



King: Citizens' confidence in state institutions is key to success of reforms

Amman, Dec. 8 (Petra)--His Majesty King Abdullah II highlighted the importance of enhancing the national integrity system to build on achievements, boost citizens' confidence in the state and its institutions and instill reassurance in citizens.

In a letter to Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour the King asked Ensour to head a Royal committee to enhance the integrity system.

King Abdullah stressed the importance of enhancing the system of national integrity, accountability and transparency and to institutionalise its work and the mechanisms of cooperation within concerned agencies, in order to address loopholes in efforts to combat, firmly and transparently, all suspicions and cases of corruption and refer them to justice. He also called for supporting all monitoring agencies, in a way that enables them to carry out their duties fully.

His Majesty highlighted the need for a charter to enhance the system of integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law, guarantee justice and equal opportunity and combat wasta and favouritism.

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[http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?Site\\_Id=1&lang=2&NewsID=93418&CatID=13&Type=Home&GType=1](http://www.petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?Site_Id=1&lang=2&NewsID=93418&CatID=13&Type=Home&GType=1)

# THE JORDAN TIMES

## King names Ensour as head of integrity committee

Dec 08, 2012 | 22:15



**AMMAN** — His Majesty King Abdullah on Saturday said Jordanians’ trust in state institutions is the cornerstone for the success of reform efforts, and directed Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour to head a Royal committee to reinforce integrity.

“The Jordanians’ trust, which will motivate them to actively participate in the decision-making process, is the engine of reform efforts,” His Majesty said in a letter to the prime minister.

Highlighting the developments of the “national integrity system”, the King said that the achievements reached so far need to be built upon to reassure Jordanians of their “present and the future of their children”.

He also said that the basis for good governance in the Kingdom should be the higher principles of justice, equality, transparency and rule of the law, in addition to accountability and fighting corruption.

The Royal committee, headed by Ensour, will work to support the system of integrity by studying the current laws and review the situation of the current

anti-corruption and public monitoring agencies, and submit recommendations that would better the work of these institutions.

Entrenching an atmosphere of justice, accountability and good performance is in the public's interest, which is our top priority and higher goal, the King said in the letter.

His Majesty also chose 11 other key figures to serve as members of the Royal committee, including Senate President Taher Masri, Judicial Council President Hisham Tal and Minister of Public Sector Development Khleef Al Khawaldeh, in addition to former minister Rajai Muasher, former senator Talal Abu-Ghazaleh and former MP Abla Abu Olbeh.

The King outlined several cornerstones that the committee will be basing its work upon.

Firstly, the committee will ensure the administration of public money and state resources is done properly, and place regulations that would prevent its squandering.

Additionally, it will work to promote accountability and transparency in the public sector, regarding budgets, tenders and governmental supplies, in addition to setting criteria for appointments in senior positions and standards for offered services and mechanisms of processing complaints.

He also said that the committee needs to empower monitoring bodies to deter and fight corruption.

The King said that the committee needs to instil the principles of good governance within the public and private sectors and civil society institutions, and it should establish a culture of transparency, accountability and concern for the public's well-being.

The last cornerstone specified for the committee was developing a framework that would regulate the collaborative relations between the public and private sectors.

Following is the unofficial translation of the letter:

Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, May God Protect you,

Peace be upon you, God's mercy and blessings,

I send you my greetings, expressing my pride in your career and my trust in your ability to play a national role that you will play with responsibility and dedication. I rely on that, especially at this stage, which requires all of us to work hard for the good of the homeland and the citizens.

Today, we are working with great resolve to translate the outputs of the comprehensive reform process, realistically and responsibly, with all its political, economic and social dimensions.

Today, Jordanians' confidence in the various state institutions — which will motivate them to actively participate in decision and policy making and implementation processes — is the engine that drives comprehensive reform efforts towards success and to continue ahead in our path to build and to achieve.

Jordan has managed, with the grace of God, to build entrenched and prestigious institutions that have distinguished themselves with efficiency and prudent administration. These institutions have in the past decades contributed immensely to serving citizens' interests and protecting and securing their rights.

Considering the requirements of the next stage of democratic rejuvenation, and the requirements of the reform process in its various dimensions, we feel we must, in line with national priorities, renew and develop the national integrity system so as it builds on the accumulated achievements and continue forth to increase the citizens' confidence in the state and its institutions, and set their minds at peace regarding their present and the future of their children.

Laying the foundations for the higher principles that the homeland is built upon — like justice, equality, transparency and the rule of the law, in addition to fighting corruption and accountability — which are the cornerstones of good governance in Jordan, is the basic rule and the constant spirit of our reform process.

The reform process will not arrive at its desired goal except by constructing a true, actual, balanced partnership between all institutions within the national integrity system, to establish a framework for cooperation that is based on a clear vision and qualitative basis.

Your Excellency,

Fighting all forms of corruption, before it happens, the reform of the financial and administrative systems, strengthening the organisational values and the ethics in state institutions and the rooting of the practice of the right to access information, in addition to the consolidation of transparency, justice and accountability in administrative decision making within governmental institutions, the private sector and civil society institutions are priorities that will not be achieved without activating and integrating the role of the control and monitoring agencies, according to the best practices and professional standards.

Building on these constants and as a translation of these visions, I hereby charge you with chairing a committee for the strengthening of the national integrity system.

The committee will be tasked with reviewing the laws and studying the situation of control agencies, in addition to diagnosing the problems they face. Additionally, the committee will reveal the defects and weak points, and will suggest recommendations that would strengthen and enhance the work in these agencies to fight corruption and ensure better collaboration between them.

This should lead to applying the best standards for a balanced institutional performance, which would ensure the entrenchment of an atmosphere of justice and accountability. It will also better the agencies' performance to achieve public good, which is our first priority and highest goal.

As such, we decided on selecting the following eminent figures as members in the committee on the national integrity system:

- HE President of the Senate
- HE President of the Judicial Council
- HE Minister of Public Sector Development/Rapporteur
- Dr Rajai Muasher
- Dr Muhammad Hammouri

- Mr Abdul Majid Thuneibat

- Mr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

- Ms Abla Abu Olbeh

- Dr Mousa Burayzat

- Mr Mahmoud Erdisat

- Mr Bassem Sakijha

Here, it is imperative to emphasise a set of basic points that would form the methodology of the work of the committee:

- Firstly: Ensure that the administration of public money and state resources is done properly, and place regulations that would prevent any squandering.

- Secondly: Increase accountability and transparency in the public sector, regarding budgets, tenders and governmental supplies, in addition to placing a framework for appointments in senior positions and standards for offered services and dealing with complaints.

- Thirdly: Enabling monitoring agencies by strengthening their ability to deter and fight corruption, according to each institution's area of concern.

- Fourthly: Instilling the principles of good governance within the public and private sectors and civil society institutions, to establish a culture of transparency, accountability and concern for the public's well-being.

- Fifthly: Developing a framework that would regulate the collaborative relations between the public and private sectors.

I reaffirm the necessity for the highest degree of impartiality to be achieved by the committee while performing its national tasks, and I emphasise the necessity of communication and dialogue by the committee with all civil society institutions, including parties, professional associations and the various political powers. I also urge you to be open-minded as you listen to the ideas and visions of Jordanians, so that the committee would use these ideas to prepare the following:

Firstly: Draft a document that includes the basic principles and the ethical and professional criteria that would regulate work in both the public and private sectors, strengthening integrity, transparency, rule of the law and accountability, which would ensure justice and equal opportunity, in a bid to fight wasta and favouritism.

Secondly: Preparing an executive plan that is bound by a specified time frame to strengthen the national integrity system, accountability and transparency, while institutionalising its work and cooperation mechanism between them. It will specify and recommend laws that need to be amended, and the technical needs to develop the organisational capabilities of the relevant agencies to carry out their work according to the best international practices.

After the document and plan are concluded, they will be displayed and discussed — transparently and objectively — at a general, national conference before being presented to the next parliamentary government. That would form a new, and awaited, starting point in our blessed reform process, God willing.

Today, in light of what is due in this stage and the reform achievements, I reaffirm the importance of the unity of all the sons and daughters of our dear country, on a single march where the efforts complement each other to achieve the higher interest of our country. I have complete faith that this committee — which enjoys our support and assistance, in addition to the collaboration of all the state's agencies — will perform its tasks to the fullest and serve the public interest.

We wish you success in the service of our dear country and faithful, noble people.

Peace be upon you, God's mercy and blessings,

Abdullah BinAl Hussein II

Amman, Muharram 24, 1434 AH

December 8, 2012 AD

<http://jordantimes.com/king-names-ensour-as-head-of-integrity-committee>



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<http://en.ammonnews.net/article.aspx?articleNO=19443>





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<http://www.breitbart.com/system/wire/upi20121208-190507-3318>

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<http://vista.sahafi.jo/art.php?id=8c730586a8d99aba1bf79a3508a8de12e230d458>