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# A Study on Political Reform and Ethical Improvement

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#### Abstract

Through this incident, it reminds me of the idea that personnel appointments are everything once again. Public officials should try to be good at ethics and conduct. If a public official fails to fulfill his or her role as a public official, how can the public trust him or her? You should know that the country does not exist under that official. Looking back on the constitutional history after liberation, it is undeniable that the collusion between politicians and businessmen shocked the people with many suspicions and distrust, and the various irregularities they caused disrupted healthy democracy and the national economic order. In this respect, this paper focuses on Korean political reform measures, but also examines ways to improve public officials' ethics. This paper focuses on that political reform should move in the direction of revitalizing the function of the National Assembly and allowing autonomous and independent parliamentary activities. Parliamentary activities should not be too dampened, and it should not end in a brief promotion in consideration of election votes. The ruling and opposition parties should seriously consider and implement this political reform plan. As one of the people, I hope that this privilege reform plan can be a touchstone for the advancement of political culture. This paper was studied as follows. First, the purpose and justification of political reform were identified. Second, it emphasized the need to improve public service ethics. Third, the problems and improvement measures of political reform were considered.

Keywords: public officials' ethics political reform, parliamentary political system reform, national revolution

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the phenomenon of corruption reflects the political system, people's values, morality, and social trends of a specific country or society, scholars' views on the concept of corruption are very diverse, and a unified concept definition has not been achieved. The history of corruption and bribery began in the Old Testament and is said to have the longest history with prostitutes. Today, we are witnessing too many unethical and immoral actions by leaders of large organizations in all areas, including politics, economy,

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society, and culture. In this unethical world, it is not convincing to emphasize public service ethics only in politics. However, in Korea, where political administration has led the development of the country, it would be no exaggeration to say that all of these irregularities are politicians' problems. Just as a company emits pollution while manufacturing products, political power also produced corruption while manufacturing power generation

In a 2013 survey of public corruption by the Korea Institute of Public Administration, more than 1,000 people, including general businessmen and self-employed people, said politicians were the most corrupt group.

Politicians need political funds to maintain political parties and carry out various political activities as well as campaign funds. Of course, most countries have laws on political funds, but political funds that do not violate them are very small amounts far from reality. In reality, many politicians seek ways to raise illegal political funds, and in many cases, they receive them from companies with special and secret interests. The most representative of the irregularities of lawmakers is the act of lobbying and soliciting favors. Looking back on the constitutional history after liberation, it is undeniable that the collusion between politicians and businessmen shocked the people with many suspicions and distrust, and the various irregularities they caused disrupted healthy democracy and the national economic order. In this respect, this paper focuses on Korean political reform measures, but also examines ways to improve public officials' ethics[1].

### 2. EXPERIMENT: PRECEDENT STUDIES

#### 2.1. Literature review

In 2004, the National Assembly abolished the district party system as part of political reform, because the district party was called a hotbed of illegal political funds, and abolished it and implemented an election public system. In other words, political donations or state subsidies to political parties. In response, politician Jang Ki-pyo said, "I filed a constitutional petition with the Constitutional Court after confirming that it was against the Constitution to receive up to 300 million won in the year of the election," adding, "It is very wrong to have seven aides, but I send one or two to the district party to campaign." Civil servants should not campaign. He criticized, "It is also ordered as a driver, and all donations are criticized. [2]. In addition, former lawmaker Park Chan-jong said, "The national budget paid per lawmaker, not to mention the privilege of arrest, is 5 billion won for a four-year term, including aides, offices, and state-run aviation and rail fees. The astronomical privilege of 1.5 trillion won will be spent on 300 lawmakers for four years, he said. "Even with enormous privileges, they do not comply with the obligations ordered by the people under Articles 1 and 2 of the Constitution." "Article 46 of the Constitution states that lawmakers should prioritize national interests and perform their duties according to their conscience, and Article 8 states that political parties should be operated democratically and should be an organization necessary to gather national political opinions. [3]. Sung Han-yong, a reporter for the Hankyoreh newspaper, argues that there is no more reason for lawmakers to enjoy the privilege of not being arrested. The system was introduced to protect lawmakers' legislative activities from unfair pressure from the regime during the past military government. Parliamentary immunity from arrest has existed since the 1948 Constitution. In 1972, the Yushin Constitution maintained the privilege of not arresting members of the National Assembly. Since 1987, there have been several discussions of constitutional amendments by experts, but there have been no calls for the removal of the clause on the right to arrest. In the 2014 discussion, it was only suggested that the scope of exclusion of the privilege of arrest should be expanded from "current offenders" to "if ty commit crimes equivalent to more than five years in prison."[4]. Former lawmaker Heo Hwa-pyeong emphasized political reform and parliamentary political system reform for national development, believing that the source of political backwardness lies in undemocratic party politics and parliamentary politics[5]. Former professor Park Se-il also stressed that politics should present a vision of hope to the people and have the ability to establish and execute policies to set national goals and strategies and implement them effectively. He saw that politics should have strong national unity capabilities, and that low-cost elections were needed for this. He argued that clean politics and transparent political funds were needed. [5]. Former professor Park Se-il also stressed that politics should present a vision of hope to the people and have the ability to establish and execute policies to set national goals and strategies and implement them effectively. He saw that politics should have strong national unity capabilities, and that low-cost elections were needed for this. He argued that clean politics and transparent political funds were needed. [6]. Professor Yoon Jong-bin emphasized that the new government's political reform task should be to reform the anti-corruption system, and that the prosecution's political neutrality and independence should be emphasized. [7] Why does the parliamentary immunity exist? Because it's a necessary system. The Constitution placed some obligations on the representative of the people, members of the legislature. It's a duty of integrity. It is an obligation to perform its duties according to conscience in preference to the national interest. An obligation not to acquire property rights, interests, or positions by abusing one's position. It is an obligation that cannot be combined with a position prescribed by law.

The Constitution gave lawmakers immunity and immunity from arrest as a counter benefit. It is intended to ensure that lawmakers exercise their constitutional authority properly by securing independence and independence in performing their duties. It's not an individual's. You can't give up at will. [8] Former and current lawmakers are said to be under investigation by police or prosecutors in connection with nomination donations in the ruling People's Power. These charges will appear as a result of investigations and trials, but there is a reason why nomination donations have not been eradicated. First, the right to nominate heads of basic organizations, such as metropolitan councilors and the head of the mayor-gun district, is controlled by local lawmakers and their influence is too strong. Since there are many candidates, it is a structure that naturally asks lawmakers in the district to nominate candidates and has to prepare money envelopes.

## 2.2. Methodology.

This study focused on the author's newspaper article on political reform and the interview of politicians in the field. In particular, the political reform plan is not practical and is only an illusion, so the policy is not reflected, so discussions will be conducted focusing on media criticism and literature research. This study aims to present measures to prevent political corruption that the author has studied so far, focusing on literature research and newspaper articles.

## 3. RESULT :ETHICS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Humans are social and political animals, and the development of human thinking and knowledge has made modern society large-scale and complex. Accordingly, humans as social beings have come to live under various norms anytime, anywhere. These norms are largely divided into customs, laws, morality, and ethics, and the most basic of which is ethics. The reason is that morality or ethics is the standard for evaluating customs or laws. The term ethics is derived from the Greek ethos used by Aristotle and is defined in various

meanings. These definitions of ethics are generally used interchangeably in similar meanings to morality, values, and norms. Morality does not belong to any rational system of ideas, but comes from the general lifestyle of human society, that is, customs, and ethics and morality are cultural products. Norms are specific and implicit standards that are socially or personally acceptable and can be grasped in categories such as ethics and morality. In the end, ethics can also be used in a similar sense to morality, norms, and obligations. It is also valuable as a term confused with ethics. This can only occur in the subjective world of ideas, which is desirable with the power to induce motivation, and refers to the function of an individual's mind, perception, and consciousness. In other words, ethics is generally a norm of behavior that a person should observe and provides a criterion for what and how people in social life will do. Public service ethics is a value standard required for administrative actions and can be said to be used in almost the same concept as public service ethics and administrative ideology. Recently, a Cheong Wa Dae spokesman sexually harassed a young female student on the president's visit to the U.S. and humiliated the country, causing public outrage. This can be seen as a shameful act, not the attitude or duty of a public official. During the Joseon Dynasty, Dasan Jeong Yak-yong said in the Mokmin Review, "Management should be handled generously and strictly." He said, "The root of being strict is to get your body right. "If one's body applies, it will be done immediately even if he does not issue an order, and if he himself does not do it, the order will not be done," he claimed. In addition, he stressed that if Dasan does not realize it even if he leads it, or if he does not show up even if he teaches it, he should finally deal with it as a punishment for those who do great harm or play tricks." [9].

### 4. DISCUSSION

### 4-1. POLITICAL REFORM

As next year's general election approaches, suspicions of nomination donations are rampant here and there. The facts will soon be obscured as police and prosecutors are investigating. Prospective candidates believe that they need to commit adultery and contribution to defeat their opponent, and that the accusation is not against them. In the end, the prosecution or police should dig into the truth of the case. In developing countries, power comes from gunpoint, but power in Korean society comes from politics and politics is difficult to achieve without live ammunition, so the word nomination donation is circulating, expanded, and used in practice. Under the Rhee Syng-man administration, a bowl of rubber shoes or makgeolli is guaranteed to be elected to the National Assembly. However, since there are not one or two bottles of makgeolli, but thousands of pairs of rubber shoes are needed, it is natural that those with money will win gold.

Even in the 1970s and 1980s, political reform was incomplete. In order to maintain his power, the party's boss would receive billions from candidates for national salvation and use that money to spread money to candidates for each district to win the election. The Constitution was revised, the government subsidy system was established, and the National Election Commission recognized donations and sent state subsidies to political parties, but nomination donations have still not disappeared from the political scene.

# 4-2. ANTI CORRUPTION MATTERS

As local autonomy revived and candidates for the nomination of basic and metropolitan council members were in the National Assembly, candidates prepared envelopes of money and asked lawmakers, and those

who failed to win the nomination complained and filed complaints with the resignation authorities. In other words, lawmakers were in the business of receiving cash and returning money if they ran out. Nomination donation politics has become a crocodile-bird relationship. In the local elections, it was said that the head of the local government was elected if he spent 700 million won, and that he was eliminated if he spent 600 million won. Not only political corruption but also officialdom needed money. In the past, there was a widespread theory that money was needed for promotion of officers in public service, money was needed for promotion of police officers, and money was also needed for promotion of lieutenant colonel and colonel. The same was true of hiring teachers and professors at private schools. In fact, when I looked at the criminal yearbook to be prosecuted, there were many people who were investigated by the prosecution for corruption in public office and went to prison. [10].

#### 5. PROBLEMS

People's distrust and criticism are rampant, and there are even theories about the uselessness of the National assembly. What is the cause? I think it is due to authority that cannot be imagined by the general public. Corruption is bound to be born into absolute power. Members of the National Assembly in Korea are said to have too many privileges. Of course, foreign lawmakers have this authority, but there will be no case of being infected with a sense of privilege and authoritarianism like Korea. In the Korean Constitution, lawmakers have immunity and immunity from arrest. Article 44 of the Korean Constitution stipulates that "a member of the National Assembly shall be released during the session at the request of the National Assembly if he/she is arrested or detained without the consent of the National ssembly." Article 45 also granted immunity, saying, "A member of the National Assembly shall not be responsible outside the National Assembly for his/her duties and votes." However, he did not hesitate to abuse these privileged provisions to cover up fellow lawmakers involved in corruption, expose them in a non-governmental manner, and slander them personally. Despite the constitutional provisions that all power comes from the people, it is also against the right to equality to have such power that the Korean people do not have. Recently, former and current lawmakers are said to be under investigation by police or prosecutors in connection with nomination donations in the ruling People's Power. These charges will appear as a result of investigations and trials, but there is a reason why nomination donations have not been eradicated.

First, the right to nominate heads of basic organizations, such as metropolitan councilors and the head of the mayor-gun district, is controlled by local lawmakers and their influence is too strong. Since there are many candidates, it is a structure that naturally asks lawmakers in the district to nominate candidates and has to prepare money envelopes.

Second, the problem is that the Election Commission has not properly investigated and audited the reality of such nomination donations. The limitation of the number of people, the absence of judicial power, and the secrecy of money envelopes cover corruption. [11].

Third, is it necessary to nominate a party for local elections. In order to improve this political climate in which local politics follows central politics as it is, it is necessary to abolish the basic council and the nomination of heads of basic organizations. However, nomination is still the primary gateway. Now, I hope the media and assessment authorities will step up to create a political world without nomination donations. Reform should not be entrusted to lawmakers with 186 privileges and privileges. Does this make sense to try to increase the number of lawmakers by 300 without reducing one privilege. Lawmakers from northern countries such as Sweden and Finland commute by bicycle and have one secretary. Nevertheless, politics is said to work well. It is said that Korean lawmakers spend more than 150 million won a year. I want to ask if you work as much as that money. Local councillors are no longer honorary remuneration. You have to pay

tens of millions of won a year. What would you do first if a person who won the nomination with money was elected. It is natural to commit corruption and corruption while in office to make up for the money again because it is a waste of money. After all, the final victims of the nomination donation scandal are ordinary people who pay taxes. Therefore, a nomination revolution is needed and a national revolution is needed. . . [12].

# 6. A POLICY ALTERNATIVES

The time has come to supplement the party nomination system in local autonomous elections. In local government elections, party nomination can be seen as a system that implements party politics by electing new local political forces or party leaders, and it can also be seen as a control device to check the dominance of local government heads. Therefore, those elected through party nominations can form an organic relationship between local and state affairs. However, in order to realize a true grassroots democracy of residents, it is necessary to promote work with the will and interest of local residents, but if central politics is involved, true local politics is likely to be damaged. Local autonomy is a decentralized politics. In order to implement decentralized administration, local workers should be elected and strive for regional development and characteristics. Since party nomination has many aspects of centralization, local governments are bound to be subordinated to the central party. In addition, as a specific party monopolizes the local council, the check or balance system between the head of the local government and the local council is being broken. Currently, local councils such as Yeongnam and Honam have a large number of specific parties, so the problem is very serious. Local councils' checks and audits of local governments are also considered important for transparency in administration and deliberation on budget waste.

It is said that even if Korea tries to run in a local election, it costs hundreds of millions of billions. Therefore, it is necessary to face up to the evils of the current public el ection, which has reached a serious point of overheating, confusion, and corruption of the election, and abolish it. Above all, in order for effective and practicable policies to be established to control political corruption, thorough causes and prescriptions must be devised, and values must be placed in the system that regulates human fraud. Like all power organizations, party power must be properly controlled. In conclusion, I would like to present the following measures for the structure of political corruption.

First, it is necessary to publicize the harmful effects of the party nomination system and improve the system appropriately. It is necessary to seek ways to abolish the party nomination system or to promote transparency by activating the political fund sponsorship system for incumbent heads of organizations.

Second, it is very important to reform the privileges of lawmakers and to monitor and check their privileged corruption. It is also necessary to strengthen institutional mechanisms to ensure transparency in parliamentary activities of lawmakers and reduce the possibility of corruption through the disclosure of political funds.

Third, there is no public official award for change and innovation. The top ranks of public officials should change first, but they only care about sectarianism and political power. You can't expect a clean lower body when the upper body is rotten. The public office environment should be changed to overflow with a new anticorruption culture and integrity culture. [13].

Fourth, support and cooperation from civic groups are needed so that civic groups can play a role in political corruption reform. Civic groups should be able to represent the problem of corruption in the nomination system, the summoning system of heads of corrupt organizations after the election, and the function of civic

political participation and the media's watchdog should be maximized to prevent power. [14].

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# 7. CONCLUSION

Respecting adults is a practice of Confucian ideology, and it was the most important norm and morality that could not be resisted during the Joseon Dynasty. In particular, it was considered important to think of adults first in practicing filial piety. Dasan Jeong Yak-yong will not be able to be filial if he removes the etiquette of respecting adults. Therefore, he argued that those who became Mokmingwan must practice the method of nursing care to respect adults. In other words, it was considered important for local officials to respect and be filial. [15].

5year ago, the National Assembly passed the Kim Young-ran Act (No Illegal Solicitation and Prevention of Conflict of Interests of Public Officials) and decided to apply strict ethical regulations of public officials to lawmakers to eradicate corruption. This means imposing "up to three years in prison or a fine of up to 30 million won" on public officials who received job-related bribes, even if there is no reward for receiving more than 1 million won.

And We are going to implement a resident recall system. Currently, the resident recall system is applied to local government heads and local councilors, and lawmakers are also trying to apply it. The national recall system can be said to be a democratic check device that can ask for re-confidence through summons. And it can be seen as the establishment of the National Assembly Ethics Supervision Committee. This can be seen as a permanent organization for ethics compliance and corruption monitoring of lawmakers and aides. It is established as an independent and legally regulated institution from Congress, government, and political parties to report current issues such as gifts and entertainment from lawmakers and politicians, business trips, congratulations and sponsorships to the National Assembly Ethics Committee and be investigated. The above reform measures are likely to be implemented immediately if the ruling and opposition parties agree. However, immunity or immunity is not easy because it is a matter of revising the Constitution. The important point is that political reform should move in the direction of revitalizing the function of the National Assembly and allowing autonomous and independent parliamentary activities. Parliamentary activities should not be too dampened, and it should not end in a brief promotion in consideration of election votes. The ruling and opposition parties should seriously consider and implement this political reform plan. As one of the people, We hope that this privilege reform plan can be a touchstone for the advancement of political culture.

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