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ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE POLICE ORGANIZATION'S ROLE IN ENSURING ECONOMIC SECURITY

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ABSTRACT

Economic security encompasses a nation's economic stability, independence, and safeguarding against external influences. The Mongolian Police have been actively engaged in activities aimed at maintaining national security, preventing crime, preserving public order, and ensuring public safety.

While the police is fulfilling their legal responsibilities to uphold economic security, there is a lack of coordination among organizations, as well as a shortage of skilled personnel, advanced technology, and equipment. Therefore, it is imperative to assess the current role of the police in economic security and explore ways to enhance their involvement in safeguarding economic interests.

This study investigates the current role of Mongolia's police organization in safeguarding economic security, focusing on combating financial crimes and money laundering. By analyzing seven years of crime data (2017-2023) and using SWOT methodology, the research highlights significant challenges in law enforcement's ability to effectively address economic threats.

The SWOT analysis identifies organizational strengths such as experienced personnel and established monitoring systems, but also highlights critical weaknesses in technological infrastructure, human resource capacity, and inter-agency coordination. External opportunities for improvement include international cooperation and legal framework enhancements, while threats stem from evolving criminal tactics, technological advancements by perpetrators, and political interference.

In conclusion, the study emphasizes that despite active involvement in economic security initiatives, Mongolia's police encounter significant challenges in personnel training, technological resources, and organizational coordination. To effectively combat sophisticated economic crimes and safeguard national economic interests, enhanced international collaboration, modernized investigative tools, improved legal frameworks, and strengthened inter-agency cooperation are essential.

KEYWORDS

Economic Security, Effectiveness of Law Enforcement, SWOT Analysis, Detection of Financial Crimes, Investigation of Money Laundering, Capacity Building for Police, Mongolia

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Introduction.

In today's interconnected world, it is widely acknowledged that crime is a global issue that is organized internationally, and no single country can combat it effectively on its own.

By promoting economic self-sufficiency through the development of domestic resources, production, and technology, safeguarding key sectors like energy, food, and water resources from foreign influence, managing exchange rates, inflation, budget deficits, and external debt, ensuring a balance in trade, maintaining foreign currency reserves, enhancing infrastructure for roads, transportation, energy, and telecommunications, investing in education and healthcare, cultivating a skilled workforce, and establishing a legal framework that supports investment and protects property rights, a country can enhance its economic security and shield itself from external vulnerabilities.

Money laundering is a significant crime that poses a threat to economic security, often linked to organized crime, corruption, and terrorist financing. Essentially, money laundering has a detrimental impact on economic security, destabilizes the financial system, hinders economic growth, fosters corruption, and enables the funding of other criminal activities.

The police are responsible for detecting, investigating, and suppressing crimes that harm the economy, such as money laundering, fraud, corruption, and tax evasion. They also combat cybercrime that negatively affects the economy by detecting and investigating cyberattacks, data theft, and computer crimes. Additionally, they supervise banks and financial institutions and investigate suspicious transactions.

Furthermore, in the realm of ensuring economic security, the police collaborate with authorized organizations to ensure the quality and safety of goods, address violations of consumer rights, monitor compliance with antitrust laws, and identify and address unfair competition and conflicts of interest. They also work to detect and prevent violations of patents, trademarks, and copyrights, as well as take measures to prevent crimes.

The police organization plays a crucial role in ensuring economic security

The Mongolian Police is actively working to maintain national security, combat crime, prevent criminal activities, uphold public order, and ensure the safety of the public. They are focused on detecting, investigating, and addressing crimes that impact the economy, such as money laundering, fraud, corruption, and tax evasion.

The Police also work to combat cybercrime, including cyberattacks, data theft, and computer-related crimes. They monitor financial institutions, investigate suspicious transactions, and collaborate with other agencies to ensure the quality and safety of goods, protect consumer rights, enforce antimonopoly laws, address unfair competition, and protect intellectual property rights. Additionally, the Police are proactive in implementing measures to prevent criminal activities.

Police officers are trained specialists in combating economic crimes, with expertise in detection methods and investigative techniques. Experienced officers are adept at detecting and investigating new types of crimes. However, there is a shortage of highly skilled specialists needed to combat emerging forms of economic crimes, as well as inadequate training and funding for ongoing education and practice. The table below presents statistics on the occurrence, detection, and prevention of economic crimes by law enforcement.

Table 1. Economic Crime Statistics by Indicators.¹

Indicators	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of economic crimes	287	242	247	123	158	162	200
Percentage of detected crimes in economic crimes	17.5	17.2	26.1	21.2	42.6	25.7	20.2
Amount of damage from prevented crimes (trillion tugriks)	9.3	23.0	5.6	102.8	17.8	11.9	23.8

The data in the table indicates fluctuations in the number of economic crimes, with the highest recorded in 2017 at 287 and the lowest in 2020 at 123. There has been a consistent increase in the number of crimes over the past three years. The decrease in economic crimes in 2020 can be attributed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures.

The average crime detection rate for the years mentioned is 24.4%. Furthermore, a total of 194.3 billion tugriks in criminal losses have been prevented over the past 7 years. Money laundering stands out as a significant issue among economic crimes, drawing global attention. It is a severe financial offense involving the concealment of income and assets derived from illegal activities to make them appear legitimate.

According to data from the Information Analysis and Operational Management Service of the General Police Department, a total of 162 cases of money laundering were reported within the Police organization between 2019 and 2023 under the offenses outlined in Article 18.6 of the Criminal Code, "Money Laundering." During this period, there were 54 cases reported in 2019, 27 in 2020, 47 in 2021, 12 in 2022, and 22 in 2023.

¹ General Police Department of Mongolia. (2024). *Economic crime statistics: 2017-2023 comprehensive analysis*. Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs.

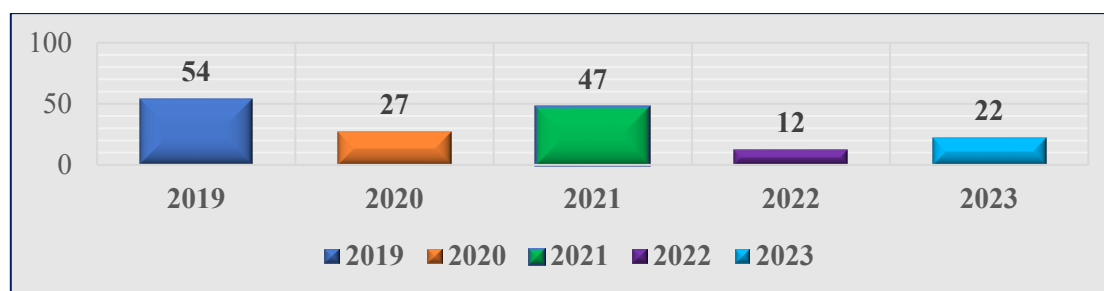


Fig. 1. Reported money laundering offenses (2019-2023).

The chart above illustrates that the 5-year average of reported crimes is 32. In comparison to the 5-year average of money laundering crimes, the years 2020, 2022, and 2023 were below average, while 2019 and 2021 were above average. In general, money laundering crimes were notably high in 2019-2021 but have shown a decline in the past 2 years. There was a significant 74% increase in money laundering crimes from 27 in 2020 to 47 in 2021, possibly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 may have resulted in financial challenges for businesses and individuals, potentially heightening the risk of money laundering. Regulatory agencies may have faced difficulties in detecting and preventing money laundering due to the impact of the pandemic. Furthermore, the transition to online platforms has created new avenues for money laundering through technologies like cryptocurrencies and virtual assets, potentially fueling the rise of this criminal activity.

It can be inferred that the socio-economic conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic may have contributed to the rise in money laundering. However, a more thorough investigation is required to fully understand and substantiate this claim. Out of all the crimes reported during that time frame, 152 cases, accounting for 93.8 percent, were officially documented. Among these, 37 cases, or 24.3 percent, were prosecuted, while 120 cases, or 74.1 percent, were carried out discreetly.¹

The data reveals that only 24.3% of all cases, totaling 37 cases, were successfully prosecuted, highlighting the inadequacy in detecting and resolving money laundering crimes. Money laundering offenses are intricate, requiring advanced skills and technology, and are carried out discreetly, making them challenging to uncover. The current detection rate of 24.3% is deemed insufficient.

To address this issue, it is imperative to enhance the efficiency and timeliness of case registration and investigation, upgrade the expertise and capabilities of law enforcement personnel, and bolster international collaboration. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance the legal framework for combating money laundering, intensify oversight of banking and financial institutions as well as business proprietors, and enhance the system for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions.

As per the Information Analysis and Rapid Response Service, out of the registered crimes, 149 cases (92.0%) were categorized as minor, 13 cases (8.0%) as serious, 55 cases (34.0%) were perpetrated by groups, and 10 cases (6.2%) were carried out by foreign nationals.

This data reveals that the majority of reported money laundering crimes, 92%, are considered petty crimes involving relatively small amounts of money. However, 8% of cases are classified as serious crimes, potentially involving large-scale money laundering and organized crime. The involvement of groups in 34% of cases suggests that money laundering crimes are often organized and complex, requiring a coordinated response. The relatively low percentage of cases involving foreigners in money laundering crimes, 6.2%, highlights a potential trend in this area.

These findings underscore the multifaceted and complex nature of money laundering crimes, emphasizing the need for strategic resource allocation, risk-based approaches, and enhanced international collaboration to effectively combat them.

Furthermore, the service's data shows that out of the crimes registered during this period, 23.5 percent (38 cases) were investigated. Among these, 23.5 percent (38 cases) were sent to court for indictment, 40.7 percent (66 cases) were dismissed and closed, 9.9 percent (16 cases) were combined and resolved, and 25.9 percent (42 cases) are currently under investigation. In summary, the investigation results indicate that a relatively low percentage of cases have been transferred to the court.

¹ Information Analysis and Operational Management Service of the General Police Department

This could be attributed to challenges in gathering evidence and resolving cases. Additionally, 40.7% of all cases, totaling 66 cases, were dismissed, suggesting a significant number of cases where acquittal was warranted or where the alleged crime did not meet legal criteria. This could be a result of errors in the initial investigative phase or stringent legal requirements and evidence standards. 25.9% of all cases, or 42 cases, are currently under investigation, indicating a slow, laborious, and intricate investigation process.

These findings underscore the importance of addressing money laundering, enhancing the efficiency of case registration and investigation procedures, and expediting case resolution. To achieve this, it is recommended to implement measures such as enhancing the capabilities and workforce of law enforcement personnel, improving the legal framework, fostering international collaboration, and adopting innovative investigation methods and technologies.

The table below summarizes the current role of the Police in ensuring Mongolia's economic security by combating money laundering, considering both internal strengths and weaknesses as well as external favorable and unfavorable conditions.

Table 2. SWOT analysis of the current situation of the police role.

S - STRENGTHS:	W - WEAKNESSES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-qualified and experienced staff - Strong internal structure and cooperation - Effective system for monitoring illicit money laundering - Implementation of preventive measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited skilled human resources - Outdated technology and software - Inadequate information provision and funding for money flow control - Legal environment constraints
O - OPPORTUNITIES:	T - THREATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favorable legal environment - Access to international financial support - Collaboration with international partners for knowledge and experience sharing - Advancements in technology for improved operations - Opportunities for training and capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergence of new forms and methods of crime - Rapid technological advancements - Low public awareness - Influence of international criminal networks - Economic instability and crises - Political interference in economic matters.

The Police play a crucial role in safeguarding Mongolia's economic security, including combating money laundering, and have the following strengths:

- The Police have specialized and experienced officers dedicated to combating, preventing, and detecting crimes.
- The structure and organization of the Police have been enhanced, with the establishment of specialized units such as the Cyber Crime Prevention Department and Prevention Department, leading to improved internal cooperation.
- A Law Enforcement Unit has been set up within the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Division, enabling the Police to monitor the flow of illegal money and collaborate with other law enforcement and financial institutions.
- The Police conduct public awareness and education campaigns, which are effective tools in preventing money laundering. However, these efforts are limited by financial constraints.

These strengths highlight the Police's effectiveness in safeguarding Mongolia's economic security and combating money laundering.

Weaknesses in the role of the Police in ensuring economic security in Mongolia and combating money laundering:

- Insufficient qualified and experienced human resources to combat money laundering, necessitating continuous improvement of employee knowledge and skills in light of evolving economic crime methods due to technological advancements;
- Lack of modern equipment, technology, and software essential for detecting and investigating economic crimes and money laundering;
- Inadequate database on individuals and suspicious transactions related to money laundering, hindering effective money flow control;
- Legal environment limitations, including insufficient laws and powers for combating money laundering, as well as the need to streamline and enhance coordination between laws;

- Insufficient coordination and information exchange between state and non-state organizations involved in combating money laundering.

To address these weaknesses, the Police Organization must enhance its capabilities by investing in modern technology and software, improving its database, providing specialized training for its personnel, and continuously upgrading their knowledge and skills.

External factors that support the role of the Police in ensuring economic security in Mongolia and combating money laundering include recent significant reforms in the legal framework to address economic crimes. Additionally, financial support from international organizations and donors is available for combating money laundering. International cooperation allows for the study and implementation of international best practices, collaboration with foreign law enforcement agencies, exchange of experiences, and participation in training and capacity-building programs. Technological advancements provide access to modern techniques, technologies, and software for detecting and investigating money laundering on an international scale. Utilizing these opportunities effectively is crucial for enhancing the Police's capacity to combat money laundering and improve operational outcomes.

Challenges that impede the Police's role in ensuring economic security in Mongolia and combating money laundering include:

- Limited public awareness of economic crimes, increasing vulnerability to and victimization by such crimes.
- Involvement of international crime networks in money laundering, making prevention and investigation complex.
- Advancements in technology used by criminals for money laundering, creating new obstacles for law enforcement.
- Economic crises and instability potentially leading to an increase in money laundering activities.
- Political interference hindering efforts to combat money laundering.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to enhance the Police's internal capabilities, enhance the legal framework, strengthen international partnerships, and promote public awareness and cooperation.

Conclusions

Although the Mongolian police are actively working to ensure economic security and combat economic crimes, certain limitations still exist.

On the one hand, the police have taken positive steps, such as establishing a specialized unit for investigating economic crimes, improving the knowledge and skills of officers, and expanding international cooperation. In addition, work has been initiated to improve the legal and regulatory environment in combating money laundering and bring it into line with international standards.

On the other hand, the police's capacity and technical resources for investigating economic crimes are still insufficient, and they are not prepared to combat new types of economic crimes.

In addition, political influence and conflicts of interest in investigating economic crimes continue to negatively affect the effective work of the police in this area.

In the future, the police will need to enhance its capabilities to address economic crime comprehensively, adopt international best practices, enhance officer qualifications, bolster internal controls and foster a transparent and accountable organizational culture to earn public trust. By doing so, the police will play a crucial role in safeguarding economic security, effectively combating economic crime, and ultimately upholding the rule of law and ensuring citizen safety.

While the Mongolian police have made strides in combating money laundering, there are still areas that require further attention and enhancement. It is imperative to enhance the legal and regulatory framework, empower skilled personnel, leverage modern techniques and technologies, and bolster international collaboration. Moreover, improving coordination among government agencies, establishing an information-sharing system, and mitigating political and other adverse influences are essential steps to address these challenges.

This article examines of Mongolia's police organization highlights a complex landscape of achievements and challenges in ensuring economic security. The Mongolian Police have shown dedication to combating economic crimes through specialized units and preventive measures, but quantitative data reveals significant gaps in operational effectiveness that require immediate attention. Strategic Imperatives for Reform

Based on the analysis, key strategic imperatives emerge for enhancing police effectiveness in economic security:

- Investing in advanced investigative technologies, digital forensics, and data analytics is crucial for detecting complex financial crimes and shifting law enforcement from reactive to proactive responses.
- Implementing comprehensive training programs on financial crime investigation, international cooperation, and emerging criminal tactics is essential to address the complexity of modern economic crimes.
- Strengthening regulations, clarifying jurisdictional boundaries, and enhancing prosecutorial powers will equip law enforcement with the necessary tools for effective intervention.
- Establishing robust information-sharing mechanisms among police, financial institutions, regulators, and international partners is vital for combating transnational economic crimes effectively.

Recommendations

Moving forward requires a shift towards a proactive economic security strategy, encompassing operational improvements and cultural changes within law enforcement agencies. Building public trust through transparency, accountability, and demonstrated effectiveness is crucial for sustained success. Expanding international cooperation beyond bilateral agreements, participating in global financial intelligence networks, and adopting best practices are essential to address the complexity of modern economic crimes that transcend national borders. Addressing political interference and ensuring the operational independence of economic crime units are critical for maintaining credibility and effectiveness. Establishing clear protocols for handling politically sensitive cases while upholding investigative integrity is necessary and should be rigorously enforced.

The study's findings suggest that Mongolia's police organization is at a crucial point in its development as a protector of economic security. While current performance measures show significant deficiencies, the identified areas for improvement offer a path for change. Achieving success will demand ongoing commitment from leadership, appropriate resource allocation, and a willingness to embrace significant organizational changes.

The importance of this endeavor cannot be overstated. Economic security is essential for national stability, and effective law enforcement is vital in combating financial crimes that threaten economic well-being. By addressing weaknesses and seizing opportunities, Mongolia's police force can become a more effective guardian of economic interests, ultimately benefiting the nation's prosperity and its people.

The recommendations outlined in this analysis offer a roadmap for action, but their implementation will require sustained dedication, political resolve, and community backing. Only through comprehensive reform can Mongolia's police organization fulfill its crucial role in protecting the country's economic future.

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