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MAHALLA – A BRIDGE OF TRUST BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE

Abstract: This article explores the concept of mahalla, its essence, significance, and role as a bridge of trust between the people and the state. It highlights mahalla as a space that teaches individuals to be part of society, fostering tolerance and patriotism. The article also discusses the importance of mahalla and its seven pillars in building New Uzbekistan and laying the foundation for the Third Renaissance.

Keywords: Mahalla, mahalla seven pillars, significance, people and state, New Uzbekistan, Development Strategy, tolerance and patriotism, human dignity and value, family harmony, children's upbringing, national traditions and customs.

Since the dawn of humanity, there has been a place that has served as the cradle of spiritual growth, with a history spanning thousands of years. This place has witnessed all stages of world development and embodies both the distant past and the processes of modern civilization – this place is the mahalla.

The mahalla is a bridge of trust between the people and the state, a space that teaches individuals to be part of society while instilling in them a spirit of tolerance and patriotism. Our country is home to many mahallas, each bearing a unique name that narrates history. These names reflect our nation's long and glorious past, as well as its socio-political, economic, and cultural heritage.

The term mahalla is derived from the Arabic language and means place, location, or dwelling. It can be defined as a socio-territorial unit that includes a specific area of a city where residents form a community and practice self-governance. In this regard, the mahalla has long served as a guardian of national traditions and customs, preserving them for centuries. It has been a cradle of

goodness and upbringing, a center of good neighborliness and unity for our people.

For the first time in the history of our country, thanks to independence, the concept of mahalla was incorporated into our Constitution, firmly establishing its role and status in governance, as well as its significance in building New Uzbekistan and laying the foundation for the Third Renaissance.

The importance of mahallas, as centers of great cultural values, has been prioritized by our country's leadership. Strengthening the influence of our mahallas, which embody the unique culture of the East, and using them as a means to contribute to the development of our nation, is our duty. In his speeches, our President has emphasized: "From the very first days of our work, we have been organizing everything within the mahalla, together with our people. We have developed this system step by step."

Additionally, new resources and opportunities are being provided. This means both authority and responsibility. The statement by our President that "Mahallas are the foundation of our state" is not made without reason. Mahallas are truly becoming a reliable space that alleviates people's concerns and serves as a source of trust.

On September 26, 2023, during a meeting led by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, focused on strengthening the Mahalla-Based Work System and launching the Mahalla "Seven" Initiative, key tasks were outlined. These include further improving support for mahallas, ensuring the effective organization of individuals responsible for mahalla-based work, fostering collaboration among them, and creating the necessary conditions for the functioning of self-governing bodies. Additionally, efforts will be made to assist them in exercising their legally established powers.

To ensure the implementation of these tasks, the Presidential Decree of December 21, 2023, titled "On Measures to Radically Enhance the Role of the

Mahalla Institution in Society and Ensure Its Functioning as the Primary Level in Solving Population Issues," was issued. This decree outlines several objectives, including:

Ensuring the improvement and well-being of mahallas through initiatives like "Prosperous Mahalla," "Prosperous Street," and "Prosperous Household," while increasing community involvement and responsibility;

Coordinating and directing the efforts of state bodies and organizations within mahallas to ensure timely and effective resolution of local issues;

Enhancing the financial capabilities of mahallas, ensuring targeted and efficient allocation of budgetary funds and other financial resources for low-income families;

Improving the material and technical support of mahallas by centralizing fund distribution;

Integrating modern information and communication technologies into the sector;

Enhancing the qualifications of mahalla officials and developing their modern management skills.

These measures are designed to strengthen mahallas as essential institutions for social development and governance.

Of course, such well-defined goals and tasks will yield positive results. This is because the mahalla is the first place where our people turn for trust and support. Therefore, to serve the people even more effectively, the number of mahalla employees has now been expanded from the "Five" system to the "Seven" system.

In this newly established system, the social worker is responsible for assisting individuals and families who are in difficult situations or at risk of falling into hardship. They will provide professional social services through a comprehensive approach based on the needs of the community.

Meanwhile, the tax inspector will play an active role in managing tax-related affairs within the mahalla, assisting entrepreneurs with tax services and ensuring proper financial oversight.

Ultimately, the essence of the decisions and decrees being implemented is to improve the living conditions of our people and to create opportunities for the personal development of every individual.

As our esteemed President has emphasized:

"Times are changing rapidly. We must turn the mahalla into a real institution that effectively solves problems at the local level. We will continue to gain experience and make improvements. Life itself compels us to do so. If we want to find solutions to today's challenges, our only path is mahalla, mahalla, mahalla, and once again, mahalla. The more we elevate the status of the mahalla system, the more people will trust us, and the more they will be satisfied with our work."

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