Basic issues about organization and apparatus of the current political system in Vietnam Vu Hong Van

Vu Hong Van  
vhvan@utc2.edu.vn  
University of Transport and Communications, Hanoi, Vietnam

Nguyen Xuan Phong  
phonghvb@gmail.com  
Academy of Journalism and Communication, Hanoi, Vietnam

Ho Duc Hiep  
hoduchiep2000@yahoo.com  
Hanoi University of Internal Affairs, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ABSTRACT

The socialist political system in Vietnam is a whole including the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations working to maintain and protect the power and interests of the working class, the working people and the Vietnamese nation. With three basic features: unification, democracy, and unity, the Vietnamese political system has shown. In the course of operation, there are issues that require the Vietnamese political system to innovate to meet the requirements of the country and the world. This study focuses on elucidating the organizational structure, advocacy process as well as proposing some solutions to make the Vietnamese political system work more effectively.

Keywords — Basic Issues, Organization, Apparatus, Political system, Vietnam

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of “political system” first appeared in official documents of our Party from the Resolution of the 6th Plenum of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Up to now, the concept of a political system is used quite popular in official documents of the Party, State, research works and scientific forums. The political system is a concept used to refer to a whole-body including organizations such as political parties, the state, and socio-political organizations, with interactions between these factors in participating in the processes of planning and implementation of political decisions to ensure political power to meet the needs of stability and social development. The political system in our country today is a unified, coherent organization including: the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and 5 unions socio-political (Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Vietnam Women’s Union, Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, Vietnam Farmers’ Association, Vietnam Veterans Association) by the Communist Party of Vietnam leader.

In the reality of socio-political life in our country, in the past time, a number of socio-professional organizations have developed into socio-political-professional organizations. But up to now, our country’s legal and political scientists have only mentioned the political system with the meaning of the system of political and socio-political institutions including the Party, the State, and the Fatherland Front. Vietnam and mass organizations rather than studying the socio-political system with the meaning of a broader system, in which not only political organizations, political organizations - communes It also has a number of socio-political-professional organizations and other social organizations. The concept of such a socio-political system is very important in terms of building and promoting democracy, building a market economy and a socialist rule of law state in our country. Because political power in current conditions not only demonstrates the role of political and socio-political institutions, it also tends to be increasingly influenced by social institutions. The direct, strong and multidimensional influence of socio-economic factors on political superstructure is a normative impact in modern societies. This has a great influence on the process of building and consolidating democracy, like it or not, we need to be fully aware.

2. SCOPE OF STUDY

Within the scope of this paper’s research; the authors focus on clarifying the structure and characteristics of the Vietnamese political system. The position and function of each organization constitute the Vietnamese political system and the development trend in the future. On that basis, proposing solutions to make the Vietnamese political system work more effectively, meeting the requirements of the country’s renovation and the inevitable development trend of world morality.
3. RESEARCH METHODS

Because the research paper on Vietnam’s Political System has many issues that need to be clarified and relatively complicated, the author uses the following research methods: Methods of content analysis: mainly collecting and analyzing references related to articles of the authors.

In addition, in order to understand the structure, functions, and duties of organizations in the political system, the author also studied documents of the Communist Party of Vietnam, documents of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Vietnamese meaning, documents of Vietnam Fatherland Front and member socio-political organizations.

4. COMPONENTS OF VIETNAM’S POLITICAL SYSTEM

4.1. The Communist Party of Vietnam

The Communist Party of Vietnam, defined in the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1991, 2013) is as follows: The Communist Party of Vietnam (The Party) is a vanguard of the Vietnamese working class and a team pioneer of the Vietnamese working people and people; faithful representation of the interests of the working class, working people and the nation. The Party took Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought as the basis of ideology, a guideline for action, focused democracy as the basic organizing principle. The Communist Party of Vietnam is the ruling party, leading the state and society. The Party is led by Platforms, strategies, major policies, and guidelines; by propaganda, persuasion, advocacy organization, inspection, and supervision and by exemplary actions of party members. The Party unified the leadership of cadre’s work and management of cadres, introduced elite party members who were capable and qualified to operate in the leading agencies of the political system. The Party leads through party organization and party members operating in the organizations of the political system, strengthening the regime of personal responsibility, especially the head. The Party frequently enhances the leadership capacity and effective leadership, while promoting the role, autonomy, creativity, and responsibility of other organizations in the political system. Through the above identification, we realize:

- The party leading the political system is at the same time part of that system. The Party is closely connected with the people, respecting and promoting the people’s ownership, relying on the people to build the Party, and is under the people’s supervision. Party organizations and party members operate within the framework of the Constitution and laws.
- The Party leadership of the State, Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations, social organizations by political platform, strategy, policy, and policy; by the work of thought, organization, personnel and inspection and supervision of the implementation.
- The Party introduces qualified cadres to run for office or to be appointed to state agencies, the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations.
- The Party organizations and party members working in state agencies, Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations must strictly abide by the Party’s resolutions and directives; Party organizations lead the concretization into legal documents of the State, guidelines of unions and effective leadership.

4.2. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a socialist rule of law state of the People, by the People and for the People. All-State power belongs to the people, the foundation of which is the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and intellectuals, led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. The State power is unified, with a division, coordination, and control among agencies in the exercise of legislative, executive and judicial powers. The State enacted the law; social organization and management by law and constantly strengthening socialist legislation (Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2013).

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam serves the people, closely attaches to the people, fully implements the people’s democratic rights, respects and listens to the opinions of the people and is subject to the people’s supervision; have mechanisms and measures to control, prevent and punish bureaucracy, corruption, waste, irresponsibility, abuse of power, infringement of democratic rights of citizens; keep strict social discipline, strictly punish all actions that infringe the interests of the Fatherland and the people.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam guarantees and promotes the people’s right to mastery; recognize, respect, protect and ensure human rights and citizens’ rights; realizing the goal of rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization, all people lead a prosperous, free and happy life and have conditions for comprehensive development.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is organized and operates according to the Constitution and laws, managing society by the Constitution and laws. The organization and operation of the state apparatus follow the principle of democratic centralism, with the assignment and decentralization, and at the same time ensure the unified direction of the Central Government.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam agencies, cadres, civil servants and officials must respect the People, devotedly serve the People, maintain close contact with the People, listen to their opinions and submit to their supervision; resolutely fight against corruption, wastefulness and all manifestations of bureaucracy, arrogance, and authoritarianism.

4.3. Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member socio-political organizations

The Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member socio-political organizations are political union organizations, voluntary associations of political organizations, socio-political organizations, social organizations, and other organizations. Typical individuals of classes and social strata, ethnic groups, religions and Vietnamese residing abroad (Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2013).

The Vietnam Fatherland Front is a part of the political system, the political base of the people’s administration. The Communist Party of Vietnam is both a member and a leader of the Front. The Front operates in the form of democratic negotiation, coordination, and action of agreement among members.

Vietnam Trade Union, Vietnam Farmers Union, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Vietnam Women’s Union, Vietnam Veterans Association are socio-political organizations established on a self-reliance basis pray, represent and protect the legitimate and legitimate rights and interests of members and members of their organizations; with member organizations of the Front and other organizations operating. The Front and its member organizations and other organizations operate within the framework of the Constitution and laws.

In the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations play a very important role in the cause of great unity for the entire nation to build and defend the Fatherland; to represent, protect the legitimate and legitimate rights and interests of the people, take care of the interests of union members and members; exercise democracy and build a healthy society; participate in building the Party and State; revolutionary ideology and education, citizens’ rights and obligations, strengthening the relationship between the people and the Party and the State.

The Party respects the autonomy, supports all voluntary, positive, creative activities and sincerely listens to the opinions of the Front and mass organizations. The Party and the State have mechanisms and policies to create conditions for the Front and mass organizations to operate effectively, to perform the role of social supervision and criticism.

5. ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITATIONS IN RENOVATING AND ORGANIZING THE APPARATUS OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OVERTIME

5.1. Outstanding achievements in renovating, strengthening the organization and apparatus of the political system in our country over the past time

In the recent term of the Party Congress, the Central Executive Committee, the Politburo have many guidelines to renovate and consolidate the apparatus of the political system associated with streamlining staff, salary reform and focus on leading and directing the implementation, such as: Central Resolution 7 (Session VIII) “A number of issues on the organization and apparatus of the political system and wages, social allowances under the state budget “; Central Resolution 5 (Session IX) on “Renewing and improving the quality of the grassroots political system in communes, wards and towns”; Central Resolution 4 (Session X) on “Reforming and consolidating the organization of the party agencies, orienting the renovation and consolidating the apparatus of the State agencies, the Fatherland Front and unions political - social “; Conclusion No. 64-KL / TW of the Central Committee (Session XI) “Some issues on continuing to renovate and perfect the political system from the central to grassroots levels”; Resolution No. 39-NQ / TW of the Politburo on “Streamlining staffing and restructuring the contingent of cadres, civil servants and public employees”.

The process of implementing the Party’s resolutions has gained important results, initially forming the theoretical awareness of the organization of the political system apparatus from the point of view of innovation and ideological orientation for solutions in order to renovate the organization of the political system in our country in new conditions. The organizational structure of the political system has been rearranged one step and made much progress.

The Resolution of the XII Congress (2016) of the Communist Party of Vietnam affirmed that during the past term, “The work of building the Party and building the political system has been focused and achieved important results”. The system of party agencies from the central to grassroots levels continued to be organized, strengthened, the number of party committees decreased, gradually streamlined, functions, tasks, and powers of each organization were organized adjusted, additionally more appropriate, reducing duplication and overlapping. The organization of the National Assembly’s agencies was strengthened, the activities of the National Assembly had many innovations and improved quality. Ministries and agencies under the Government are reduced, functions and tasks are supplemented and adjusted; the effect, the efficiency is gradually raised. The organization of people’s courts, people’s procuracies at all levels have been deployed at the request of judicial reform. The Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations from the Central to grassroots levels were strengthened and the mode of operation was innovative. The quality of the contingent of cadres, civil servants and public employees in the political system has been raised one step to better meet the mission requirements. These advances and results have contributed to the political stability, socio-economic development of the country in recent years. The political system is basically stable, consistent with the Platform and the Constitution; ensuring the Party’s leadership, the State’s management, promoting the people’s mastery, making an important contribution to the great and historic achievements of the renovation, construction, and maintenance of the people. National defense.

5.2. Limitations and weaknesses

Besides achievements, some aspects of Party building and political system development have been slow. The Resolution of the 12th Plenum of the Party Central Committee on continuing to renovate and reorganize the apparatus of the streamlined political system, effective and effective operation, has shown quite adequately the limitations and weaknesses poor in the organization of our country’s political system apparatus. Detail:

The organizational structure of the political system is still bulky, with many steps and clues; the validity and operational efficiency did not meet the requirements and tasks. Functions, tasks, powers, organizational structure, relationships of some agencies and organizations are unclear, overlapping and overlapping.

The assignment, decentralization, and decentralization among branches, levels and within each agency and organization are not rational, strong and synchronous; also the situation of justification, change or omission of the task. Strengthening the organizational structure of the political system associated with streamlining staff, restructuring the contingent of cadres, civil servants and officials with low results; the percentage of people serving is high, especially in the office block; number of deputy leaders is numerous; the appointment of “function” level in some central agencies is not reasonable.

© 2019, www.IJARIIT.com All Rights Reserved

The mechanism of effective control of power is not high; Publicity, transparency, and accountability are limited. Administrative reform, especially administrative procedure reform, has changed slowly, asynchronously and has not met the requirements. Although much attention has been paid to information technology infrastructure for management, the effect on streamlining the organizational structure, improving the efficiency, operational efficiency and staff downsizing is not yet effective worthy. The number of people receiving salaries and allowances from the state budget is very large, especially in public non-business units, part-time workers at commune and village levels, and population quarters; Wage policy is still inadequate.

Functions, duties, powers, responsibilities and working relationships of provincial and district levels have not been fully specified; Lack of regulations on working regulations framework of committees at all levels. The number, structure, and quality of the executive committee members and standing committee members at the executive levels at all levels still have some shortcomings. The leadership and fighting power of many party committees and party organizations is still weak, especially in some establishments and in State enterprises and public non-business units; the management of party members in many places is not tight; the work of building party organizations, developing party members in some localities and in non-state enterprises and non-business units still faces difficulties. Many village chiefs, street population group leaders are not party members. The organization and operation of a number of steering committees and the health care and protection committee of the present staff are still inadequate.

Management capacity, administration, and effectiveness, efficiency of a number of state agencies both at central and local levels are limited. Coordination among levels, sectors and localities sometimes lacks tightness. There has not been a clear demarcation of the specificities of urban, rural and island governments.

Local administrative units are generally small in scale, many of which do not meet prescribed standards, especially at district and commune levels. The number and structure of elected representatives are inappropriate, and the quality is limited. Activities of the political system in communes, wards, and towns in many places are awkward, low efficiency, not enough to solve the complicated problems that arise. The number of people enjoying large amounts of allowances and benefits is low. The establishment of the office of the provincial National Assembly delegation gives rise to a number of shortcomings in personnel work and staff management. Many interdisciplinary coordinating organizations and project management boards overlap in terms of functions, tasks and operational efficiency.

The organization of the apparatus, the mode of operation of the Fatherland Front and socio-political unions is slow to innovate, some tasks are overlapping, and there are still “administrative”, “civilized” status. The structure of cadres, civil servants and officials between levels and within each agency is inappropriate; the capacity and qualifications of grassroots officials are still limited. Content and modes of operation are sometimes, in some places not practical, effective, lack close to the grassroots level. The mechanism of state budget allocation for the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations remains inadequate; some regulations on organization, operation and financial and asset management mechanisms for trade union organizations are not appropriate. Mass organizations have been established at various levels, but facilities and funding are still largely based on the state budget.

The quality of consultation and proposals of party agencies and organizations with the Central Government, the Politburo and the Secretariat in some areas is still limited. The way of the leadership of the Party is slow to be renewed. Some issues on the leadership and direction of the Politburo, the Secretariat, the committee, the standing committee and the standing committee of the Party Committee at all levels, the responsibilities and powers of the head of the Party committee are not sufficient. It is clear that there are still practical problems and it is difficult to consider personal responsibility.

The organizational structure is not really connected with adjusting functions, tasks of streamlining staff and improving the quality of cadres and civil servants. A part of cadres and civil servants do not meet the requirements but there is no mechanism for timely replacement. Policies for cadres and civil servants are still inadequate, especially regarding salaries and housing. The scientific basis for staffing has not been determined appropriately, payroll management, in general, is still loose and inconsistent; the inspection, inspection, and supervision activities are not regular and ineffective. Streamlining staff has low results, not achieving the set goals. Salary and allowances account for the majority of the total operating cost of the agency and unit.

6. THE SOLUTION CONTINUES TO RENOVATE AND STREAMLINE THE STREAMLINED POLITICAL SYSTEM, OPERATING EFFECTIVELY AND VALIDITY

Tasks and solutions on renovating and organizing the political system are set out in many specialized resolutions and conclusions of the Party during the renovation period. The Central Executive Committee of IX (2001), X (2006), XI (2011) and XII (2016) Central Committee has resolutions, conclusions on the organizational structure of the political system, including:

Resolution No. 10-NQ / TW of February 9, 2007 on renovating and consolidating the apparatus of the Party agencies, orienting the renovation of the organization of the State apparatus, the Fatherland Front and major organizations Social-economic values stated: “Strengthening the organizational structure to ensure that the agencies in the political system operate effectively, efficiently, streamlining and overcoming bureaucracy, duplication and overlap. About functions, tasks or organizations inconsistent with functions and tasks. Clearly defining the functions, tasks, and responsibilities of each organization, ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the entire political system “.

Resolution No. 17-NQ / TW of August 1, 2007, on promoting administrative reform, raising the effectiveness and efficiency of the State apparatus has clearly indicated: “Continue to perfect the functions and tasks of the Government’s mission is to follow the
direction of building a unified, smooth, modern and consistent executive system with the role of the highest state administrative agency, government, one person has the main responsibility The Government focuses on better performing the state management function in all fields that are stipulated by law, clearly defining the scope and content of state management in terms of economy and society to suit development requirements. “Continuing to form a multi-sector and multi-field management ministry; to reduce the number of focal points of ministries and ministerial-level agencies; overcome the situation of vacancy or duplication of functions and tasks, among ministries and branches; failing to hold Government agencies with state management functions; only maintaining a number of necessary agencies under the Government are non-business units”

Resolution No. 22-NQ / TW of February 2, 2008 on improving the leadership and fighting capacity of grassroots party organizations and the quality of the contingent of cadres and party members requires: building, consolidating and raising the leadership and fighting capacity of grassroots party organizations, creating a clear change in the quality of activities of grassroots organizations, making them strong base on politics, ideology, and organization.

Resolution No. 12-NQ / TW of January 16, 2012, on a number of urgent issues on building the Party now, requires: “Specifying the authority and responsibilities of the heads of Party committees and organizations and agencies and units “; “Amending, supplementing or issuing new regulations of the Party and the State in the direction of promoting the responsibilities and powers of the heads in the relationship between collectives and individuals, while adhering to the principles of practice In a way, it is only necessary to promote the role of the head of the individual”; “Chiefs are responsible for selecting and recommending for election and appointing deputies”.

Resolution No. 04-NQ / TW, October 30, 2016, on strengthening the building and regulating the Party; to prevent and reverse the decline in political ideology, morality, lifestyles, the manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” internally have proposed solutions: “Resolutely implement the right items. spending, effectively reorganizing the apparatus, streamlining the payroll associated with the reform of civil service regimes, restructuring the contingent of cadres, civil servants and officials and renewing the salary policy. Implementing the contract regime with a period of time for state officials “; “Promote socialization, separation of public service provision and production and business management from the state management function in order to improve effectiveness, performance of state management agencies”. Resolution No. 11-NQ / TW of June 3, 2017, of the Central Executive Committee on perfecting the socialist-oriented market economy institution, clearly states: “Perfecting the economic institution goes hand in hand with improving political institutions with the focus on innovation, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of organizational structure and officials”.

Conclusion No. 37-KL / TW, February 2, 2009, of the Central Executive Committee on continuing to promote the implementation of the staffing strategy to 2020 requires “research, develop and pilot the most projects materialize a number of organizations and titles of Party leadership, commune, district, and provincial authorities, etc”.

Conclusion No. 63-KL / TW, dated 27/5/2013 of the 7th Plenum of the 7th Plenum of the XI Plenum on a number of issues on wage policy reform, social insurance, preferential allowances for people with meritorious services and orientation reform to 2020. “Improving the organization of provincial and district authorities in the direction of defining a framework of specialized agencies to assist the People’s Committees, and basing on specific conditions and targets. lice, localities can set up a number of other agencies after the approval of the authorities”.

Conclusion No. 64-KL / TW, dated 28/5/2013 of the 7th Plenum of the 7th plenum of the XI Plenum, on a number of issues on the renewal and perfection of the political system from the central to the target setting basis: “ To renovate and perfect the political system from the central to grassroots levels in order to build asynchronous, streamlined and stable apparatus organization suitable to its functions and tasks; build a contingent of cadres and civil servants “; “Need to increase the number of concurrent positions in various organizations of the political system. “With regard to the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, it has set out the task: “To continue reviewing and consolidating the organizational structure of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in a refined direction. neat, clear functions and tasks, not overlapping. “Strictly regulating the organization and operation of associations on the principle of voluntariness, self-management, self-assurance of operation funding and law compliance”.

Conclusion No. 62-KL / TW, dated December 8, 2009, of the Politburo on the renewal of the contents and mode of operation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, stated: “ Arranging the organizational structure, full-time officials of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in a streamlined manner”.

Resolution No. 39-NQ / TW, dated 17/4/2015 of the Politburo on staff downsizing and restructuring the staff, civil servants and officials “Focus on reviewing, arranging and strengthening the team organizations and units of the Party, the State, and socio-political organizations”, “No intermediary organizations are established; establishing a new organization only in exceptional cases is absolutely necessary due to practical requirements “; “Consolidating the organizational structure must be associated with perfecting the functions and tasks”; “Considering the consolidation of general departments, bureaus and departments; basically do not leave room at the advisory units of the central agency”; “Review the apparatus of local departments and agencies to consolidate the specialized agencies under the provincial People’s Committee, district level towards reducing focal points, reducing intermediaries, managing multidisciplinary and multi-field management. Pay attention to clearly distinguish the model of urban and rural administrations”; “Promote the concurrent implementation of a number of positions of cadres and civil servants from the central to commune levels, especially concurrently with regard to full-time officials at commune and village levels and residential quarters “; “Consolidating the political system from the central to grassroots levels, ensuring a synchronized, streamlined and stable apparatus suitable to functions and tasks”; “Continue to strengthen and improve the operation of the multi-sector and multi-field management model”.

© 2019, www.IJARIIT.com All Rights Reserved
The 12th Congress of the Party has set out the tasks: “Continue to renovate the Party’s apparatus and political system towards streamlining, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of leadership, direction, and administration. Renewing and consolidating the organizational structure must be associated with perfecting the functions and tasks, improving the quality of the contingent of officials and public employees “; “Research and pilot implementation of consolidating a number of similar party and state agencies in terms of functions and tasks”; “Streamlining the organization and apparatus attached to further clearly defining functions, tasks, and modes. activities of organizations; concurrently carrying out a number of positions and streamlining the payroll throughout the political system”; “Adjusting the functions and tasks of the People’s Council and People’s Committee at all levels in accordance with the practical situation and new requirements and tasks”.

7. CONCLUSION
The renovation of the political system to create conditions for promoting democracy in Vietnam must be put under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Maintaining the leadership of the Communist Party in the socialist political system is a prerequisite for the people to exercise their power. According to Marx and Engels, building a socialist democracy is a revolutionary act of conscious, theoretical understanding and highly organized, rather than spontaneous violence. Only the true Communist Party can put forward the scientific and communist ideology of the mass movement, and combine revolutionary enthusiasm with scientific belief in the triumph of democracy, only made the struggle for liberation of people fully realized. In the current situation, the factor to ensure the construction and development of socialist democracy in our country can only be the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Armed with Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, our Party has made the right decisions for the renewal process. That is the basis for solidarity and unity of views, wills, and activities in the whole Party and people; promote highly creative dynamism of the people in the process of building socialist democracy. On the other hand, building socialist democracy is a highly voluntary revolution. The leadership of the Party is to bring that self-discipline to this process. Moreover, based on rich political background and practical experience, the Party not only has the ability to plan the right directions and policies but also has the skills to bring those decisions into the masses and its activities. The state, turning those right guidelines into vivid realities, is in line with the rule of social development.

Thus, renovating the political system is a fundamental solution to practice and promote a socialist democracy. That process must be under the leadership of the Communist Party. In turn, the people’s sovereignty has been promoted as a solid practical basis to ensure the survival and development of the socialist political system.

8. REFERENCES

© 2019, www.IJARIIT.com All Rights Reserved