



Illuminations on the Engineering of the Administrative Organization of Municipalities in Jordan

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the roles and composition of the municipal and decentralization councils in Jordan. In all Jordanian cities and villages, municipal councils and decentralization councils are elected to four-year terms by the general population. In actuality, these councils and the Parliament serve as the nation's "decision-making and administrative organs." Councils have many different responsibilities including administering the accomplishments of municipalities; learning the communal, social, informative, well-being, commercial, and prosperity necessities of their citizenries; planning and organizing the implementation of social, economic, constructive, cultural, educational, and other welfare affairs at the national level. In this paper, we will attempt to illuminate the construction and purposes of municipal councils and decentralization councils in Jordan.

Keywords: Functions, government, municipal councils, decentralization councils, Jordan.

INTRODUCTION

According to general definitions, a government is "the political structure through which a nation or community is administered and regulated." (Britannica, 2004). By referencing the experiences of nationalist movements in several Southeast Asian nations, Anderson emphasized the concepts of nation and community as "invented" in particular. Establishing and maintaining the public's needs, order, and justice used to be the primary responsibilities of the government (Anderson's, 2006). The people's expectations of their government increased along with the population growth and social progress. For this reason, the government began to get involved in the majority of societal economic, social, and cultural activities. This was done to plan and manage their activities in order to support the country's economy and to meet the expectations that were being placed on them. This progression persisted to the point where a sizable and intricate governmental bureaucracy developed in many nations.

As a result, the development of highly centralized systems of government in the majority of emerging countries in the 1950s cleared the way for the provision of public services to the periphery of power as global politics became homogenized and politicized. Consequently, political institutions changed in the 1970s as a result of leaders realizing the need to "move power from the central government to local authorities" (Schmidt, 2019). Even though the central government does provide products and services to the local levels, a study on centralized bureaucracies conducted by Dennis revealed that he discovered that the management of local matters is standardized. He listed the central planners' propensity to "overlook changes in local conditions" as one of the causes. Although he pointed out that bureaucracy often promotes citizens' participation in a variety of ways, the subject of power centralization still dominates research on political structures and systems. He claims that "administrative reforms and reorganization" are the outcomes (DENNIS & RONALD, 1987).

EXPLORATION OF RECENT YEARS

In the past 10 years, emphasis has been placed on representation in local institutions so that local efforts can be used to manage public affairs. The realization that the pressure of combined national and local responsibilities placed on the central government makes inefficiency inevitable, as well as the central authority's demonstrated inability to pay appropriate attention to specific local issues as they do to national concerns, were some of the reasons for this "shift" in thinking. The degree of central government control over development planning and administration was one of the most important topics of discussion in developing nations (Mullen, 2017). In the 1980s, many academics in Africa, Asia, and Latin America got optimistic about the prospects of decentralization in less developed nations because they thought that democracy would grow as a result of decentralization and the transfer of power to the people.

In fact, according to a World Bank research, of the 75 developing nations with populations greater than 5 million, all but 12 assert to have started some sort of process of transferring political authority to local units of government (Dillinger, 1994). Decentralization had therefore caused many

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governments in the developing countries to worry. Some of them believed that their authority would be diminished as a result of the localization of power. Nevertheless, several of these nations started putting in place extensive decentralization plans meant to advance democracy and foster the growth of grassroots political participation through strengthening local governments (Costero, 2002; Rondinelli, Nellis, & Cheema, 1983; Smith, 1985).

The IULA World Wide Declaration on Local Self-Government, which was first adopted in 1985 and then revised and readopted in 1993, outlines the perspective of local governments on the concepts of decentralization and democracy. i. "Local self-government signifies the right and duty of local authorities to administer and manage public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interest of the local community," the Declaration's Article 2 declares. ii. This right shall be exercised by persons and representative bodies freely elected on a regular basis by equal, universal suffrage, and their top executives shall be so elected or appointed with the consent of the elected body (Iula, 1993).

DECENTRALIZATION BACKGROUND

Democratic reforms include decentralization. Governments can empower local communities to collaborate to identify and address issues locally and economically by transferring power and resources to municipal levels. In May 1996, a symposium was jointly sponsored by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank's Economic Development Institute. The Conference came to the conclusion that the aspect of this process that involves citizen participation is what helps make democracy a long-lasting system of government. The Conference also came to the conclusion that "political decision-making must be brought as close to the people as feasible to promote governance, and decentralization of government is therefore strongly related to strengthening governance"(Langseth & Galt, 1996).

The amount of time needed to make a long-term difference on social, economic, and environmental challenges often exceeds the length of elected politicians' terms at all levels of government. Finding a mechanism to institutionalize democracy is vital to give sustainable local governance a concrete meaning since it takes time for people to realize for themselves that they are capable of making positive changes in their lives. A properly executed decentralized democracy at the local level also provides the sustaining time required for the formulation and execution of policies.

ABOUT THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN JORDAN

The development situation in Jordan faced many obstacles and challenges, the most prominent of which was centralization in planning and development decision-making without sufficient knowledge of the real local development needs of citizens. The need to shift the administrative approach from centralization to decentralization, in order to achieve a number of goals, the most important of which are:

- i. Providing the appropriate environment for development to ensure its achievement in its various political, economic and social dimensions, to provide Jordanians with the tools that enable them to contribute to the development of themselves and their country.
- ii. Expanding the powers of the local administrations in the governorates, giving local bodies greater powers in making development decisions, and deepening citizen participation.
- iii. Enabling citizens to contribute to defining their priorities, and setting future visions for the development path in their regions.
- iv. Distributing development gains more equitably and effectively.

According to two main centralization laws, four councils were formed that collectively constitute the decentralization system in Jordan, as follows:

- At the municipality level, there are two councils:
 - i. Local Council
 - ii. Municipal council
- Councils collectively constitute the decentralization system in Jordan

At the governorate level, there are two councils:

 - i. Executive Folder
 - ii. county council

1. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The administrative organization system of the Ministry of Local Administration No. 81 of 2019 set the tasks and powers entrusted to the ministry, as six tasks were set for the Ministry of Local Administration to bring about local development, enhance the developmental role of local administrations, and enhance partnership between the public and private sectors, and the supervisory - oversight role was also referred to. The Ministry is responsible for the work of municipal and local councils. The following are the duties of the ministry as stated in the article of this system:

- Preparing the general policy of the local administration, presenting it to the Council of Ministers for approval, and setting the necessary plans and programs for its implementation. Strengthening the developmental role of local administrations, including local, municipal and provincial councils, and coordination and integration among them to achieve comprehensive local development.
- Enabling municipalities and provincial councils to efficiently prepare and implement strategic and development plans and guide their needs and budgets within their priorities. Preparing programs to build and develop the capacities of workers in the local

administration, raise the level of their performance, and provide sources of funding in coordination with the concerned authorities.

- Monitoring the extent and scope of the municipalities' commitment, the organizational committees, the joint services field, and the provincial councils to implement the provisions of the legislation related to their work, and to audit the accounts of the municipalities.

2. IRBID GOVERNORATE

One of the loveliest cities in Jordan is Irbid (Arabella), known as the bride of the north. It is situated 65 kilometers north of the Amman capital on a flat piece of ground. It is located in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's northwest and is flanked on all sides by productive agricultural plains. Which was referred to as the chrysanthemum in the past due to the chrysanthemum flower that was found there, and Irbid witnessed human settlement around 5,000 BC for each of the Edomites, the Ghassanids, and the southern Arabs. Irbid was distinguished by the Greek, Roman, and Islamic civilizations, and those civilizations left behind archaeological and historical sites in the city. Greek cities arose Romans such as Irbid "Arabella,". These cities are regarded as being among the 10 Decapolis alliance cities. In the Irbid, Golan, and Hauran plains in northern Jordan, the Ghassanids founded their state. It was praised as one of the most stunning Levantine nations, where Islamic fighters made their living. Since the second and third centuries AD, Christianity has grown(Wikipedia, 2022).

3. MUNICIPALITIES OF IRBID GOVERNORATE

Irbid governorate consists of 17 municipalities. Each of these municipalities has a number of cities and villages. Table 1 below addresses the municipalities that belong to Irbid governorate.

Table 1: Municipalities of Irbid Governorate

Number	Municipality Name	Municipal areas
1	Greater Irbid Municipality	Irbid, Fouara, Beit Ras, Kafrajayez, Hakama, Marw, Alal, Al-Mughayer, Sal, Bushra, Hawara, Al-Sareeh, Idon, Al-Hosn, Al-Naima, Kutum
2	West Irbid Municipality	Kfar Yuba, Beit Jaffa, Zohar, Som, Jijen, Dogra
3	New Ramtha Municipality	Ramtha, Bwaida
4	Municipality of SahlHouran	Tura, tree, Amrawa, Zniba
5	Khalid Bin Al Waleed Municipality	Malakah, Mansoura, Umm Qais, Jordanian Hamma, Mokhaiba
6	Al-Kafarat Municipality	Hebras, Hartha, Yobla, Al-Rafeed, Aqraba, KafriSoom
7	New Yarmouk Municipality	Harima, Kharja, Yarmouk
8	Mua'ath Bin Jabal Municipality	North Shouneh, Adasiya, Mansheya, Waqas
9	Al-Shula Municipality	Samar, Saham
10	Al Saroo Municipality	Sama Al-Rousan, Hatem
11	TabqatFahal Municipality	Sheikh Hussein, Mashari'
12	Municipality of Sharhabeel Bin Hasna	Karima, Wadi El Rayan
13	New Mazar Municipality	The Northern Mazar, Enbeh, Deir Youssef, Jahfieh, Erhaba, Zobia
14	The new municipality of Taiba	Taybeh, Deir As-Sana'a, Samma

CONCLUSIONS

Democratic reforms include decentralization. Governments can empower local communities to collaborate to identify and address issues locally and economically by transferring power and resources to municipal levels. The Jordanian government recently discovered that creating councils was the greatest approach to shift authority and resources from the national to local levels of government. Mu'ath Bin Jabal Municipality and its decentralization council bring significant projects to the city which were very hard and closer to be impossible in the past.

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