

The Role of the Integrity Commission in Combating Administrative Corruption in Iraq

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Abstract: The role of the Integrity Commission in combating administrative corruption in Iraq, highlighting its legal mandate, operational mechanisms, and the challenges it faces in promoting transparency and accountability. Established as the primary governmental body responsible for preventing, detecting, and investigating corruption, the Commission works through asset disclosure systems, investigative procedures, public awareness initiatives, and coordination with judicial and oversight institutions. Despite its significant efforts, the Commission's effectiveness is constrained by political interference, weak institutional capacities, limited inter-agency cooperation, and security and social pressures.

Keywords: Integrity Commission, Administrative Corruption, Anti-Corruption Laws, Iraq Governance, Transparency and Accountability



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1. Introduction

Corruption existed since times immemorial, only in much different forms and flavors. The current examples are: recent developments led to more widespread corruption. Particularly in Iraq and other Arab countries where political power tends to become private property spread its power corrupting influence around still further. Partly this emanates from administrative authorities failing to observe well-defined laws and regulations aimed at ensuring just and liability bearing public administration. There are also other reasons for its spread:

Shame is one of them. People either do not know or else pretend ignorance of the numerous flags that indicate corruption. The citizen is questioned by others [1], [2].

A third reason is that there have been no popular movements around freedom of expression which would make movie Injuries in its whole meaning. Once the government official abuses his powers Talking of corruption, there are many forms it can take in customs work as well; Corrupt practices can really hold up our progress and growth, as well as make people's lives completely befuddling, bring about a lack of faith in democracy - undermining law rules and administrative governance is just like pulling out a cogwheel from the big machinery. Therefore, corruption is a social problem that affects all elements in the system and shows itself in varying shapes. It is called as "scab." On this basis, the present study is aimed at estimating the responsibilities of the Integrity Commission as one of Legislative organs at country's various levels and upholding country's sovereignty; we shall also discuss its legal status, independence institutions identity and importance.

C. The existence of rules of governance throughout the country brings about the necessity for

supervisory organs in each state which can ensure that all organs comply with legally awarded power and reverence of life as well its independent voice As long as this research can clarify what is the role of the Integrity Commission in each district of state with relations to its people is specialized not only in legislation, but also as a judge and executioner, and which has vital importance for fighting big problems like corruption crimes such as examining whether accused parties have done little or big amounts involved here etc. at last [3], [4], [5]. The main issue this research addresses is What function has the Integrity Commission really played in terms of combating corruption? Are modes r currently appropriate for confronting serious cases of corruption within public departments and general administrative organs?

2. Materials and Methods

The National Strategy for Combating Corruption

Section One

The Concept and Manifestations of Corruption

There's no one universally recognized definition of what corruption is like today. Nevertheless, now that the phenomenon of corruption has been brought into focus by researchers in different human scientific disciplines such as Economics, Law, Political Science and Sociology, international organizations—not just scholars or experts on these things themselves— have begun to scrutinize it too. As a result of this, the definition that can be given for it is from aspects [6].

1. Economic Perspective

Based on the definition of economics, you might well conclude that corruption tends to arise from defects at the public institutions themselves Such defects would then reduce incentives for investment, stifling development.

What is corruption? Braggadocio over a title printed on someone's business card?

2. Legal Perspective

Legal scholars worry that corruption constitutes an outrage against our Constitution. Research of this field holds broadly that corruption is an unlawful departure from the standard legal system and has very strong negative effects. When it affects the judiciary, it is particularly harmful to law and order.

3. Political Science Perspective

Experts in political science emphasize the direct relationship between corruption and poor governance. According to political theorists, corruption erodes legitimacy and weakens political systems. Thus, good governance inherently implies the absence of all forms of corruption.

4. Sociological Perspective

Sociologists view corruption as a form of deviant behavior that violates the social norms linked to public interest and social relations.

Some sociologists argue that different forms of deviance arise from individuals' inability to achieve goals through legitimate means.

Linguistically, the term corruption denotes the opposite of goodness; something is said to be corrupt when it has been misused or has deviated from its proper function.

Corruption is a behavior deviation in terminology, which can be presented in different forms like being bribed, stealing, embezzling, forging, ill gained money, misappropriation of government funds, misuse of power and abuse of authority. Such acts lead to mistreating of citizens and wastage of state resources.

From this, corruption can be defined as:

A social interaction whereby power or office is abused in order to gain some personal or private advantage in violation of laws and regulations. It involves bribery, embezzlement by junior or senior officials or through dealings with them, including document forgery, dissemination of fake information, awarding of a contract or a tender to a relative or an associate of an official, manipulation of a bidding or a competition, and political or monetary interference with judicial procedures.

(Source: Periodical Publication of the Department of Education and Public Relations, Issue No. 3, 2007 – Iraqi Commission of Integrity)

3. Results and Discussion

Types of Corruption by Manifestation

Corruption can be categorized according to its manifestations into several types:

Political Corruption

Financial Corruption

Administrative Corruption

Section Two

Definition, Causes, and General Impacts of Administrative Corruption

Financial and administrative corruption is one of the most threatening problems of the countries today especially the developing ones. It has already started tearing the social structure of these societies, as well as endangering their security, stalling the process of economic development and reconstruction, and, eventually, ruining the national economies and financial opportunities. This makes such countries in most cases incapable of fulfilling the minimum needs of development and welfare of their citizens [7].

Thus, this part tells about the definition, causes, and severe outcomes of this phenomenon on states and societies.

Part One: Definition of Administrative Corruption

It has been described as corruption in a number of ways:

The Encyclopedia of Social Sciences defines corruption as abuse of political authority in order to gain personal gratification. The other definition refers to it as A violation of law and social order, and breaking of law and institutional norms with the aim of obtaining economic, political or social gains by an individual or a particular group [8].

In the meantime, Transparency International understands corruption as

The misuse of power in the line of duty.

Based on these definitions, it can be seen that the term corruption can be interpreted in various ways. Corruption may be in the public sphere or in the private sphere and it may arise in any organization where an individual takes the dominant position either in the resources or services, or in decision making and is free to prefer some groups to others.

Forms of Corruption / Political Corruption

Political corruption is expressed in the violation of the principles, ethics, and values of political group, political party, or organization. It is a result of superiority, arrogance, or power illusion. It can also result from compromising political integrity in exchange for personal or foreign interests, due to factors such as betrayal, collusion, submission, ignorance, or external pressure [9].

Administrative Corruption: Administrative corruption refers to misconduct or administrative deviations that occur within organizations when public employees violate laws, regulations, and

ethical standards during the performance of their duties. In essence, state employees exploit their official positions and authority to obtain personal benefits through improper means [10].

Financial Corruption: Financial corruption involves financial deviations and violations of state regulations and institutional rules. It also includes breaches of auditing and financial control standards and instructions [11].

Yasser Khalid Barakat Al-Waeli, "Administrative Corruption: Its Concept and Causes," published on the International Information Network, Al-Nabaa Magazine, Issue No. 80, January 2006.

Moral Corruption: The moral corruption manifests itself in terms of ethical deviation in the actions and behavior of an individual that goes against the accepted moral values (religious, traditional, or social values) [12].

Part Two: Causes and Effects of Administrative Corruption

Reasons of Administrative Corruption

Corruption is caused by many complex and interrelated reasons. The most notable ones are:

1. Decline of moral principles and moral control in the state institutions and the society, replaced by individual interests over the general interest.
2. Hard economic and social environments that lead people to excessive individualism and materialism.
3. Lack of accountability system either because of the legal gaps, the absence of constitutional control, the ineffective parliamentary control, or the ineffective internal control. Accountability frameworks are not functional even in cases where they are present.
4. Lack of even spread of wealth among people in the society which promotes bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of public money.
5. Incompetence and lack of integrity of administrative leaders and senior officials such as ministers, deputies and general directors who are usually appointed on political, sectarian or personal grounds as opposed to merit. In the worst-case scenario, high-ranking jobs are being sold out to people who are interested in illegal financial gains.
6. Absence of transparency in the public and private sector institutions, which is evidenced by secrecy, limited access to information and concealment of information to the media and civil society bodies.

Effects of Administrative Corruption

Administrative corruption has grave social, economic, and political repercussions on both the state and society, including:

1. Economic instability
2. Hindrance of growth and worsening of poverty, coupled with failure to effectively combat it.
3. Restriction and inequitable distribution of public services, reducing their quality and making access dependent on bribery or personal connections
4. Undermining democracy

Wikipedia, Free Encyclopedia.

Jassim Al-Saghir, "Administrative Corruption and Its Negative Impacts on the Building of a Democratic State," published on Al-Fayhaa Satellite Channel website -4.

5. Erosion of public trust in governance and government credibility
6. Manipulation and circumvention of legal procedures to complete transactions unlawfully.
7. Rising unemployment rates and weakened industrial and commercial productivity due to the waste of public resources.

8. Brain drain, as skilled professionals refuse to participate in corrupt systems and are often marginalized by corrupt elites.
9. Capital flight, where domestic investors move their investments abroad and foreign investors refrain from entering the market.
10. Reliance of citizens on local leaders rather than on corrupt governments to meet their needs and manage local affairs (5).

Chapter Two

The Concept of the Integrity Commission and the Integrity Commission in Iraq

Definition of the Integrity Commission

Clarifying the definition of the Integrity Commission requires addressing the linguistic meaning in the first part and the terminological meaning in the second.

Part One: Linguistic Meaning

The Arabic word (Nazaha) derives from the verb which conveys meanings such as purity, uprightness, and moral integrity (6). Linguistically, it refers to being free from corruption, bias, or wrongdoing, whether in appearance or in thought (7). In the Qur'an, the term carries connotations of purity and righteousness, as seen in the verse: When I created you from clay as the shape of a bird by My permission (8)." (Al-Ma'idah, 5:110) [13]

Part Two: Terminological Meaning

Although Iraqi legislators did not explicitly define the nature of the Integrity Commission, Article 1 of the Integrity Commission Law No. 30 of 2011 states that:

The Commission is an independent body subject to the supervision of the Council of Representatives, enjoying both financial and administrative autonomy.

From a jurisprudential perspective, integrity is understood as the principle that

Public authorities must not exploit their positions for personal gain at the expense of citizens. This means that any personal benefit derived from one's public role constitutes a violation of integrity. Based on the reviewed definitions, most focus on the general concept of integrity rather than the specific role of the Integrity Commission. The notion of integrity itself evolves across time and context and does not, in its essence, refer to criminalizing corruption-related acts [14].

Judge Raheem Al-Akili, "Corruption: Definition, Causes, Effects, and Means of Combating It," a research paper published by the House of Wisdom / Baghdad.

Ibrahim Mustafa and others, *Al-Mu'jam Al-Wasit* (The Intermediate Dictionary), Volume One, 4th Edition, Dar Al-Da'wah, Cairo, 2004, p. 267

Abu Nasr Ismail ibn Hammad Al-Jawhari, *Al-Sihah fi Al-Lughah* (The Authentic in Language), Volume Seven, Dar Al-Ilm Lil-Malayeen, Beirut, 1990, p. 569.

Surat Al-Ma'idah, verse(110) (8).

For the purposes of this study, the Integrity Commission can be defined as

An independent body established to safeguard the integrity of public service, prevent misconduct or deficiencies that disrupt public duties, and deter the misuse of authority for personal or private gain.

The Integrity Commission in Iraq

The Integrity Commission is considered one of the most important national institutions in combating corruption. It was established under Order No. (55) of 2004 issued by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

This order was aimed at applying anti-corruption laws, maintaining the standards of the public services, introducing new laws when need be and also undertaking awareness and education

programs to enhance the commitment of Iraq in establishing a transparent, accountable and honest system of governance.

The Iraqi Constitution of 2005 also affirmed the principle of integrity in several articles, including: Article 5: which emphasizes the rule of law and obligates public officials to comply with legal provisions in performing their duties [15].

Article 27: which stipulates that public funds are protected under the Constitution and that safeguarding them is the duty of every citizen.

Article 68: which requires candidates for key positions (such as the President, Members of Parliament, and heads of independent commissions) to be honest, upright, and impartial (10).

The Constitution also prohibits the use of public office for private business dealings or personal enrichment and emphasizes that appointments should not be based on sectarian, partisan, or ethnic quotas.

Section One: The Formation of the Integrity Commission

The establishment of the Commission passed through two main phases:

Phase One (2003–2004) After the fall of the Iraqi regime on April 9, 2003, the Civil Administrator of Iraq, Paul Bremer, issued Order No. (55) of 2004, authorizing the creation of the Commission on Public Integrity (CPI) by the Iraqi Governing Council. This order made the Commission a separate body charged with the responsibility of enforcing the anti-corruption laws, as well as upholding the standards of the public service.

Bremer released such an order on a number of legal and political grounds such as his mandate under the CPA, the war-time administrative precedents and UN Security Council Resolutions specifically the Resolutions 1483 (2003), 1500 (2003) as well as 1511 (2003) which found corruption as a significant hindrance to good governance and that Iraqis had a right to leaders of honesty and integrity [16].

Phase Two (Post-2005)

After the transitional period, Iraqis elected to ratify the Constitution of 2005 which offered a fresh legal basis to the Integrity Commission.

The Law of Administration of the State of Iraq was also abolished by Article 143 of the Constitution and replaced by the constitutional requirements, according to which an independent Integrity Commission should be established under the oversight of the Council of Representatives.

Subsequently (13), Law No. 30 of 2011 was enacted on October 17, 2011, which formally organized the work of the Commission. This law repealed CPA Order

55 (2004) and its associated regulations but retained Article 6, which clarified the Commission's duties and powers, enabling it to protect public funds, promote transparency, and strengthen cooperation with other oversight bodies (14).

Section Two // Formation of the Integrity Commission

The Integrity Commission, like any other commission, consists of several departments, administrations, and positions, each playing a role in the work of the executive committee. It consists of the President of the Commission, the Vice President, the Committee and its members, and the Investigation Team. The departments include Legal Affairs, Supervisory Functions, Education and Public Relations, Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations, and Administrative Affairs. Let us take a look at the composition of each department and some details about its section and function [17].

The Head of the Commission / Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Head of the Executive Authority from among three nominees selected by the Judicial Council, provided that the

Legislative Authority, represented by the House of Representatives, approves the selection by majority vote.

11- Dr. Mohammed Ismail et al., *The Criminal Jurisdiction of the Integrity Commission in Iraq*, a published paper in a peer-reviewed scientific journal issued by the University of Babylon, 2010, p. 212.

12- Article 143 of the Iraqi Constitution of 2005 (currently in force)

13- Article 102 of the Iraqi Constitution of 2005 (currently in force)

14- Article 29 of the Integrity Commission Law No. 30 of 2011 (currently in force).

The law stipulates only that candidates for the presidency of the commission must have the highest standards of ethical conduct and a good reputation for integrity and honesty. The law does not require that commission presidents have specific credentials, nor does it mandate a particular profession. It does not require any characteristics or conditions other than those mentioned above; thus, the president of the commission may hold a university degree or another qualification. He may be a jurist, teacher, media specialist, or another professional, as long as it does not conflict with the rules. Members of the public must meet the legal requirements to hold public office

The term of office for the appointed President of the Commission is five years, and no person may serve as president for more than two consecutive or non-consecutive terms

Section (5)(1) of the statutory law establishing the commission outlines the method of dismissing its president, who may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the legislative council of the state for any of the following reasons:

A- Incompetence

B- Gross misconduct, whether in official or personal capacity

C- Negligence in the performance of duty

D- Abuse of power

The law does not specify the level of the President of the Commission but considers him equivalent to a minister, granting him full powers and privileges of that rank

Paragraph (2) of Article (5) of the law specifies the president's powers as follows:

A- Approval of all operations, management, and supervision of the commission, ensuring it performs its duties according to the law.

B- Proposing the budget and approving expenditures.

C- Appointing, dismissing, and disciplining employees according to the code of conduct, unless otherwise provided by law, and determining staff training and qualifications.

D- Issuing regulations concerning financial interest disclosure in accordance with statutory instructions and approving procedural rules related to receiving and investigating corruption allegations, ensuring compliance with these rules.

E- Issuing amendments to the code of conduct that government employees must adhere to, clarifying ethical behavior standards, and assisting in ensuring compliance with those standards.

F- The law permits him to delegate some of his powers to subordinates to carry out the aforementioned duties (15).

15- Hassan Ali Abdul Hussein, *The Role of Oversight Bodies in Combating Corruption*, a research paper submitted to the Integrity Commission / Legal Affairs Directorate / Research and Studies Department, p. 59

2- Paragraph (3) of Section (5) concerning the Vice President of the Commission stipulates that the Commission shall have a representative acting as deputy, subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of the same section, to assist the President and operate under his direction, management, and

supervision. The deputy shall perform all powers and duties associated with the president when the latter is unable to perform his duties. The law does not specify the qualifications or attributes required for appointment as a representative, leaving the appointment to the discretion of the President of the Commission, who has full freedom of choice.

The law does not determine the rank of the Vice President, who is, by law, considered an employee of the rank of Deputy Minister, consistent with the classification of commission presidents as ministerial level officials and granting them all the powers of that rank.

3- Investigation Department: It is the first department to be mentioned in the law and the main task of this department is to find out the corruption and perform the investigations. It is also headed by a Director ranking employee. It provides mechanisms of accepting and examining instances of corruption including the ones that were previously overlooked.

4- Legal Affairs Department: This is the second legal department specified in Article (5)(6) of this regulation whose duties are as follows:

A- Helping and advising the President of the Commission to be in line with Iraq law.

B- to hand in proposals to the national legislative authority about the legislation tabled by the commission.

The department has the head, called a director, who is appointed by the president of the competent authority, and does not require any special legal qualification.

5- Prevention Department: This is the department that is headed by an employee of supervisory level and reports to the president of the corresponding authority. Its main task is to help in formulation of stipulations of financial interests disclosure, revised codes of conduct, public service ethics and maintenance of adherence to ethics.

6-Education and Public Relations Department: Headed by an employee of director rank appointed by the competent authority's president. Its mission is to provide public education and awareness programs for government employees and the Iraqi public to promote a culture of honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, and fair treatment in public service. It works to develop a national curriculum promoting public integrity, raising awareness among civil servants, government employees, and the public about the ethical principles of public service, codes of conduct, and applicable disclosure procedures for financial interests and benefits. To achieve this goal, it cooperates with officials from the Ministry of Education and official educational institutions to conduct research, media campaigns, training sessions, seminars, and similar activities to promote educational and public relations efforts.

Given the vital importance of this department in achieving the commission's objectives in combating corruption, Article (5)(8) of the general law grants the department director (except for other commission department directors) the authority to appoint advisors to strengthen departmental activities.

7- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Relations Department: This is the fifth department established under the law. Its role is to cooperate with NGOs to strengthen the culture of ethical behavior in both the public and private sectors. It achieves this through:

A- Updating and developing materials and publishing them

B- Administrative training programs

C- Conducting public outreach activities through media channels

D- Undertaking other appropriate activities to promote this mission

This department, like other commission departments, is headed by a director appointed by the President of the Commission.

8- Administrative Authority: This is the final authority stipulated by law

It is unique in that it is not directly related to the means by which the commission achieves its objectives in combating corruption. However, it provides administrative and financial services and is responsible for managing the commission's offices, staff, and human resources, all appointed by the competent authority's president.

Section Three

The Role of the Integrity Commission in Combating Administrative Corruption

This Commission is considered one of the institutions concerned with combating financial and administrative corruption in state institutions and the private sector. It follows several procedures through its various departments, activities, and events. It is committed to achieving multiple objectives through its activities aimed at protecting national and social interests and enjoys a set of powers to achieve them.

It also works with other regulatory bodies to combat administrative and financial corruption. Therefore, we have divided this study into two requirements. In the first, we discuss the Commission's objectives and the powers assigned to it. To achieve the best results, we will also discuss the relationship between the Commission and other oversight bodies, as well as the basis of its relationship with investigating judges. First Requirement: Objectives and Powers of the Integrity Commission

Section One: Objectives of the Commission

1- Combating all types of corruption through a variety of investigative and legal powers and procedures.

2- Based on a broad approach to corruption prevention, proposing draft laws related to combating all forms of corruption, issuing professional conduct regulations, and ensuring that government entities operate under the principle of transparency.

3. The focus on fair and unbiased government and the increase of the citizenry confidence in the government by the independent and uninvolved character of the Commission.

4. Selling the culture of integrity to the society by organizing programs that will focus on society and the institutions with the aim of educating and enlightening them on the importance of integrity and to create some form of structure on how these institutions will integrate with the Commission in a manner that will benefit the society by fighting and preventing corruption.

Section Two: Powers of the Integrity Commission

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the institution must be granted the necessary powers to achieve its objectives in reducing and preventing corruption. These powers are defined by the law establishing the Integrity Commission, attached to Order No. (55) of 2004. The powers can be summarized as follows:

Investigating administrative corruption cases :

1-According to Article (3) of Public Law No. (55) of 2004, the Integrity Commission enjoys broad powers to investigate corruption cases, with detailed provisions.

Article (4) and Articles (1-5) of the same law define the investigative powers of the Commission and its relationship with the investigating judge. The law authorizes the Commission to investigate corruption cases in the capacity of an investigator. The Commission employs investigators authorized to exercise all the powers of investigators in courts within their jurisdiction.

The law also grants the Bureau the right to become a party to the case once it is presented to the investigating judge, especially in cases arising after July 17, 1968. It may also refer any case to the investigating judge, submit information about possible violations of professional conduct rules to

the head of the department or one of its employees, and request that disciplinary measures be taken (16).

First: Creating a culture of integrity, transparency, and compliance. This authority is stipulated in Order (55) and referenced in Articles (1) and (3), paragraphs eight and nine, which outline the Commission's role in promoting integrity through two channels:

Implementing awareness and education methods to strengthen public demands for transparent, responsible, and accountable leadership, and developing ways to nurture this culture in society through the media, educational curricula, and cultural initiatives.

Developing a culture of personal integrity and ethics of public service among government employees, promoting transparency, integrity, and fair treatment in public service through awareness and public education programs (17).

2-Enacting laws to reduce or limit corruption

This authority is stipulated in several parts of Order (55). As stated under the title "Purpose" in Section (1), one of the main objectives for establishing the Commission is to draft anti-corruption legislation. Order (55) refers to this under Section (3), "The Integrity Commission," as one of the foundations for its establishment.

(16) Sections (3) and (4) paragraphs (1-5) of Order (55) of 2004

(17) Sections (1-5) of Order (55) of 2004

Under the title "Powers and Duties" in Article (4)(8), the Order assigns the Commission responsibility for submitting anti-corruption draft laws to the Council of Representatives (the legislative authority). The Department of Legal Affairs operates under the Commission's authority but is not among its primary responsibilities, as stated in Article (5)(6) of Order (55). This highlights the importance of the legislative role entrusted to the Commission. The legislative recommendations are on the anti-corruption laws and encouraging integrity, transparency, accountability and proper governance of government transactions (18)

Commitment of leaders to disclose their financial interests

This is among the most important principles of transparency outlined in Order No. (55) which endeavors to build trust between the people of Iraq and the government by making officials disclose their economic interests compulsory. This task is a part of the Prevention Department of the Integrity Commission as per Article (4)(6) and Article (7)(3) of Order. (55).

These disclosures are asked to be publicized by the committee, and the submitted information can be examined and copied to improve the governmental transparency and make it more trusted by the population. Upon receiving financial disclosure reports, the Commission reviews and verifies their accuracy (19)

Issuing regulations as permitted by law

The Commission issues regulations in accordance with Article (7) and Articles (4)(6-7) of Order (55). Some of these include rules governing financial disclosure, issued by the organizational authority (the First President) within thirty days of taking office.

The Commission also prepared a revised version of the Code of Professional Conduct to clarify and emphasize ethical standards that Iraqi government employees must follow. This work is carried out in consultation with the National Center for Investment Development and the Inspectors General of Iraqi ministries. In this regard, the following duties are required of government employees:

Reporting various forms of financial and administrative corruption to the relevant authorities.

Acting impartially and refraining from unfair dealings or favoritism, avoiding any financial transactions using non-public official information.

Not providing false, misleading, or incomplete information to the Integrity Commission.

Avoiding personal participation in official matters directly related to their own or their relatives' financial interests, unless legally permitted.

Every government employee must sign a written pledge to comply with the Code of Conduct as a condition of employment (20)

Any measures deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve its objectives:

Paragraph three of Order (55) states that "the Commission shall take any measures it deems necessary and appropriate to achieve its objectives," thus granting it authority and confidence to undertake all actions that serve its goals. However, such actions must meet two conditions: they must be necessary to achieve the Commission's objectives and appropriate in nature. Any action contrary to these conditions or conflicting with other laws is prohibited (21)

Second Requirement: The Commission's Relationship with Other Oversight Bodies and the Investigating Judge

Since the primary goal of the Integrity Commission is to combat government corruption, this cannot be achieved without establishing connections and coordination with judicial and regulatory bodies

We will first explain the relationship between the Commission and the investigating judge, then with other oversight agencies such as the Federal Board of Supreme Audit and the General Administration of Inspection

The Iraqi Integrity Commission works closely with other regulatory bodies to enhance anti-corruption efforts and promote transparency in governmental and administrative work.

(20) Article (4), paragraphs (6,7), Order (55) of 2004

(21) Section (3), Order (55) of 2004

First: The Relationship Between the Integrity Commission and the Investigating Judge

This relationship is based on cooperation and coordination to combat corruption and investigate cases related to public funds and administration. The Integrity Commission, as a specialized oversight body in anti-corruption efforts (such as in Iraq), provides the investigating judge with information and evidence gathered about suspected corruption. The judge then uses his legal position where he examines the evidence, summons the interested parties and makes the necessary judicial actions.

Key Points of the Relationship:

1. Providing Evidence and Information

The Commission collects evidence on the corruption offences and transfers the same to the investigating judge and he decides whether the evidence is enough to initiate a case or send to the court.

2. Issuing Arrest and Detention Orders

The judge in charge of the investigation uses the reports of the Commission to arrest or search warrants on suspects.

3. Legal Coordination

The Commission operates under its governing law (Law No. 30 of 2011), which requires coordination with the judiciary

4. Protection of Whistleblowers and Witnesses

The Commission provides the help of the investigating judge in securing witnesses and whistleblowers by applicable laws.

Second: The Relationship Between the Integrity Commission and Other Oversight Bodies

The correlation between the Integrity Commission and the other regulatory bodies is founded on the concept of cooperation and complement to accomplish the common objectives. Among the key institutions.

1. The Federal Board of Supreme Audit

Nature of the Relationship

Performs financial and administrative audits of all the institutions of the state as a specialized body. Its activities are additional to those of the Integrity Commission that reveal irregularities and financial corruption.

Areas of Cooperation:

Sharing information and data on financial suspicions

Using audit reports to initiate corruption investigations

Providing financial evidence to support cases referred to the judiciary

2. Offices of Inspectors General (before their abolition in 2019)

Nature of the Relationship

The offices were internal control organs in ministries and government agencies before their abolition, which used coordination with the Integrity Commission. Areas of Cooperation

Reporting corruption cases within ministries

Assisting in preliminary investigations

Facilitating the collection of internal evidence

3. The Supreme Judicial Council

Nature of the Relationship

Collaboration with the judiciary guarantees the accountability of the individuals who engage in corruption. The Commission submits the cases before the courts after investigation.

Areas of Cooperation

Providing necessary evidence and documentation to support charges

Coordinating to expedite judicial proceedings

Protecting witnesses and whistleblowers under applicable laws

4. The Administrative Oversight Authority

Nature of the Relationship

Acts as a key oversight body monitoring public employee performance and combating administrative corruption.

Areas of Cooperation

Coordinating in handling administrative complaints

Using administrative oversight reports to detect violations

5. The Parliamentary Integrity Committee

Nature of the Relationship

A legislative body supervising the work of the Integrity Commission and other oversight entities.

Areas of Cooperation

Submitting periodic reports to Parliament

Coordinating on amendments or proposals of anti-corruption laws

Discussing challenges facing the Commission and proposing solutions

6. Civil Society Organizations and International Entities

Nature of the Relationship

The Commission cooperates with local and international organizations to strengthen capacities and build networks that support anti-corruption efforts.

Areas of Cooperation

Implementing training programs to enhance investigative and auditing skills

Raising awareness about the dangers of corruption through community campaigns

Utilizing international expertise in anti-corruption strategies

Importance of Cooperation Between the Integrity Commission and Other Oversight Bodies

Enhances oversight effectiveness by preventing overlap of powers and increasing efficiency

Facilitates evidence gathering and case follow-up through comprehensive information sharing.

Reduces opportunities for corruption through rapid and coordinated detection efforts.

Challenges:

Ambiguity of authority boundaries among some oversight bodies

Political interference that may hinder cooperation

Lack of resources and training in some institutions

Effective cooperation among these entities is essential to achieving tangible results in combating administrative and financial corruption in Iraq.

4. Conclusion

Conclude the study connecting back to the aim of the study.

The role of the Integrity Commission in dealing with administrative corruption as discussed in our research is as follows:

1. Investigating Corruption Cases

The Commission also inquires about the complaints and the violations of administrative and financial corruption, both individual and official.

2. Prosecuting Corruption Offenders

It forwards cases to the Iraqi judicial system upon gathering evidence and carrying out all the investigations that are required to create accountability.

3. Promoting Transparency

The Commission tries to improve the transparency by publishing periodical reports about its activities and investigation findings, and providing advice to the public and private institutions on how to perform better.

4. Awareness and Education

It conducts awareness campaigns and seminars to enhance integrity and the ill impacts of corruption on development and stability.

5. Coordination with Other Entities

The Commission collaborates with the local and international organizations, including the Federal Board of Supreme Audit and the United Nations, to enhance its anti-corruption capacities and receive the global experience.

6. Developing National Strategies

It helps in developing national anti-corruption strategies in collaboration with government agencies and the civil society organizations in an effort to minimize opportunities of corruption and enhance better governance.

7. Protecting Whistleblowers

It offers safe avenues through which corruption can be reported and the protection of the

whistleblowers and their witnesses as per the law.

Challenges Facing the Commission

Political Interference: There are political influences that are at times a problem to the performance of the Commission.

Weak Law Enforcement: Inefficient enforcement of court decisions on conviction of offenders.

Resource Shortage: The Commission is compromised by the lack of trained staff and limited finances.

Importance of the Commission's Role:

Integrity Commission is one of the essential components of the anti-corruption system of Iraq. It enhances the rule of law and creates confidence between the people and the government. It will succeed only through the assistance of other institutions and civil society to convert its initiatives into concrete outcomes that will foster integrity and justice.

Recommendations

1. The Commission is subject to judicial conditions due to the fact that it works under the scrutiny of the investigating judge. Nevertheless, it should change the law to allow the Commission to have the authority to appeal the decision of the investigating judge.
2. Anonymous reports must be ignored, and as they are usually evil and waste the Commission time and resources in spite of the assurances of confidentiality.
3. The executive arm should be independent of the integrity commission and therefore be neutral.

Neither should it be legislatively supervised, which will make it vulnerable to judicial manipulation. Its interaction and collaboration to the judicial system must still be subjected to judicial oversight.

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