

EXPLOITING RESEARCH RESULTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ETHNIC POLICIES IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, SERVING THE COMPILATION OF TRAINING MATERIALS TO FOSTER ETHNIC KNOWLEDGE FOR LAO CADRES AT THE VIETNAM ACADEMY OF ETHNIC MINORITIES

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The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a multi-ethnic country. Therefore, during the process of revolutionary leadership, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party always considered ethnic issues and implementing ethnic policies as one of the important tasks in order to improve the material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities, consolidate and promote national unity bloc; striving to build the Lao People's Democratic Republic with economic development and political stability. To implement that policy, Laos has implemented many national guidelines and policies. The article focuses on clarifying the achievements and limitations in the implementation of ethnic policy in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. At the same time, exploit research results to serve the work of compiling documents and training according to Resolution 16/2018-ND/CP at the Vietnam Academy for Ethnic Minorities today.

Keywords: *Ethnic policy; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Ethnicity; Document compilation; Training program.*

1. Introduction

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is located in Southeast Asia, with an area of 236,800km², bordering China to the North, Myanmar to the Northwest, Thailand to the Southwest, Cambodia to the South and Vietnam to the East. During the development process, 49 ethnic groups of Laos ethnic groups have always stood side by side to live, produce and fight against foreign invaders, build and protect the country. Under the leadership of

the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Lao people stood up to fight for victory and national liberation, giving birth to the Lao PDR on December 2, 1975. After gaining independence, the Lao Party and State always took care of the lives of the ethnic groups, identifying ethnic issues with an important and long-term strategic position. Ethnic policy is considered a part of the national policy system, is strategic, synthesizes the views, principles and solutions of the Party and State in various fields, associated with the

development of the country. ethnic groups in order to strengthen the national unity bloc to carry out the cause of national construction and development along the road to socialism.

2. Research overview

In recent years, there have been many research works on the implementation of ethnic policies in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, such as: Cay Son Phom Vi Han (1982), "Promoting the tradition of national unity in the unified Lao family, determined to defend the Fatherland and complete socialist construction", Lao National Publishing House, Vientiane, outlined the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism on national issues; thereby raising some of the Party's views on the nation and the policy of strengthening the great national unity bloc in the unified Lao family. The author gives some views of the Lao People's Democratic Party on the nation and the resolution of ethnic issues; state the characteristics of the nation in the unified Lao family. Author Ma Ha Bun My Thap Sy Muong (1994), "History of formation and development of the Lao ethnic community", Lao National Publishing House, Vientiane, has summarized the history of formation and development through historical periods of the Lao people; provide many documents and data on Lao ethnic groups in each period. At the same time, some content related to ethnic policy is also mentioned. Government Office (2015), "Poverty eradication and poverty reduction is the responsibility of modern people", Vientiane, has summarized the geography of Laos, the history of formation and development of society and ethnic groups through historical periods, lives and cultures of peoples; organization and management system of ethnic groups; from there, giving some views and policies of the Lao Party and State on ethnic issues in Laos. The book is a valuable document in approaching and researching ethnic issues, especially the basic views of the Lao Party and State on ethnic issues, the history of formation and development of ethnic groups in Lao PDR.

National Assembly Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (2009), "Document on Dissemination of Ethnic Names and Indexes in Lao People's Democratic Republic", Vientiane was released and disseminated under Decision No. September 14, 2008 on the recognition of ethnic names and indexes in Lao PDR, with the aim of making people properly aware of the Party and State's guidelines and policies in recognizing the names of 49 ethnic groups in Laos, in accordance with practice and science. Along with that, there is the suppression, resolution and gradual eradication of inappropriate ethnic names which leads to

discrimination. The document also strengthens the great unity and unified bloc of the nations and protects and develops the fine customs and culture of the ethnic groups, creating an environment for the ethnic groups to unite to implement the guidelines and policies of the Party and State. The document provides a full range of names of ethnic groups in Lao PDR according to the actual situation of life and culture of the ethnic groups today. The National Assembly's Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (2009), "49 ethnic groups in the Lao People's Democratic Republic", Vientiane, have shown the correct views and concern of the Party and State for the ethnicities; clearly see the unified structure and richness and diversity of cultures, lifestyles and voices of ethnic groups in Lao PDR, the book summarizes the major views and policies of the Lao Party and State on the ethnic issue.

The above works have mentioned a number of issues related to policies and organization of implementation of policies for ethnic groups, however, how effective are the implementation of ethnic policies and how much lessons learned from practice has not been clarified by the authors. Therefore, in-depth research to clarify the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation and lessons learned in ethnic policy implementation in Laos is very necessary for Vietnam.

3. Research Methods

In the research process, the author mainly uses the method of inheriting secondary documents related to the implementation of ethnic policies in Laos, which inherits published research results, documents, reports of the Lao's Party and State, doctoral theses, research articles in scientific journals...

4. Research content

4.1. Achievements in implementing ethnic policy in Lao PDR today

Inheriting the views of Marxism-Leninism and the thought of Cay Son Phom Vi Ha on national issues, the Lao's Party and State have creatively applied, supplemented and developed to suit the specific conditions of Laos in order to ensure equality, unity, harmony, mutual respect and help among ethnic groups, and create strength in the great unity bloc in the great Lao national family. The document of the 10th National Congress of the Lao People's Democratic Party in 2016, affirmed: "Strengthening national, class and religious solidarity under the leadership of the Lao People's Democratic Party is a fine tradition, a winning strength and a decisive factor in winning the cause of national independence, national defense and development of the country as well as political stability and the existence of the country along the way towards the goal of socialism" (Lao People's

Revolutionary Party, 2016, p.16). To concretize the Party's views, many consistent and cross-cutting national guidelines and policies have been promulgated such as: Decree No. 03 in 2004 of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Party on building grassroots politics; Directive No. 09/BCT, of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Laos on the construction of the Development Boards and Clusters of June 2004; Directive No. 04/BBT of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee on the education and strengthening of solidarity among the Lao peoples, July 2007; Additional Directive No. 13/TTg of the Prime Minister on the development of Development Plates and Clusters, June 2008; Directive No. 14/BBT of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee on the organization and implementation of grassroots construction, October 2009; Directive No. 01/TTg of the Prime Minister on building the province into a strategic unit, a district into a budget planning unit and an implementing organization (referred to as the 3-build program), in December 2010...

Ethnic policies of the Lao's Party and State focus on comprehensively solving problems of social life, in which the following main contents are shown: Economic development in ethnic minority areas in order to bring into play the potentials and strengths of the Lao ethnic minority region, in association with the general development plan of the whole country; Social policies focus on issues of education - training, culture, health... in order to improve capacity, realize equal rights among ethnic groups in Laos, and create premise and opportunities for ethnic groups to have all the conditions to participate in the development process, on that basis, constantly improve the material and spiritual life of the people; policies related to national defense and security, in order to consolidate strategic areas, well solve the problem of national unity and ethnic relations in the multi-ethnic country and in international cooperation. The process of organizing and implementing ethnic policies in Laos has had a comprehensive impact on social life, contributing to strengthening and strengthening relations between ethnic groups. That is specifically expressed as follows:

On politics:

The Lao Party's ethnic policy and guidelines have gathered the people of all ethnic groups into a unified block under the Party's leadership, overcoming all difficulties and challenges, successfully carrying out the revolutionary task in each historical period, and at the same time promote the role of ethnic groups in building political systems at all levels. Thanks to that, the Lao People's Democratic

Party has continuously grown, internally united, closely unified, the leadership method has many innovations, the leadership role of the Party has been increasingly promoted in all aspects of social life. The contingent of party members has grown in both quantity and quality, from the initial 400 party members, up to now, the number of party members has reached nearly 350,000 people, an increase of nearly 80,000 party members compared to 2016 (Lao People's Revolutionary Party, 2021). The people's democratic government has been systematically and consistently built from the central to the local level. The political system is organized neatly, the quality and efficiency of operations are increasingly improved, and the prevention of negative phenomena is strengthened, and social order and safety are ensured. Organizations in the grassroots political system have well organized to perform their roles and tasks; Front organizations, mass organizations and veterans' associations have been consolidated in both organization and operation form to suit the new situation. The grassroots political system is strengthened, grassroots cadres are trained in a basic and systematic way, contributing to creating synergy in the cause of national development. The right to mastery of the people in all ethnic groups is practically guaranteed, the nations unite with one heart, promote their mastery based on the constitution and law, the people always believe in the regime and the future: of the country.

On economics:

Ethnic policies have contributed to promoting economic restructuring and accelerating growth. The State prioritizes investment in infrastructure development to create favorable conditions for socio-economic development and solve social pressing problems in disadvantaged areas. State budget investment mainly focuses on building infrastructure such as: road system, power grid system, irrigation, clean water, health station, hospital, school... Structure economic transformation in a positive direction, promoting and creating turning points of the economy. Ethnic policies have promoted the transformation of production methods, bringing science and technology to serve agricultural production, which is very important to create jobs, increase farmers' incomes, and increase productivity and the quality of agricultural products in the direction of a multi-crop and sustainable agriculture; preserve and process agricultural, forestry and fishery products, improve processing quality and increase added value of agricultural, forestry and fishery products. Although there are still many difficulties, especially the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, from 2016

to 2020, the economy of Laos still achieves an average growth rate of 5.8%/year. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2020 reached 2,664 USD, more than 23 times higher than the figure of 114 USD in 1985. Of which, agriculture grew by 1.9%, accounting for 15.9% of GDP, and industry. industry grew by 8.7%, accounting for 31.7% of GDP, services grew by 4.2%, accounting for 41.2% of GDP, product and import taxes increased by 5.1%, accounting for 11.1% of GDP... (Lao People's Revolutionary Party, 2021).

On culture and society

The Lao's Party and State always attach great importance to improving the material and spiritual life of the people, ensuring the harmonious and sustainable development, building a national environment and cultural space on the basis of continuing receive the quintessence of international culture. The level of spiritual cultural enjoyment for the people and the preservation and promotion of national cultural identity are always concerned by the Party, State and local authorities. The work of reforming and improving the quality of teaching and learning, ensuring the quantity of educational infrastructure; health systems in big cities have been upgraded, service quality is increasing; improve the quality of labor skills according to the needs of the market; interested in organizing the construction of political foundations associated with rural development and solving hunger eradication and poverty reduction. The number of poor households decreased from 76,604 households (equivalent to 6.59% of total households) in 2015, to 62,384 households (equivalent to 5.16%) in 2019. In 2015, Laos completed universalization of primary education nationwide (Lao People's Revolutionary Party, 2021). New constructions, outstanding socio-cultural achievements, together with millions of tourists each year and the successful organization of many important international conferences, are proof of the great and proud change of the country. In addition, socio-cultural activities, physical training and sports activities are promoted, outdated customs and superstitions are eliminated, contributing to building a harmonious and healthy living environment for people. People increasingly believe in the leadership of the Party, thereby realizing their role and responsibility in building a prosperous and strong Laos.

The medical and health care work has been paid attention to, investment in construction and upgrading of facilities, equipment and medical staff has been enhanced, gradually meeting the requirements of medical examination and treatment

for patients. Integrate investment capital sources for new construction, repair, upgrading and procurement of medical equipment for medical stations. The health system has been built, upgraded and expanded to districts, villages and disadvantaged areas in remote and isolated areas. Every year, Laos focuses on building and upgrading hospitals from central to local levels, renovating lower-level medical examination and treatment facilities, contributing to ensuring health care conditions for the people. Especially, in 2020, although the situation in the region and the world has many complicated developments, plus the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Laos has to face many difficulties, but with the leadership of the Party, the unity of people of all ethnic groups, together with the support and assistance of international friends, Laos has overcome difficulties, the economy continues to develop, People's living standards are improving day by day...

On defense, security and foreign affairs

The Lao People's Democratic Party has actively implemented the line of comprehensive national defense and security, firmly safeguarding independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring the country's stability, solid security, and creating favorable conditions. for the cause of national construction and development, creating stability for people to work and live. Although the situation in the world and region is complicated, hostile forces have carried out many anti-sabotage activities, causing difficult situations, especially in terms of political security and social order and safety. However, with the power of uniting the people of all ethnic groups, with the effective operation of the political system at the grassroots and local levels, it smashed the plots and tricks of the hostile forces and maintained National security. Along with that, Laos has also expanded relations and cooperation, enlisted support and help with many countries around the world to contribute to the country's development. To date, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party has relations with nearly 140 political parties while the Lao PDR has diplomatic relations with 143 countries and economic relations with more than 50 countries around the world (Lao People's Revolutionary Party, 2021). These relationships and cooperation have elevated Laos' position in the regional and international arena.

4.2. Some shortcomings and limitations in the implementation of ethnic policy in Lao PDR today

In addition to the achievements, the process of formulating and implementing ethnic policies in Laos still has some limitations that need further

attention and overcoming.

Propaganda and mobilization of people of all ethnic groups to implement programs and projects on socio-economic development in many localities is not specific, so the effectiveness is not high. The awareness of people of all ethnic groups on implementing ethnic policies is still limited, the sense of self-reliance is still low, especially there are some parts that still carry a heavy mindset of relying on the State's subsidies. The coordination between levels and departments is still not tight, not synchronized, not dynamic in time, so the results are not high.

Economic development is slow compared to the potential of the region, some localities have developed, but not yet stable. The economic structure and labor structure changed slowly. The level of commercialization of agricultural products is still low; manufactured products do not have a stable consumption market, low competitiveness and economic efficiency. The socio-economic infrastructure is lacking and weak, the awareness level of ethnic minorities is still limited, leading to the people's right to mastery in implementing ethnic policies have not been promoted. effective.

The gap between rich and poor, development gap between regions, regions, and ethnic groups is increasing; the poverty rate in ethnic minority and mountainous areas is many times higher than the national average rate, especially difficulties and deprivations in extremely difficult areas, ethnic minority and mountainous areas: from the provinces of Laos. There have been many policies to develop essential infrastructure and to develop production, but for ethnic minority areas, especially areas with high poverty rates, these policies have not made a fundamental change in the livelihoods, therefore, have not been able to narrow the gap in income and living standards of ethnic minorities with other regions. Vocational training and poverty reduction policies have not been regularly implemented for the poor, poor households, policies for near-poor households need to be formulated and implemented, creating conditions for the realization of sustainable poverty reduction goals. Although the market mechanism has helped identify the comparative advantages of each region, there is still a lack of zoning policies to develop production based on specific natural and socio-economic conditions of each region...

5. Discussion

Research has shown that the issue of exploiting research results on ethnicity, ethnic policy in Laos and Vietnam-Laos relations has not been done regularly. Therefore, in the coming time, in order to

exploit research results on Vietnam - Laos relations to serve the training of cadres, it is necessary to perform well a number of contents such as: When compiling training materials for Lao cadres, it is necessary to must inherit the research results on Vietnam - Laos relations. This content needs to be done during the implementation of the training program for Lao cadres of the Vietnam Academy for Ethnic Minorities. The inheritance of research results on Vietnam - Laos cooperation will contribute to the compilation of documents to foster an overall picture of Vietnam - Laos relations. Therefore, it is necessary to effectively exploit research results on Vietnam - Laos to meet the requirements of training and retraining programs; The inheritance of research results on Vietnam-Laos relations should closely follow the program and goal of training Lao cadres. On the basis of training programs and objectives, to select and exploit research results in accordance with the requirements set forth by the training program; It is necessary to combine the exploitation of Vietnam - Laos research results with the implementation of document compilation tasks and staff training programs of the Vietnam Academy for Ethnic Minorities, this is a measure to improve the effectiveness of the document compilation: of training materials at the Vietnam Academy for Ethnic Minorities...

6. Conclusion

With a preeminent ethnic policy system, effectively organized and implemented, it has contributed to the rapid change in the face of Laos. Especially, after the Lao People's Democratic Party set out a comprehensive and principled renovation policy, up to now, social life in Laos has undergone a comprehensive and positive change. From an agricultural economy besieged and embargoed, the beautiful country of Laos has risen strongly to become an independent, self-governing country, politically stable, national defense and security guaranteed, social order ensured, economy constantly developing, people's life constantly improving and foreign relations are increasingly expanded; The cultural identity and fine traditions of the ethnic groups are preserved and promoted. Laos has made strong moves towards prosperous development, has an increasingly enhanced position in the region and in the international arena. These are important prerequisites to strengthen the great unity bloc of the whole people, ensure solid political stability, implement the reform approach in depth, and create strong changes in socio-economic development. in the direction of new quality, improve the quality of people's life, continue to bring the country out of underdevelopment and move to socialism.

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KHAI THÁC KẾT QUẢ NGHIÊN CỨU VỀ THỰC HIỆN CHÍNH SÁCH DÂN TỘC Ở CỘNG HÒA DÂN CHỦ NHÂN DÂN LÀO, PHỤC VỤ CÔNG TÁC BIÊN SOẠN TÀI LIỆU ĐÀO TẠO, BỒI DƯỠNG KIẾN THỨC DÂN TỘC CHO CÁN BỘ LÀO TẠI HỌC VIỆN DÂN TỘC

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Cộng hoà Dân chủ Nhân dân Lào là một quốc gia đa dân tộc. Vì vậy, trong suốt quá trình lãnh đạo cách mạng, Đảng Nhân dân Cách mạng Lào luôn coi vấn đề dân tộc và thực hiện chính sách dân tộc là một trong những nhiệm vụ quan trọng, nhằm nâng cao đời sống vật chất và tinh thần cho đồng bào các dân tộc, củng cố và phát huy khối đoàn kết dân tộc; phấn đấu xây dựng Cộng hòa dân chủ Nhân dân Lào phát triển về kinh tế, ổn định về chính trị. Để thực hiện được chủ trương đó Lào đã thực hiện nhiều chủ trương, chính sách dân tộc. Bài viết tập trung làm rõ những thành tựu, hạn chế trong thực hiện chính sách dân tộc ở Cộng hòa dân chủ Nhân dân Lào. Đồng thời, khai thác kết quả nghiên cứu phục vụ công tác biên soạn tài liệu, bồi dưỡng theo Nghị quyết 16/2018-NĐ/CP ở Học viện Dân tộc hiện nay.

Từ khóa: Chính sách dân tộc; Cộng hoà Dân chủ Nhân dân Lào; Dân tộc; Biên soạn tài liệu; Chương trình bồi dưỡng.