country. Its main tasks were defined as involving a wide range of the population in sports, fostering a physically healthy generation, developing the sports industry and infrastructure, organizing mass sports events and competitions in cities and districts, selecting, training, and improving the skills of talented athletes in cooperation with the National Olympic Committee, sports federations, and associations, training personnel, introducing modern technologies into the field, and expanding international relations.

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Consistent measures are being taken in our country to popularize physical education and sports, to create the necessary conditions and infrastructure for promoting a healthy lifestyle among the population, especially young people, and to ensure the country's worthy participation in the international sports arena. However, a number of systemic problems and shortcomings in the organization of physical education and sports in the field hinder the effective implementation of state policy in this area and the full use of the country's existing sports potential.

Despite the opportunities created, the work on the development of tourism, sports, and cultural heritage sectors has not been organized at the required level. In order to introduce modern management mechanisms in the fields of tourism, sports, and cultural heritage, to rapidly develop infrastructure in these areas based on best foreign practices, to make effective use of facilities, and to create adequate conditions for the

population, our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev signed the decree "On Measures to Further Improve the System of State Administration in the Fields of Tourism, Sports, and Cultural Heritage" on April 6, 2021.

Specifically, the lack of an effective, integrated system of physical education and sports management in the regions had not ensured the proper coordination of the activities of state bodies and other organizations in this field. The absence of an effective and transparent system for selecting talented athletes from among young people in the regions had not allowed for the quality replenishment of national teams. The production of high-quality local sports equipment and supplies that meet international standards had not been established.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of March 5, 2018, "On Measures for the Radical Improvement of the State Management System in the Field of Physical Education and Sports," was announced. In accordance with the law, the "Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was established on the basis of the "State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan." According to the law, the limited number of management personnel of the central apparatus of the ministry was set at 55. Within the ministry system, the following departments were established: the Department for the Selection, Formation, and Training of National Teams; the Department of Higher Sports Achievements; the Department for the Development of International Cooperation; the Department for the Development of Physical Culture and Mass Sports; the Department for the Scientific and Methodological Support of Science, Sports, and Educational Institutions; the Department for Monitoring in the Field of Physical Education and Sports; the Human Resources Department; the Department of Economic Analysis, Finance, and Investments; and the Physical Culture and Sports Development Fund. The decree also established the honorary title of "Honored Worker of Physical Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan" to recognize the contributions of those who have provided outstanding service in the development of physical education and sports and in enhancing the country's prestige in the international sports arena.

Also, for the first time in our country, the establishment of the "Sport" free economic zone in the capital region and the selection of projects to be implemented in this zone was approved. In the "Sport" free economic zone, work has begun on the construction of modern enterprises for the production of sports clothing, equipment, and supplies, attracting leading world manufacturers. The duration of this zone's operation is 30 years, with the possibility of extension in the future. Additionally, the establishment of the "Uzbekistan State University of Physical Culture and Sports" on the basis of the "Uzbekistan State Institute of Physical Culture" was approved.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 24, 2020, "On Measures for the Further Improvement and Popularization of Physical Culture and

Sports in the Republic of Uzbekistan," was announced. In accordance with the decree, a concept for the development of physical education and sports in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2025 was developed. The concept sets the goals of increasing the health of the population, increasing the total number of the population regularly engaged in physical education and sports to 30%, increasing the total number of students and pupils to 20%, increasing the efficiency of the use of sports facilities in higher education institutions and secondary schools to 60%, and gradually increasing the quality composition of coaches and specialists in sports educational institutions, in particular, the number of employees with higher education, from 51% to 80%. It also aims to ensure the successful participation of the national sports team of Uzbekistan in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, world, continental, and Asian sports competitions.

In recent years, complex measures aimed at further developing the tourism and sports sectors in the republic, widely involving the population in physical education and sports, improving infrastructure, creating favorable conditions for tourist travel by ensuring the interconnectedness of regions with high tourism potential, and protecting cultural heritage are being implemented step-by-step ¹¹.

On February 18, 2022, the President's Decree "On Organizational Measures to Improve State Administration in the Fields of Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and Sports" was adopted. According to the decree, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports was again divided into two separate entities: the "Ministry of Sports Development" and the "Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage." The main tasks of the Ministry of Sports Development were defined as follows:

Organizing large-scale work to popularize sports among the population, especially children and youth, in every town, village, and neighborhood, as well as in every mahalla in cities, towns, villages, and neighborhoods, widely involving them in mass sports and a healthy lifestyle, engaging them in regular sports activities, improving and digitizing the sports education system, and creating a reserve of high-achieving athletes in various sports;

Developing sports infrastructure, including increasing the number of sports facilities in rural and remote areas, developing sports marketing, effectively managing sports facilities on the basis of public-private partnerships, gradually digitizing the entire sector, expanding the network of non-governmental sports facilities and institutions, and providing them with state support;

Ensuring the development of professional sports in our country, including team, winter, and extreme sports, introducing modern technologies into the sports training process, taking into account best international practices, increasing the level and quality of national championships in all sports, organizing international and regional

¹¹ "Xalq so'zi" gazetasi, 2021-yil 7-aprel.

competitions, and taking systematic measures against unhealthy sports;

Cooperating with the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan, the National Paralympic Committee of Uzbekistan, and sports federations (associations) to create an effective system for selecting (screening), training, and improving the skills of promising athletes, and for forming a quality sports reserve and composition of the country's national teams for successful participation in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Asian and Para-Asian Games, World, Asian championships, and other international competitions and tournaments;

Developing the Paralympic movement, including expanding the conditions for people with disabilities to engage in sports, creating infrastructure, selecting (screening) promising athletes and directing them to professional sports, and training qualified specialists.

On February 18, 2022, a regular meeting of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) was held. At the meeting, deputies considered and approved the candidacy of Aziz Abduhakimov for the position of Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage. After that, deputies considered and approved the candidacy of Adham Ikramov for the position of Minister of Sports Development.

In summary, over the years of independence, the number of people engaged in various sports in Uzbekistan has increased. Health centers have been opened in the cities of the republic. Despite the economic difficulties in the early years of independence, some sports teams continued their activities. Field hockey was one of the sports that developed to some extent during this period.

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