

## **Role of political parties in contemporary political system of the RK**

Political pluralism and a multiparty system in contemporary world are considered to be not only the basic principles of democratic organization of society, but also a mandatory condition of democracy. In this regard, Kazakhstan, declared itself a democratic state, since the early years of its development has been reforming the political sphere, significantly stepping up its transformation in recent years.

Kazakhstan is moving along the road of world democratic trends and traditions. Party system of the country has passed short but dynamic way of establishment saturated with diverse transformations, while the parties have left aside all the stages of their initial level of the development. One can agree with the widely spread view that in the early years of the parties' formation the society worked out a certain stereotype of party activity associated mainly with the declarative, non-executable promises and using of administrative resource. Indeed, the first decade of sovereign development of the RK was full of all sorts of appearances, schisms, disappearances and associations of various political entities.

Over the past few years, Kazakhstan has settled the «rules» on political arena, resulting in the fact that most of the parties already have a social base, electoral and even parliamentary history. Thanks to the system democratization of the political sphere of the country an opportunity to stimulate and create serious political forces which are major parties, whose work would be appreciable and visible on the territory of Kazakhstan, has appeared. The main feature of the party sector of the state became the turn to natural and healthy political competition.

Many parties unite to form coalitions. It is noteworthy that the process of parties' amalgamation into coalitions took place both in pro-presidential and opposition camps. It is believed that party unions are very diverse in its forms and degrees. Amalgamation and acting in one direction is definitely an evolutionary process. However, on the other hand, it also demonstrates the weakness or unwillingness of some parties to conduct the political struggle alone.

The question on what kind of party system is required for Kazakhstan has been actively discussed by researchers since 1999, when such a promising actor as republican political party «Otan». It was assumed that the situation could develop in one of the following scenarios: party system with dominance of party «Otan», multi-party system with coalition government, bipartisanship or bi-partisan party system.

As a result, today we see the trend of greater structuring of society by political interests and the emergence of six new political parties. The trend of new political structures can be noticed even today. Thus, it would seem, in the country a multi-party system, in which the coalition government acts, should form. But this was impossible. Creation of «Nur Otan» has led to its dominance in the parliament.

On July 2006 «Otan» and «Asar» created a united political party (under the auspices of «Otan»). Consolidation of pro-presidential bloc continued in November - December, when the Civil and Agrarian Parties joined «Otan», and the republican political party was renamed the People's Democratic Party «Nur Otan». As a result, the total number of updated party was close to 1 million people, making it a real party giant.

According to the leaders' idea with the lapse of time created dominant party «Nur Otan» should become the basis of all party political system, the main regulator of the complexities and contradictions existing and projected for the foreseeable period of the development of

Kazakhstan's society. People's Democratic Party «Nur Otan» should be considered the most advanced and close to the classic party structures in the context of Kazakhstan.

And still, despite certain achievements party system has a number of serious problems.

System problem of «Nur Otan» is the lack of effectiveness of communication between the «bottom and top», while the ideological and political work «top – down» is organized at a high level. It is demonstrated by the fact that, the defined party articulates messages to the people while there is no effective «feedback» channel.

The problem is not that the party does not conduct this work at all. Another question is: whether the influence of «Nur Otan» on the governmental apparatus is real?

Speaking on party construction of Kazakhstan, it is necessary to take into account the particularities of creation of opposition party organizations, as they are an integral part of a multi-party system building. «Ak Zhol» and «Azat» were the main among them. However, these parties do not represent threats to Nazarbayev.

Nowadays Kazakhstan's party architecture is not completely formed structure.

Of course, officially acting today in the party sector, political parties (Communist Party of Kazakhstan, «Auyl», Party of Patriots of Kazakhstan, «Nur Otan», «Ak Zhol», «Rukhaniyat», «Adilet», Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan, National Social-Democratic Party) in general are stable political institution of the state, an essential attribute of public life, one of the important factors of modernization of the political system, but, at the same time, under the conditions of the emerging of one-and-a-half-party system created on the basis of the dominant «Nur Otan» and its absolute representation in the lower house of the parliament, parties have little influence on political processes. As a result, many parties are moving away from the processes of political and power relations, thereby losing its political influence and the electorate.

In addition, some parties demonstrate the artificiality of their establishment and functioning, as well as competitive programs of country's development. Absence of wide support from Kazakhstan's people influences the activity and achievements both ruling and opposition parties. If the first group functions mainly thanks to the authority of the country's leadership, the second tend to attract people only on the basis of criticism of the official authorities.

Objectively speaking the platform of opposition parties is formed only by the program of tasks and declarations instead of actions. If this doctrinal political course remains, these parties will likely be absorbed by the larger and politically progressive associations or displaced to the periphery of the political arena of the country.

The present situation, on the one hand, allows talking about the control of the process of establishment and functioning of political parties from governmental side. On the other, complication of the registration process places unregistered social associations on illegal level of activity.

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