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International donors may cut aid to Afghanistan over corruption

September 29, 2013

The independent anti-graft watchdog, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) on Saturday warned that international donors will cut funding to Afghan projects unless action is taken to stop rampant graft from going unpunished.

Drago Kos, chairman of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) quoted by Reuters said, “The biggest problem in this country is impunity. People don’t see the bad guys are being sanctioned, people do not trust the government.”

While speaking at the release of group’s six-month report, Drago Kos said, “There’s no reaction from the police or attorney general’s office.”

The report released by Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) revealed that nepotism and fraud in one of the US-backed project, Civilian Technical Assistance Plan (CTAP).

According to the report, CTAP was one of the clearest examples of the ongoing rampant graft, however, neither the Ministry of Finance nor the Supreme Audit Office had shown any “willingness” to cooperate.

In response to the review of the programme by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), largest donor of CTAP, Drago Kos said, “It would have to be a very serious issue that they would cut their own programme, but when deciding about a new one, this could be an influence. They will either not get into it, or limit the funding.”

This comes as USAID has recently slammed by auditors for grand, wasteful schemes. MEC was launched in 2011 to fight against corruption in Afghanistan, and was sponsored by British government.

Delegates from 80 nations pledged \$1 billion in aid to Afghanistan during Tokyo conference last year, however, the funding was tied to a much strong effort to fight corruption.