

SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF POLICY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAINOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS IN THANH HOA PROVINCE, VIETNAM

LE QUANG QUYEN

Thanh Hoa Department of Planning and Investment
Vietnam

BUI THI THU

Thanh Hoa University of Culture, Sports and Tourism,
Vietnam

ABSTRACT

In the process of national construction and development, the government of Vietnam have always been interested and have many policies for economic development for mountainous and ethnic minority areas. Realizing the Government's policies, Thanh Hoa province has implemented synchronously, timely and effectively solutions, mechanisms and policies to support economic development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas. However, the development in these areas has not been achieved as expected. Therefore, this articles studies, evaluates the results and limitations and inadequacies in economic development policies in mountainous and ethnic minority areas in Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam and from there proposes those must border in the near future.

Keywords: policy, economic development, mountainous and ethnic minority area, Thanh Hoa Province - Vietnam

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the process of national construction and development, ethnic issues and policies have always been identified by the Vietnamese government as a strategic issue. Based on the theoretical foundation of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, Vietnam has promulgated many guidelines, lines and policies on ethnic issues, in which the principle of "equality and solidarity is consistent, mutual assistance between ethnic groups, creating all conditions for ethnic groups to develop on the path of civilization and progress, closely associated with the common development of the community of Vietnamese ethnic groups" ¹.

The Government of Vietnam has issued many legal documents, decrees and resolutions related to ethnic policies; economic development programs, especially for mountainous and ethnic minority areas, such as the Commercial Development Program in mountainous, remote, and island areas for the 2021-2025 period, the National Target Program Socio-

¹ Communist Party of Vietnam: *Platform for national construction in the transition to socialism*, Truth Publishing House, H.1991, p.16

economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2021-2030 and so on.

Realizing the guidelines, guidelines and policies of the government, in recent years, Thanh Hoa province has been very active in economic development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas. In the period 2016-2020, economic development in mountainous areas has achieved many positive results such as the average economic growth rate of mountainous districts increasing... But there are still many limitations such as small economy scale; the lives of ethnic minorities still face many difficulties, the results of poverty reduction are not sustainable; In the fields of culture and society, although there have been progressive changes, the results achieved are still low compared to the general level of the province... Therefore, in the coming time, it is necessary to have specific and effective solutions to enhance economic development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas.

2.0 SITUATION OF IMPLEMENTATING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN MOUNTAINOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS IN THANH HOA PROVINCE IN THE PERIOD 2016 - 2020

Along with the implementation of specific programs, goals and policies of the Central Government on ethnic issues and policies, over the years, Thanh Hoa province has issued many decisions, programs and projects in supporting socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Thanh Hoa province has spent a lot of resources and effectively implemented ethnic policies, helping people boost production, eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, and improve material and spiritual life for people in ethnic and mountainous areas.

2.1. Achieved Results

Ethnic policies and priority policies for socio-economic development in mountainous areas have been comprehensively implemented in recent years. The achieved results are reflected in the average economic growth rate (GRDP) in the mountainous districts in the period 2016 - 2020 reaching 8.8% (in 2020 reaching 8.5%), higher than 0.3 % compared to the average period 2011-2015; Economic scale of mountainous districts in 2020 (at current prices) will reach 36,896 billion VND, accounting for 15.6% of the province's GRDP ². Per capita income in 2020 will reach VND 33.1 million, an increase of VND 17.1 million compared to 2016, equaling 76% of the province's per capita income. The structure of economic sectors changed positively: The proportion of agriculture - forestry - fishery sector decreased from 37.8% (in 2016) to 34.4% (in 2020); industry - construction increased from 31% to 34%; services increased from 31.2% to 31.6%. Total social investment capital in the mountainous districts in the 2016-2020 period will reach VND 58,000 billion, an average of VND 11,580 billion/year, accounting for about 12.3% of total investment capital mobilization of the province. In the 2016-2020 period, the province has approved investment policies for 257 projects (7 FDI projects) with a total registered investment capital of 35,030 billion VND and 116 million USD, accounting for 15.1% of the total number of projects already approved. approval of investment policy in the province.

² Official Dispatch No. 348/CTK-TH dated July 29, 2020 of Thanh Hoa Statistical Office.

The percentage of communes with roads leading to the commune center that are paved or concreted is 100%; the percentage of villages and hamlets with solidified motorways reached 92%; the percentage of village roads being asphalted and concreted reached 52.2%. Inland waterway transport system in mountainous areas is gradually developed on Ben En lake (36km), Cua Dat lake (43km), on Buoi river..., serving production, business and tourism development regional calendar.

Irrigation system in mountainous areas is interested in investment, better serving the requirements of agricultural production. Completed and put into use important irrigation works, such as: Ho Vung Va, Cam Thuy district; Ray Co lake, Khe Thoong lake, Nhu Thanh district; Dam Bu Dan, Hon Dang, Lang Chanh district; Na Tao dam, Muong Lat district...; upgrading over 100 lake and dam works; fortified more than 1,600 km of canals, accounting for 42% of the total length of canals of 11 mountainous districts, increasing the irrigation capacity to 75%.

Up to now, 100% of communes in mountainous areas have access to the national grid; the percentage of households using electricity from the grid reached 99.8%; there are 2,448 households in 38 remote and extremely difficult villages and hamlets in 7 mountainous districts that do not yet have national electricity grid³.

2.2. Limitations and causes

2.2.1. Limitations

- Economic scale is still small; economic development mainly based on exploitation of natural resources, untrained human resources and investment capital; low labor productivity; The lives of ethnic minorities are still difficult, the poverty reduction results are not sustainable, the rate of poor and near-poor households is still high (in 2020, the poverty rate in mountainous areas is 2.59 times higher than the province's average), the rate of near-poor households is 1.91 times higher than the provincial average).

Socio-economic infrastructure is generally lacking, not meeting development requirements; the percentage of village roads that have not been asphalted or concreted is still high (accounting for 47.8%); Most communes in 11 mountainous districts do not have centralized domestic water supply facilities with clean water quality meeting to the standards of the Ministry of Health. The infrastructure of industrial zones and clusters is still lacking and not attractive to investors. The management and operation of infrastructure construction works such as domestic water, cultural houses, schools and so on still have many shortcomings.

2.2.2. Reasons

*** Objective reasons**

- The mountainous area has complex and fragmented terrain, high slope, little agricultural land; frequent floods, flash floods, and landslides occur during heavy rain; population is

³ 22 villages in Muong Lat district; 05 villages and hamlets in Quan Hoa district; 04 villages and hamlets in Quan Son district; 04 villages and 01 residential cluster in Ba Thuoc district; 01 village in Lang Chanh district; 01 village in Thuong Xuan district; 01 village in Nhu Thanh district.

unevenly distributed, people's education level is low, causing obstacles to the organization and implementation of socio-economic development programs, schemes and projects; Essential infrastructure, especially in remote, isolated and disadvantaged communes, has not yet been synchronized, and has not met production requirements, especially irrigation, electricity supply, traffic, and drinking water.

- The State's mechanisms and policies on socio-economic development, poverty reduction, ethnic affairs, although promulgated many times, the allocation of resources from the central government is limited, scattered, investment rates, low support; a number of poverty reduction policies and projects have been issued but have not yet been allocated capital.

- The socio-economic starting point of ethnic minority areas and low mountainous areas; production levels, customs and practices are still backward; demand for investment in infrastructure development. The whole region has 6 poor districts according to Resolution 30a; and 100 extremely difficult communes, area III and 181 extremely difficult villages and hamlets of zone II communes are eligible for investment under Program 135 in the 2016-2020 period⁴.

* Nguyễn nhân chủ quan

* Subjective reasons

- A part of mountainous people, the poor people, and poor households lack of production knowledge, business experience, capital and market access. There are still thoughts of expectation, dependence, self-deprecation, lack of determination to rise up among a part of people in the mountainous areas.

- The allocation of investment resources is still spread, a number of projects supporting production development are not efficient; a number of large projects with spillover effects, connecting regions have been approved by competent authorities, but have not been implemented, so they have not made a breakthrough in attracting investment in mountainous areas.

3.0 SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN MOUNTAINOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY AREAS IN THANH HOA PROVINCE IN THE PERIOD OF 2022 - 2030

3.1. Promote political and ideological education and propaganda for officials and people of ethnic groups in mountainous areas

- Focus on well implementing the work of thoroughly grasping and propagating the guidelines and policies of the Central and the province, creating strong changes in awareness, responsibility, initiative and creativity of the Party committees at all levels. government, mass organizations, officials, party members and people of mountainous ethnic groups in performing socio-economic development tasks.

⁴ After the inspection, 5% of disadvantaged communes and 30% of disadvantaged villages and hamlets in ethnic and mountainous areas have escaped from the special disadvantaged areas in the 2016-2020 period.

Innovating content, diversifying forms of propaganda and mobilization, such as: Oral propaganda, propaganda through radio, television, press systems, conferences.... Arousing thirst hope to rise out of poverty, eliminate the mentality of inferiority, resignation, the thought of waiting and relying on the support and assistance of the State.

Promoting the role of forces at the grassroots level, especially the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, border guards, police, military, teachers, and reputable people in the community. in ethnic minority areas, mountainous areas... in the work of propagandizing, mobilizing, guiding and helping the poor and poor households to actively and positively rise out of poverty sustainably.

- Strengthen law dissemination and education, raise awareness and sense of law observance among ethnic minorities, so that the people will not listen to distorting and inciting statements of bad people, not migrate freely, do not trade, store, transport and use narcotics, do not spread illegal propaganda, etc., take care of business and develop the economy. To step up propaganda on measures to prevent and control natural disasters, disasters and epidemics; eradicating outdated customs and practices; actively implement guidelines and measures to ensure social order and safety, especially in border areas and ethnic minority areas.

3.2. For the economic development

Focus on economic development orientation by region, by field. Paying attention to mountainous districts, which are key economic development areas of the province. To step up investment promotion, create favorable conditions to attract investment in industrial production development in mountainous areas, especially labor-intensive industries to create jobs and restructure the economy and labor structure, but must ensure that it does not affect the environment of water sources of rivers, streams and lakes.

Invest in building essential infrastructure for production and life in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; giving priority to investment in deep-lying, remote and extremely difficult areas. Mobilize a variety of resources for investment in infrastructure development; effectively implement the infrastructure construction investment project under the National Target Program on socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the 2021 - 2030 period; The national target program on sustainable poverty reduction and social security for the period 2021 - 2025, the new rural construction program for the period 2021 - 2025. Continue to implement specific projects for socio-economic development, rapid and sustainable poverty reduction in ethnic minority and mountainous areas has been approved⁵. Prioritize investment in essential economic and social infrastructure works for production and people's life, including: (1) Repairing and upgrading 100% of traffic routes to the commune center, to the district center has been damaged or degraded; to upgrade traffic routes from commune centers to villages and hamlets that have not been asphalted or concreted, and inter-village and intra-village roads to achieve the target by 2025 of districts in the region. In low mountains, 80% of roads are hardened, and 75% in high mountainous

⁵ Project "Stability production, life and socio-economic development of Mong ethnic minority villages, Quan Son district, period 2016-2020; The project "Stability of life and socio-economic development of the Khmu ethnic group in Thanh Hoa province to 2020; The project "Building typical points for rapid and sustainable poverty reduction in poor districts of Thanh Hoa province, period 2016-2020.

districts. (2) Invest in power projects for 38 villages without electricity. (3) Repairing and renovating lakes, dams and dams; solidified more than 2,200 km of inland canals. (4) Upgrading the commune's cultural and sports center; cultural houses, sports areas in villages and hamlets have not been solidified. (5) Solidify the medical station; damaged classrooms, dilapidated. (6) Repair and upgrade concentrated domestic water works to meet clean water standards for people's daily life.

Strengthen the application and transfer of science and technology to ethnic minority and mountainous areas, attach importance to science and technology transfer, and apply high technology in chain production models. value, concentrated production areas in the direction of goods with the direct participation of ethnic minorities. Encourage and support businesses to build and develop brands for local specialty products and goods. Innovating training methods, transferring technical advances in the direction of "Hand-on-the-job" for people. Agricultural extension, forestry extension and vocational training must be associated with the accessibility of mountainous people and the labor needs of enterprises.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Vietnamese government has always paid attention to building a great national unity bloc, considering it an important factor, having a key meaning for the development of the country. President Ho Chi Minh once emphasized: "Our national policy is to realize equality and help each other among nations to move forward together to socialism"⁶. The Party's policy of great national unity is not only towards the goal of building Vietnam with "rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization", but also upholds precious traditional values. treasures of each ethnic group, each member of the great family of Vietnamese ethnic groups, forming the synergy of the entire nation. It is the basis for the successful implementation of the Party's national policy and guidelines, and is a strong driving force of the current national development process.

Thanh Hoa province over the years has always implemented the guidelines, guidelines and policies of the Party and State. In the coming period, the Party Committee of Thanh Hoa province has determined to "perform well the work of ethnicity and religion", and "continue to effectively implement the guidelines and policies of the Party and State on ethnicity, religion. Strengthen the leadership of the Party Committees in ethnic and religious affairs. Raise awareness and responsibility of ethnic and religious people in law observance"⁷.

With the attention of the Vietnamese Government and Thanh Hoa province in prioritizing investment resources for localities, it has created socio-economic impetus in ethnic minority and mountainous areas quite comprehensive; the material and spiritual life of the people has been improved markedly; the infrastructural system is strengthened and consolidated; political system has been strengthened, ethnic minority cadres are interested in training and fostering; security and order are maintained, contributing to improving the efficiency of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, etc.

⁶ Ho Chi Minh: Complete Volume, Publishing House. National politics, Hanoi, 2011, t.12, p. 372

⁷ Thanh Hoa Provincial Party Committee, Document of the 19th Provincial Party Congress, Thanh Hoa Publishing House, 2020, pp.115-116.

REFERENCES

Communist Party of Vietnam: Platform for national construction in the transition to socialism, Truth Publishing House, H.1991, p.16.

Documents of the Party Congress in the period of renovation and integration (Congress VI, VIII, VIII, IX, X, XI), Publishing House. National politics, Hanoi, 2013.

Communist Party of Vietnam, Documents of the 13th National Congress of Deputies, Volume 1-2, National Political Publishing House of Truth, Hanoi, 2021.

Party Committee of Thanh Hoa Province, Documents of the 19th Provincial Party Congress, Thanh Hoa Publishing House, 2020.

Ho Chi Minh: Complete Volume, Publishing House. National politics, Hanoi, 2011, p.12.