

Methods of Public Transactions Governance in the Light of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) Relating Corruption Prevention and Protection (A Descriptive Analytical Study)

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Summary: The study aimed at exploring and assessing the ways of public transactions governance in the light of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection. The study used the descriptive analytic methodology to reach the targets in question. To gather the required data, a review of literature was administered. The study came to the finding that in spite of the importance of the ways of public transactions governance stated by the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection, they are not sufficient to overcome public transactions financial and administrative corruption.

Keywords: Public Transactions. Governance. The Algerian Law.

Jel Classification Codes: C22; G20; L85.

I-Introduction:

The need to governance for many developing and developed economies has appeared in the last few decades, especially following the economic collapses and financial crises that many countries in southeast Asia, Latin America as well as Russia in the 1990s of the 20th century and the financial crises that the world economy has witnessed lately particularly in USA and Europe. These crises have resulted in worsening the financial status of many multi-national companies and made them at the brink of collapse.

Thus, cries have raised to set governance rules to regulate and control the work of those who have a relationship with companies. International bodies have recommended putting into effect the principles of good governance, i. e., social participation, democracy, equality, transparency, accountability and efficiency, so that sustainable development could be realized ⁽¹⁾.

Governance is undoubtedly of paramount importance to public transactions ⁽²⁾. Public transactions is subject to corruption most ⁽³⁾. Governance fight corruption, it improves the public service. It enhances efficiency, transparency and equality. It saves effort and cost. It secures greater opportunities for free and fair completion. Thus, it guarantees a fertile atmosphere that helps the public transactions realize the aims of the economic and social development ⁽⁴⁾.

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Owing to the priority of governance to the success and efficiency of public transactions, the Algerian government has made great efforts to consecrate its principles. The Algerian lawmaker has passed many laws, executive orders and presidential decrees to the put into practice the principles of governance in the field of public transactions planning and management (5). The most prominent legislative effort in this area is issuing Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection that aims to enhance the means that fight corruption and foster the principles of governance such as integrity, responsibility and transparency in running the public and private sectors ⁽⁶⁾. The current study seeks to explore and assess the means of public transactions governance in view of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection . Thus, the study's problem is set in the following question: What are the ways of public transactions governance in view of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection? In light of this question, the objective of the study is to highlight the methods of public transactions governance by virtue of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection. The study uses the descriptive analytical approach. The study consists of four chapters covering the definition, the principles, the objectives of public transactions governance as well as its ways related to the civil servants, and the conclusion and the management of public transactions in view of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection. These points are going to be tackled in further detail in the following sections.

1. The Definition, principles and objectives of Public Transactions Governance

This chapter sheds light on the definition, principles and objectives of governance of public transactions. This is going to be dealt with in further detail in the following three sections.

1.1. The Definition of 'Governance of Public Transactions'

Governance's definition varies from area of knowledge to another. Governance according to the dictionary definition is the way that organizations are managed at the highest level, and the systems for doing this. As to a commercial viewpoint, governance means securing the bases for protecting investors' money and gaining appropriate benefits, and guaranteeing not using their money in fields of investment that are not safe and not using this money for the own interest of the administrative staff. In view of legal literature, governance refers to the legislative rules that protect the interests of all the parties who have a relationship with a given company. Administrative studies and researches define governance as securing fair treatment for all the participating parts in an establishment so that they practice their right to control the performance of the establishment equally as well as enhancing it to make best use of available resources ⁽⁷⁾.

In view of what is shown above, the governance of the public transaction means exploring the legal and regulative methods that fulfill the efficiency of public transactions with the least cost and in atmosphere of transparency, equality and fair competitiveness with sound operation that adheres to the set times ⁽⁸⁾.

1. 2. The Principles of Public Transactions Governance

The most important principles of governance of public transactions are shown as follows ⁽⁹⁾; **First; transparency:**

Transparency means freedom of access to and expression of information. The most important indicators of transparency are as follows;

- Making regular reports on the government departments' activities as well as the private ones.
- Publishing the government budget.
- Highlighting the backgrounds of public and private decision making.
- Facilitating access to the statistics of different activities of both public and private sectors.
- Securing various routes for free expression.

No doubt that transparency is one of the most important principles of governance. It is a key pillar to any reform aims at forbidding financial and administrative corruption. It is unlikely to talk about



a governed system that lacks transparence. That is, a system that does not make an easy and free access to information ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Second; accountability:

Accountability means investigating those in charge in public and private sectors, over-sighting them, putting them on trial and sanctioning them if they are proved guilty of breaking the law or the trust of people. Accountability also means rewarding them if they work hard and do their jobs honestly. The most indicators of accountability are as follows (11);

- Guaranteeing compatibility between responsibility and authority.
- Setting ways of punishment.
- Applying mechanisms of accountability without discrimination.
- Deciding the type and degree of punishment according to the gravity of the offence.
- Setting legal criteria for reward and punishment.

As a whole, accountability indicates that the government, decision makers, the public sector and the civil community are demanded for public responsibility (12).

Third; effective participation:

Effective participation means making it available for the public to take part in the processes of decision making and carrying out. The indictors of effective participation are as follows;

- Upholding the state of law.
- Enhancing the civil communities.
- Emphasizing the belief that participation is a right for all the involved parties not a gift from the government.
- Accepting the idea of participation.
- Firming up democratic atmosphere.
- Peaceful reciprocation of authority.

These indicators reveal that the principle of effective participation aims at engaging all involved parties in planning, running and evaluating the establishment concerned with public transactions.

Fourth; empowerment:

Empowerment means entitling given servants authorities to enable them to take decisions and plan and implement policies that enhance the efficiency of the department they work for. The most important indicators of empowerment are as follows ⁽¹³⁾;

- Dividing work among staff without discrimination.
- Opening the door for the concerned parties to take part in doing the jobs of the establishment and running it.
- -Planning long-term policies.

In other words, the principle of empowerment aims to engage the concerned parties in running the establishment as a teamwork.

Fifth; rational financial management:

The financial management relates to the costs, funding resources and returns of a certain establishment. The indicators of empowerment are as follows;

- Securing numerous funding resources.
- Making Plans to enhance the establishment's financial resources.
- Setting an annual budget for the establishment.
- Assessing the efficiency of the establishment's activities in view of the costs.
- Fitting Spending to the activities.

This means that the financial management aims at verifying the soundness and integrity of expenditure.

Sixth; the rule of law:

The rule of law means realizing the legal rule at equivalent cases, i. e., the equality before law. The rule of law is the key to the implementation of the principles of governance. The most important indicators of empowerment are as follows;

- The existence of legal rules or a written law.
- The belief in the fairness of this law.
- The circulation of law in the society.
- The existence of ways of dispute settlement and the equality in using them.

This indicates that putting this principle into practice needs not only fair laws but just implementation as well.

Seventh; discrete decision making:

The discretion of decision making process indicates that the decisions that are taken in an establishment are made not out of personal interests but on specific, objective and rational rules.

The most important indicators of the discretion of decision making are as follows;

- The subject of the decision meets the needs of the establishment as well as the society.
- The experts participate in decision making.
- A prior public discussion is made before taking the decision.
- Studies are done on the cost of the decision alternatives.

This show that this principle requires that the process of decision making ought to take into account the views of the experts and the public as well.

Eighth; the efficiency of the establishment:

The efficiency of the establishment means that the concerned department is able to make best use of its potential and resources to fulfill the targeted objectives. The most important indicators of the efficiency of the establishment are as follows;

- Setting short and long term objectives.
- Assessing the staff's performance in view of the set objectives.
- Attaining the objectives at the given times.
- Staff's cooperation to fulfill the objectives.
- Using human and physical resources efficiently (14).

It is noteworthy that this principle does not mean that what is only important is to realize the targeted objectives, but to achieve them at the highest quality with the least cost and to keep to the fixed times as well.

1.3. The Objectives of Public Transactions Governance

Governance of public transactions has many objectives shown as follows (15);

- Encouraging new policies and programs for participation under the sponsor of international organizations in a society that is based on democracy, accountability and human rights' observation.
- Enhancing the citizens' capabilities of participation and initiation.
- Empowering the civil society's organizations to share the activities of social and economic development with the government.
- Upholding the establishments to make optimal use of resources and fulfilling sustainable development.
- Reducing expenditure and minimizing waste.

Facilitating supervision and control. –

Putting transparency into practice. -

Generally, governance aims to foster the performance of the establishment to fulfill the targeted objectives at the least cost and the highest quality.



2. The Governance Ways Related to the Civil Servants in the Field of Public Transactions

The civil servant is: "every person occupies a legislative, executive, administrative or judiciary office or a member of the elected municipal councils, whether appointed or elected, permanent or interim, paid or not, regardless of his rank or seniority" (16). The Algerian lawmaker decides ways of governance to the civil servants working in the field of public transactions so as to guarantee the integrity of the civil servant and fight corruption in this vital field. Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection refers to these ways under the coming three topics:

- The recruitment of the civil servant.
- The property declaration of the civil servant.
- The code of ethics of the civil servants.

These topics are shown in further detail in the following sections" (17).

2.1. The Governance Ways Related to the Recruitment of the Civil Servant

The Algerian legislation defines specific methods of governance to the recruitment of the civil servants. Article (3) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection refers to these methods. It states that: "The regulations that follow have to be considered when recruiting the civil servant and when running the civil service:

- 1- The principles of success, transparency and objectivity such as meritocracy, fairness and efficiency.
- 2- The appropriate procedures to select and form the candidates for public offices that are more susceptible to corruption,
- 3- A good pay and sufficient compensation,
- 4- Planning proper educational and formational programs to enable the civil servants do their jobs correctly and honestly and to benefit from a specialized educational course to raise their awareness of the dangers of corruption" (18).

In light of the above mentioned Article, there are certain stipulations that ought to be taken into account when employing the civil servant. The candidates ought to be selected on the basis of objective and transparent standard such as meritocracy, efficiency and fairness. This is to guarantee that the civil servant won't be affected by their own interest at the cost of the public good. That is, objective selection of civil servants in charge of public transactions is an implementation of governance and a safety valve against corruption.

Not only does the pre-mentioned text highlights the discrete selection of civil servants working in public transactions department, but it emphasizes training them to do well in their jobs, to keep to vocational fairness, honesty and integrity and to raise their awareness of the evils of corruption as well. It also intensifies that they should receive a respectable pay and sufficient compensation so that they lead a dignified life and not to undergo sufferings and pressures that make them liable to corruption. That's why studies calls for reforming the public pay system so that the civil servant's standard of living is raised and is immunized against corruption ⁽¹⁹⁾.

2.2. The Governance Ways Related to the Civil Servant's Property Declaration

The Algerian lawmaker defines ways of governance to the civil servant' property declaration. Article (4) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection refers to these ways. This Article prescribes that: "In order to guarantee transparency in political life and public affairs, protect public property and to maintain the fairness of the persons who are in charge of a public service, the civil servant has to declare their property. The civil servant has to make a written declaration in the month that follows their occupation of their positions or at the start of their election term. This declaration has to be renewed once there is a considerable increase in the financial status of the civil servants the same way as it is done first. Too, this property declaration has to be made at the end of the election office or the civil service" (20).

The previous Article stipulates that the civil servant has to declare their property in the month following they start office and at the end of it, and to renew this declaration once they obtain a

considerable increase in their pay. The wisdom of this declaration is to maintain transparency in public affairs, protect public property and preserve the integrity of civil servants.

As to the content of this declaration, Article (5) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection prescribes that: "The property declaration, mentioned in Article (4) above, includes filing the land property and personal movables that the civil servant or their children own, even if they are common property, in Algeria or abroad. The way this declaration is written is to be decided through the executive statute" (21). According to the above mentioned text, the declaration of the civil servant's financial status ought to include all the land and movable property the civil servant or their children own even if they are joint ownership in Algeria or abroad.

It is noteworthy that despite the importance of the property declaration in carrying out governance and facing corruption, "the mechanisms needed to check declarations and punish those who are proved submitting false declarations are not clearly decided". In addition, those who report information about fake declaration have to be legally protected ⁽²²⁾.

2.3. The Governance Ways Related to the Civil Servant's Code of Ethics

The Algerian legislation establishes methods of governance to the civil servant's code of conduct. Article (7) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection prescribes that: "In order to enhance corruption fighting, the government, the elected councils, the local communities, the public bodies including the economic ones, encourage fairness, integrity, honesty and the spirit of responsibility for their servants and elected staff especially through setting a code of ethics charter that defines the framework that guarantees sound and righteous performance that is appropriate for the public offices and the elected nominations " (23).

The above mentioned Article mandates setting a code of conduct so that the civil servant can do well, fairly and properly. The previous Article affirms that reason for issuing this code of behavior is to fight corruption and to enhance integrity, honesty and the spirit of responsibility. That is, the aim of this code is to put into practice the principles of governance.

The law also obligates further action to maintain integrity. Article (8) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection dictates that: "The civil servant has to inform the director of the department they work for if it happens that their own interest conflict with the public good or it is likely to negatively affect his job" (24). The above text affirms that the civil servant has to inform the men in charge of the department they work for if there is a conflict between their own interest and the public good or if it is likely to be affected. Since most of the corruption cases are due to a contradiction between the civil servant self -interest and the public one, the law confirms that the civil servant should tell their heads to take measures to prevent any aberrance. "The conflict of interests implies that the civil servant has got his own business or another job other than his civil one such as working in the field of entrepreneurship or what is like" (25). In this case "he will have to recuse from concluding this transaction" (26).

3. The Governance Ways Related to the Conclusion of Public Transactions

The Algerian lawmaker affirms given ways of governance to conclude public transactions. These ways are prescribed by Article (9) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection. This Article dictates that: "It is mandatory that the procedures of public transactions has to be based on the regulations of transparency, fair competitiveness and objective standards. The following regulations have to be paid further care:

- The transparency of the information related to the procedures of concluding public transactions,
- The prior preparation of the participation and selection requirements,
- Setting accurate and objective standards for taking the decisions related to the conclusion of public transactions,



- Using all possible means of appeal in case that the regulations of concluding public transactions are not respected " ⁽²⁷⁾.

The previous Article confirms that the procedures of public transactions have to be set in conformity with principles of transparency and fair competitiveness and based on objective standards. It asserts giving more attention to the following rules:

- The publicity of the information of measures of public transactions' conclusion.
- The earlier planning of the participation and selection requirements.
- Specifying accurate and objective criteria for decision making relevant to public transactions' conclusion.
- Practicing every possible way of appeal if public transactions' regulations are breeched. This indicates that the lawmaker concentrates on two main bases to bring governance into effect and fight corruption. These two main bases are; first, respecting the rules of transparency and relying on the objective standards in concluding public transactions (28).

4. The Governance Ways Related to the Management of Public Transactions

Governance ways also cover the management of public transactions. Article (10) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection dictates that: "Measures are to be taken to foster transparency, responsibility and rationalization in running public finances in accordance with the legislation and regulation in effect particularly at the level of rules related to the planning and implementation of government budget

" ⁽²⁹⁾. The pre-mentioned Article prescribes using necessary actions to enhance the principles of governance in running public finances. It mandates taking every possible means to stress transparency, responsibility and rationality in managing public finances especially when making the plans of the government budget and putting it into practice.

The law also demands to bring transparency into effect when dealing with the public. Article (11) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection dictates that: "To get transparency in running public affairs, the public establishments, departments and bodies are to stick mainly to the following:

- Taking measures that enable the public to obtain information about their regulation, management and decision making,
- Facilitating the administrative procedures,
- Raising awareness of the dangers of the public administration's corruption,
- Replying to citizens' complaints,
- Revealing the reasons for the decisions taken against the citizen's interest and getting them informed of the possible ways of appeal" (30).

According to the above-mentioned Article, it is necessary that the civil servants ought to take steps to fulfill transparency when dealing with the public. These steps are to be as follows:

- a. Adopting procedures and rules that help the public to get access to the information that makes them aware of the structure, the organization and the management of the establishment and how decisions are taken.
- b. Simplifying the administrative requirements.
- c. Disseminating information on the evils of the corruption of the public administration.
- d. Responding to citizens' complaints.
- e. Making known the reasons for decisions that are against the citizen and clarifying the ways of appeal.

It is clear that the essence of the previous steps is to get the public engaged in running, controlling and assessing the processes of public transactions so that the principles of governance are put into practice and corruption is banned.

To sum, public transactions are the strategic tool that the lawmaker has put in the hands of the public authority so as to achieve the financial processes related to running public facilities. The Algerian economy depends mainly on pumping public funding to push forward the economic cycle through increasing public spending. Thus, public transactions are the best approach to manage public finances ⁽³¹⁾. However, in order that public transactions are capable of attaining the targeted objectives, corruption in this area has to be eradicated. Governance is an essential pathway to overcome corruption. Nevertheless, combating corruption in the field of public transaction won't bear fruit until the principles of governance, i. e., transparency, participation and accountability, are put into effect.

Conclusion

The current study aimed to spotlight on the methods of public transactions governance by virtue of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) relating corruption prevention and protection. The study came to the following findings:

- a. Governance of public transactions means exploring and implementing legal and regulative approaches that fulfill public transactions efficiency with the least cost and the highest quality and with observation of the set times and with consideration of transparency, equality, fair competitiveness and sound management.
- b. The most important principles of governance of public transactions are transparency, accountability, effective participation, empowerment, rational financial management, the rule of law, discrete decision making and efficiency.
- c. The governance of public transactions aims to encourage new policies and programs for wider participation, make optimal use of resources and fulfilling sustainable development, rationalize expenditure and stop waste, facilitate supervision and control and put transparency into practice d.The governance ways related to the civil servants in the field of public transactions are as follows:
- 1. Recruiting the civil servant on the bases of success, transparency and objectivity such as meritocracy, fairness and efficiency.
- 2. Allocating a good pay and sufficient reward for the civil servant in the department of public transactions.
- 3. Planning proper educational programs to enable the civil servants do their jobs correctly and honestly and to raise their awareness of the dangers of corruption"
- 4. Demanding a property declaration from the civil servants in the department of public transactions at the start and the end of office and to be renewed once there is a considerable increase in pay.
- 5. Setting a code of conduct so that the civil servant can do well, fairly and properly.
- 6. Informing the authority of the public transaction department if there is a conflict between the civil servant's own interest and the public good or if it is likely to be affected.
- e. The governance ways related to the conclusion of public transactions are as follows:
- 1. Keeping to the regulations of transparency, fair competitiveness and objective standards.
- 2. Adhering to transparency of information related to the procedures of concluding public transactions.
- 3. Planning participation and selection requirements in advance.
- 4. Setting accurate and objective standards for taking the decisions related to the conclusion of public transactions,
- 5. Making available all possible means of appeal in case that the regulations of concluding public transactions are broken.
- f. The governance ways related to the management of public transactions are as follows:



- 1. Taking necessary actions to enhance transparency, responsibility and rationality in running public finances especially when making the plans of the government budget and putting it into practice.
- 2. Adopting procedures and rules that help the public to get access to information that makes them aware of the establishment's structure, organization, management and decision making.
- 3. Simplifying the administrative requirements.
- 4. Disseminating information on the evils of public administration corruption.
- 5. Responding to citizens' complaints.
- 6. Making known the reasons for decisions taken against the citizen and clarifying the ways of appeal.

In the light of the research findings, the current study recommends to consider the following:

- **a)** Prescribing that the civil servants recruited in the field of public transactions has to be religious, highly mannered, hard -working and experienced.
- b) Deciding clear mechanisms to check the validity of submitted property declarations.
- c) Securing legal protection for those who report information about fake property declaration.
- **d**) Regularly training the staff working in the department of public transaction on the methods needed to put governance principles into practice.
- e) Specifying a separate committee to guide, direct, supervise and assess the extent to which public transactions department adhere to the principles of governance.
- f) Engaging the dealers of public transactions such as entrepreneurs and importers to participate in the forums and workshops of amending the regulations and laws of public transactions.
- g) Setting booklets and guides to provide and circulate information on how to conclude and implement a public transaction.
- h) Using the national mass media to enhance the culture of public transactions governance. **Notes**
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- (2)"Public transactions are written contracts concluded with economic dealers for a return according to the stipulated terms in order to meet the needs and interests of the contracting parties in the fields of works, materials, services and studies". See, Article (2), the Presidential Decree no. (15-247) issued on 16th September, 2015, relating regulating public transactions and
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- (7) Walid Bu- Laqab, Al-Hawkamah Ar-Raqamiyah K-De'ama Asasiyah Le-Ta'zeez Mumarasat Hawkamat Ash-Sharikat Khilal Jae'hat Corona Wama Ba'deha; Dirasat Halat Sharikat Toyata, *Majjala At-Tamweel, Wa- Al-Iisthmar Wa At-Tanmiyah Al-Mustadamah*, vol. no. (7), issue no. (1), pp. 714 715.

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- (17) The Algerian Act no. (06-01) in (2006) relating corruption prevention and protection. See, *the Algerian Gazette*, issue no. (14) on 8th March, 2006.
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- (21) Article (5) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) in (2006) relating corruption prevention and protection. See, *the Algerian Gazette*, issue no. (14) on 8th March, 2006.
- (22) Al-Amirah Nazeeha Baies and Latifa Kilakhi, Waq'e Al-Hawkamah Ka-Aliyah Le-Mokafahat Al-Fasad Fe Al-Idarat Al-Umumiyah: Dirasah Tahliliyah Le-Moasherrat Al-Hawkamah Al-Alamiyah, WGI, Ida'ah Ala Al-Jazaer Khilal Al-Fatrah Al-Mumtaddah Men 2010 Ela 2020, *Majjalat Iqitasdiyat Shamal Efricyah*, vol. no. (19), issue no. (32), p. 111.
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- (24) Article (8) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) in (2006) relating corruption prevention and protection. See, *the Algerian Gazette*, issue no. (14) on 8th March, 2006.
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- (27) Article (9) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) in (2006) relating corruption prevention and protection. See, *the Algerian Gazette*, issue no. (14) on 8th March, 2006.
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- (29) Article (10) of the Algerian Act no. (06-01) in (2006) relating corruption prevention and protection. See, *the Algerian Gazette*, issue no. (14) on 8th March, 2006.
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