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ANALYSIS OF REFORMS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE AND ART IN KARAKALPAKSTAN

Abstract: This article analyzes the ongoing reforms in the field of culture and art in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. In particular, the special attention being paid to the sector is highlighted. The article also discusses the impact of reforms in the fields of culture and art on the social life of young people.

Keywords: culture, art, reforms, cultural heritage, youth, international relations, cooperation, state policy.

It is worth noting that in 2024, a number of positive achievements were made in the field of culture and art. In particular, over 10,000 performances were held in theaters, attended by 3.6 million spectators. This generated 27.3 billion UZS in revenue. A puppet theater was established in Namangan region, and new buildings were constructed and opened for puppet theaters in Khorezm and Kashkadarya regions. Throughout the year, more than 7,200 concert and performance events were organized, attracting over 10 million people.

The "Lazgi" II International Dance Festival, the II International Maqam Art Forum, and the XIII "Sharq Taronalari" International Music Festival were held at a high level. The "Culture Caravan" and "Days of Culture" events, based on the principles of cooperation, were also organized successfully. Projects like "Street Art and Music" and "Journey with the Star!" were launched. To research intangible cultural heritage, 10 local and 1 foreign folklore expeditions were carried out. The intangible cultural heritage element related to "Rubab crafting and performance traditions" was included in UNESCO's international representative list. In accordance with the 112th decree of our esteemed President, 188 "Damas" vehicles were allocated and handed over to the district and city culture departments from 2022 to 2024.

The culture and art sector, which calls on youth to pursue spiritual development and enrich the human spirit with the characteristics of goodness, kindness, and benevolence, is increasingly recognized as a field that invites individuals to these values. A unified legal framework has been created to regulate relations in the field of culture, define the legal status of cultural and artistic institutions, creative unions and associations, and ensure social protection for creators. In New Uzbekistan, special attention has been given to the development of cultural organizations, and a series of systematic reforms have been carried out to enhance their role and status in our social life. In particular, it is encouraging to observe further progress in the activities of cultural centers, which are part of cultural and educational organizations.

This is because these institutions, which embody the elements of the spiritual face of our cultural life, provide a space for amateur creators to test their talents and abilities in the fields of culture and art. They have the opportunity to develop their abilities and bring them to the stage. These

individuals are not professional creators, but rather exceptional amateur talents emerging from our people. As a result, our cultural potential is significantly refined. Due to reforms in the sector, many cultural and educational institutions have been established in our country, and this process continues. In the last seven years, a number of new cultural and art venues have been established in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Specifically, in the districts of Muynak, Khojayli, Ellikqala, and Chimboy, children's music and art schools with a capacity of 150 seats, as well as a school-internat specialized in opera and bakhshi art in Nukus, have been newly built and opened for use. Amphitheater buildings were also constructed in the districts of Muynak, Bo'zatov, Chimboy, and Kungirov, and within the framework of an investment program, the Republic Library for the Blind was newly built. The new buildings of the Karakalpak State Youth Theater and the Karakalpak State Puppet Theater have been completed and opened for use. In addition, the Berdaq Karakalpak State Musical Theater was granted the status of an "Academic Theater." To construct, reconstruct, and restore cultural facilities, from 2017 to 2024, 15 cultural and art institutions were newly built, 10 were reconstructed, and 18 were capital repaired and equipped.

Currently, there are a total of 99 cultural institutions in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, including 3 state theaters, 1 private theater, 5 concert organizations, 60 cultural centers, 3 specialized culture and art schools and school-internats, 24 children's music and art schools, 2 higher education institutions, and 1 Republic Library for the Blind with 9 branches. As a point of information, in Uzbekistan, there are 837 cultural centers operating across the country, including 60 cultural centers in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Nearly 4,000 circles are active in these centers, engaging more than 48,000 young people. Currently, under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, there are a total of 365 educational institutions, including 29 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan: 3 specialized culture and art schools and school-internats, 24 children's music and art schools, and 2 higher education institutions. Specifically, there are 325 children's music and art schools, 29 specialized arts and culture schools and school-internats, 5 higher education institutions and their 4 branches, and 2 professional development centers. These educational institutions serve over 112,000 students, with more than 18,000 professors and teachers. Among these, over 90,000 students are enrolled in children's music and art schools, over 10,000 in secondary specialized institutions, and over 12,000 in higher education institutions. Additionally, according to the Presidential Decree PQ-406 of December 25, 2023, the task of organizing and holding the "Journey with the Star" project was assigned to improve the level of cultural services provided to the public. In the New Karakalpakstan, artists and cultural workers are actively involved in expressing the spirit of today's times to the people through high-quality cultural and educational events, providing quality services to the population. Culture and art are integral parts of our lives.

It can be said that a person acquainted with culture and art does not bring harm. The main task of cultural centers is to call people to goodness and brighter tomorrows. There is an abundance of amateur talents in our country who may not have the opportunity to engage in classical art but possess creative virtues. Cultural centers play an irreplaceable role in shaping professional creativity through amateur art. In New Uzbekistan, cultural centers serve as places that reflect the spiritual face of our cultural life. Cultural and artistic workers are always in the respect and esteem of our people. Since last year, the profession of cultural and art workers is celebrated on April 15 as "Culture and Art Workers Day." The festivals and events dedicated to the people who have served the nation's celebrations and meaningful events are sure to be glorious and memorable. Artists who express their love for the homeland, preserve it, and honor the dignity of humans through their works are the voice

and treasure of the people. After all, amateur creators need little – only the recognition of society and a little care and attention. This recognition helps them create timeless works, dedicated to realizing the hopes and dreams of the people. Amateur artists, creators, and cultural workers should continue to represent the spirit of today's world with cultural events, and be dedicated to the further development and cultural purity of our New Uzbekistan.

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