

## ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

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### ABSTRACT

In the trend of globalization and international economic integration, and sustainable development has become a new development mode of many countries over the world. In the current context, the role of the State is not only undiminished but also more necessary than ever in managing development. In this article, the author proposes some solutions to enhance the role of the state in sustainable development in Vietnam that are building a socialist-oriented market economy to meet the requirements of sustainable development ; building and perfecting the legal basis for sustainable development ; developing synchronously the policy system of the economy, society and the environment protection ; building a clean, strong, effective and efficient State apparatus.

**Key Words:** Role, State, sustainable development, Vietnam.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization and international economic integration are common trends in the world. This is regulated by the development of the world's productive forces, the stormy development of science and technology, the rapid speed of information that is “flattening” the world day by day and hour by hour. This development has been creating favorable conditions for many countries to achieve their sustainable development goals through the economic cooperation, the social development, the exchange of achievements and experiences in science and technology development, at the same time, it is also raising many serious issues such as environmental pollution, climate change, epidemics, transnational crime, and energy crisis. In order to bring the Party's views on sustainable development into life, the State must specifically institutionalize it in development policies, in social organization and management, and in production development. In the new context, the mission of development is becoming more important ; it is more difficult to manage social development to ensure rapid and sustainable development. In the new situation, our Party's view on the role of the State in sustainable development is to improve “the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's governance over the socialist-oriented market economy...and create conditions for the economy to develop fast and sustainably” (The Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021).

### 2. RESEARCH CONTENTS

#### 2.1. Building a socialist-oriented market economy to meet the requirements of sustainable development.

The practical Doi Moi (Renewal) in our country shows that diversifying ownership forms and economic sectors is necessary for the market economy to develop in order to unleash and promote all potentials and strengths of the country (Nguyen & et al, 2021; Nguyen & Nguyen, 2021). The State needs to have the right policies and solutions for all economic sectors to develop

in the socialist direction ; to ensure the economic achievements and to service the society and protect environment, from that make the state economy really become the mainstream and be an effective macro-regulatory tool of the State to overcome the defects of the market, ensure the social justice and protect environment (Bui, T. T., 2010).

The state economic sector can only plays a central role in the economy when it rises strongly and affirms its autonomous strength. In order to do that, the state economy needs to grasp a key position in the economy with the level of science and technology, production and business efficiency, not relying on State subsidies, or monopoly in business. One of the main development paths of the State economy is through the form of equitization ; training and re-training the executive management officials of state-owned enterprises to ensure that they have sufficient knowledge, capacity, and level to access to technical sciences and advanced technology and be creative in production management and business development. For workers, it is necessary to enhance their qualifications, to create favorable conditions for them to study and access to new knowledge so that they can apply to production and improve their skills.

The State needs to organize and structure State-owned enterprises in the direction of focusing major industries and key fields (Đinh, T. M. T., 2004). In particular, the majority of State-owned enterprises must have medium and large scale, advanced technology in order to be stronger, to operate effectively and act as a lever for the development of the entire economy. The State needs to clearly identify and classify State-owned enterprises so as to have appropriate management mechanisms and innovation policies. The State needs to step up the inspection and control of the performance of State-owned enterprises. With other elements and parts of the State economy such as the banking system, the national reserve system, and the social insurance system, etc. The State also needs to strengthen the management role in order to improve the operational efficiency of these sectors in the economy, contributing to further affirming the leading role of the State economic sectors. Along with that, the organizational reform of the banking system will enhance transparency and operational efficiency ; ensure the promotion of the intermediary role in mobilizing and allocating capital effectively for economic and social development. The implementation of the above solutions will create conditions for the development of a market-oriented economy. The implementation of the above solutions will create conditions for the development of a market-oriented economy ; create a material socialist foundation for the State to make progress, social justice, and protect natural resources and environment, while directly promoting economic growth, ensuring the country's sustainable development (Nguyen, 2022).

## **2.2. Building and perfecting the legal basis for sustainable development.**

For sustainable development, the State needs to use many tools, of which the most important is the legal tool as it directly regulates social relationships according to the will of the State. In the context of building a socialist-oriented market economy in our country, law is a particularly important factor in building and maintaining an orderly, stable and powerful society where people's obligations are fulfilled and the living environment is protected. Therefore, if the law is weak, it will be difficult for the economy to develop strongly and firmly ; social justice will not be well implemented and the living environment will be damaged. Thus, whether sustainable development can be implemented well or not, it depends mainly on the quality of construction and completion of the State laws và (Chaabi, 2021).

On the other hand, although the quality of law is improved, if it is not applied and implemented effectively in reality, particularly in sustainable development, it will not make sense.

Therefore, in order to create a legal framework for sustainable development, it is necessary to :

*Firstly, improve the quality of construction and promulgation of legal documents.* To meet the requirements of the country's development, the developed and completed legal documents must be of good quality, feasible, and at the same time reflect the diverse and rich development in all areas of social life. To do so, it is necessary to attach importance to improving the quality of investigation and supervision in the service of development and promulgation of legal documents; promote democracy in the development of draft legal documents, strengthen exchanges and seminars and conduct public consultation about legal draft by appropriate forms and methods; strengthen public inspecting and supervising activities of elaborating draft law documents on progress, quality of activities, and the use of facilities and organization. Regarding the promulgation of legal documents, the competent authority needs to renew the review and decision on the promulgation of legal documents and at the same time, improve the quality of conferences both in terms of content, forms and methods of conducting ; attach importance to strengthening democracy, exchanging, discussing, and paying attention to research opposing views. Pay attention to researching and handling the duplicated points and causing conflict points in some legal documents ; ensure the uniformity and consistency of the legal system ; closely combine the activity of promulgating legal documents with the activity of elaborating sub-law documents to guide, organize and effectively implement the law (Kennedy & Daim, 2010).

Constantly review and summarize activities of elaboration and promulgation of legal documents. It is necessary to draw experiences (successful and unsuccessful activities) through the annual preliminary and final reviews and from that create the basis for the formation of these activities to achieve higher results in the next time.

Promote international cooperation with other countries in law formulation and enactment to learn from experiences. However, this work needs to be carried out on the basis of the Party's foreign policy and the State's regulations with appropriate methods.

*Secondly, it is necessary to improve the quality of the cadres in the agencies in charge of formulating and promulgating legal documents.* The State needs to continuously renovate the cadre management at all stages from formulating cadre standards, to planning, training, fostering, rotating, and managing the cadres. In there, it is necessary to focus on the main stages of preparations such as developing staff standards, training, fostering, rotating and evaluating cadres in agencies that are responsible for elaborating and issuing legal documents.

### **2.3. Developing synchronously the policy system of the economy, society and the environment protection.**

In order to enhance the role of the State in the implementation of sustainable development, beside building and perfecting the legal system, it is also necessary to build a basic system to ensure the harmonious development of the economy - society – environment.

The improvement of the economic, social and environmental policy system needs to be carried out simultaneously and combined in the direction that each economic development policy is associated with social goals and environmental protection ; each social and environmental policy must be based on the material premise of economic growth and must create a driving force for economic development. To avoid the situation that the implementation of economic development policies have adverse effects on solving social issues ; increase social inequality ; lead to

environmental degradation, as well as the implementation of social and environmental policies can hinder the process of economic growth.

Perfect the economic policy system to create conditions to improve production and business efficiency, create more products for society, increase incomes, improve people's living standards, and create resources to protect the environment and reduce environmental pollution. In order to develop a sustainable economy, the State needs to have appropriate policies to transform the economic growth model from mainly developing in breadth to developing in both breadth and depth; improve the use of intelligence in production, thereby improving the value and competitiveness of goods in the market, and finally, increase incomes for workers; continue to improve the investment and business environment to attract investment sources in order to effectively promote all resources in development. In industrial development, the State needs to have appropriate policies to strongly develop industries with comparative advantages and those of strategic significance for rapid, efficient and sustainable development, and at the same time give priority to develop the industries serving agriculture, especially processing industry and agricultural machinery manufacturing industry, in order to free up labor in agriculture, improve product value and increase income in agriculture. Nowadays, due to the low income in agriculture, many farming households have given up farming, which affects the national food security and food export while we are promoting the industrialization and modernization causes of the country. Along with industry, the State's policies on agriculture should be developed in the direction of developing a modern, efficient and sustainable agriculture. To do so, it is necessary to develop a large, highly competitive, and environmentally friendly commodity-producing agriculture. Associate agricultural production with processing and markets will help us build a greener and cleaner agriculture, from that when the agricultural products meets strict requirements on food safety, they will have a place in difficult markets. The State should focus on developing service industries, particularly financial services, banking, telecommunications, trade, tourism, transportation, etc., which should be prioritized for development and modernization to ensure smoothness in the production and business process, and at the same time, the State needs to invest in building a complete infrastructure system, especially in remote and isolated areas. One step ahead of infrastructure investment will facilitate the further development of the regions that are poor in economy but rich in resources.

Complete and implement social policies to ensure that people have equal opportunities to use the available conditions of society to get rich legitimately, have conditions to enjoy social welfare, enjoy cultural values, narrow the gap between classes, regions ; create opportunities for classes to strive to rise up, escape lagging behind in development ; maximize people's talents and intelligence and efforts in economic development ; raise awareness in keeping the environment green, clean and beautiful ; create methods of production and living to protect natural resources (Ha, H. T., 2009)

Complete and implement environmental policies to protect a healthy living environment, protect ecological diversity, save natural resources, input inputs for production, protect human health, create favorable conditions for people to be able to live in a healthy, harmonious and friendly environment with nature, save the environment from the destruction so that the future generations can inherit the same resources and conditions from the current generation to construct and develop the country.

#### **2.4. Building a clean, strong, effective and efficient State apparatus.**

There are many factors contributing to the sustainable development of a country, in which the effective management role of the state is the most decisive subjective factor. Basically, the states have met the essential needs of people's lives, fundamentally overcome the defects of the market economy, established a legal basis, maintained the social order and safety, and protected the environment. From a political perspective, a country develops sustainably if and only if there is a clean, strong, effective and efficient state. Indeed, “the State is essential to human life. Up to now and in the future, people cannot live in an anarchy state, at least until the construction of communism is completed” (Nguyen, D. D., 2009). However, besides such necessity, we also see that the state always has a tendency to abuse power. Corruption, dictatorship, and tyranny have become common diseases of all state-owned societies. This is explained from human nature. People, besides the creative and hard-working virtues, also contain the negative virtues such as laziness, arbitrariness, greed, dependence, reliance on others, and especially desire for power. People are passionate about power for the reason that once having power in hands, they can gain many other benefits such as wealth, fame, the right to command and control others etc. And the state power is the field that most likely helps people meet these desires. When holding power, these people will tend to think about their own interests, their own friends and family. Therefore, they always tend to abuse power and this abuse of power is a hindrance to the sustainable development of a country. Hence, up to this day in human history, there have existed many different forms and measures to limit this bad phenomenon such as by restricting the term of office, inspecting by not appointing the management cadre to work at his place of birth etc.

People have found many ways to limit the state power in order for the State to really work for the benefit of the community. With regard to the institution, building a good constitution is an effective way to limit that power. The Constitution provides for mechanisms to restrain and prevent abuse or arbitrary use of power by those in power. The Constitution provides for a clear separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, between the central and local governments, as well as limits on powers to these branches, and stipulates electoral rules and sets out the electoral procedures etc. In our country, the Constitution not only stipulates a clear assignment and division of duties among agencies, but also stipulates specific rights and obligations of citizens so that they are protected by law from the violation of benefits from any public authorities.

With regard to the institution, to limit state power, the state apparatus needs to be simply organized, and each agency in that system must be held accountable for its own behavior. The simplicity of the organization and operation of the state apparatus, first of all, creates conditions for the people – the subjects who hold the state power to easily monitor and supervise activities and detect violations from any state agencies ; helps the responsible person have the ability and conditions to take responsibility, the compact organization of the state apparatus will give the subjects clear powers so that they must also be held accountable for their actions and be not able to shirk the responsibilities ; the simplification of the organizational structure of the state apparatus not only fills the needs of the market economy in a flexible manner but also better satisfies the needs of public services of the society...

Our state has been built the subsidy model with many intermediate levels for such a long time. Therefore, until now, there still exists the remnants of that State organization model. Specifically, the organizational structure of the State is still unreasonable ; many layers and clues still exist ; heavily centralized and bureaucratic working methods, cumbersome administrative

procedures and the phenomenon of harassment and trouble in handling administrative work still exists in many places, which has weakened the role and power of the State. Thus, there are some requirements to meet the requirements of sustainable development in the context of current international economic integration :

The State needs to continue implementing administrative reform, clarifying the functions, tasks and authority of each agency in the administrative system.

The State needs to accelerate the application of information technology in administrative management, gradually form e-Government in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of management.

The State concentrates on renewing and improving the quality of the contingent of cadres and civil servants in both capacity and quality to meet the requirements of effective work performance. Nowadays, science and technology is developing very quickly, the educational level of the people is increasingly being improved, requiring each cadre and civil servant to constantly study and innovate the working methods associated with the practice to match the requirements of improving work efficiency. Therefore, it is necessary to develop cadre standards, from which to determine cadre titles, strengthen the organizing activities, conduct review and evaluation, arrange qualified and capable cadres into the suitable positions, especially the key positions so that the apparatus is compact, and the work is assigned reasonably ; step up training the cadres, and link the cadre training and nurturing with the arrangement of number of cadres.

Improve the inspection and examination to prevent and strictly handle negative acts such as bossy habits, violations of people's democratic rights, disturbing attitudes, etc. ; the cadres and civil servants committing violations must be resolutely punished and be punished promptly ; also those who are incompetent and unqualified, causing internal solidarity and suffering moral degradation should be reviewed and removed from the Party and the Government apparatus. Reform the salary system, ensure the basic living standard for the cadres and civil servants in order that they can work comfortably, complete their tasks and not suffer from evils, especially corruption.

The State needs to expand and further promote the democratic governance, and must ensure that democratic institutions are established by principles, laws, and cultural and ethical standards. For the society, on the one hand, the law recognizes and institutionalizes the human rights and citizens' rights, and legally ensures their implementation of those rights ; on the other hand, the law becomes the means by which the social members can protect their happiness. The important implementation of democracy is to perfect democratic institutions to force the rulers, whether they like it or not, to obey. Without such institutions, it will inevitably lead to a tendency to abuse power. Institutions must be constructed to guarantee that the citizens have the rights and practical ability to inspect and supervise the state officials so as to prevent and repel the corruption and power abuse. Democracy must be carried out across the fields. In economic terms, the core is to ensure that the interests of workers, which are institutionalized through civil rights such as ownership and distribution to make workers truly master the means of production and create a driving force for manufacturing and business development, which is the basis for social progress.

In terms of politics, make sure that all the citizens have the right to take part in the management activities of the State and political and social organizations, directly and through their elite representatives ; ensure the democratic rights in candidacy and election.

In terms of culture and Ideology, ensure that the citizens have the right to enjoy progressive cultural achievements and freedom of thought. The State guarantees the people the right to

information, freedom of expression, freedom of belief and creativity ; and the right to discuss and express their views and opinions at any important issues of the country. Only then can we ensure the construction of a clean and strong State, and promote the role of executive and management in the sustainable development of the country.

### 3. CONCLUSION

In Vietnam, over the past 30 years, implementing the Doi Moi policy initiated and led by our Party, our State and the citizens have achieved great achievements in the fields of economy, society, and environmental protection. Along with the general trend of the world, the issue of sustainable development was raised since the beginning of the process of Doi Moi. This process becomes urgent and attracts special attention from public opinion only when it really goes into depth. From the reality of the country's development, an issue of concern is a deeper awareness of the possibilities and conditions to ensure sustainable development in Vietnam, and how to ensure a harmonious combination between socio-economic development and environmental protection in the process of development. That harmonious combination is an objective requirement from practice which shows that the unification will not be taken place without the role of the subject, but first of all, the role of the State in the process of sustainable development. Therefore, the current raising issues is what the State needs to do to achieve both high and stable economic growth but still be able to ensure the progress and the social justice, and at the same time, protect the clean environment, economical and rational use of the country's natural resources. This is really a difficult problem that needs to be solved both theoretically and practically.

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