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**STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE PROVINCIAL  
PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE IN RESPONDING TO THE CURRENT  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION IN VIETNAM**

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**Abstract.** The Covid-19 pandemic is considered a health crisis in human history, causing many negative effects and consequences for most countries in the world. This pandemic poses many issues to be considered and studied, including the State's crisis management and governance of the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. In Vietnam's four-level administrative system, the Provincial People's Committee is an important component, playing a crucial role in determining the success or failure of the Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control across the provinces and cities of Vietnam. The capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam reflects the capacity of provincial State administrative agencies in pandemic crisis management. By clarifying a number of concepts related to the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in crisis management, this article points out the advantages and disadvantages, analyzes the current situation and proposes solutions to strengthen the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam.

**Keywords:** capacity; Provincial People's Committee; response; Covid-19 pandemic; Vietnam; crisis management; sustainable development.

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**1. Concepts regarding the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in Vietnam in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic associated with crisis management and sustainable development**

According to current Vietnamese laws, the administrative units of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam include the following tiers: provincial level (municipality and province), district level (district, urban district, district-level town, provincial city, municipal city), commune level (commune, ward, commune-level town) and special administrative-economic units [8]. Currently, Vietnam has 63 administrative units at provincial level, of which 05 administrative units are municipalities, including: Hanoi, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho.

*Local government* refers to the People's Council and the People's Committee, which are organized at administrative units of Vietnam. The People's Council, consisting of delegates of the People's Council elected by local electorate, acts as the local branch of State power and represents the will, aspirations and right to mastery of the People. The People's Committee, appointed by the People's Council at the same level, is the executive branch of the People's Council, the State administrative agency at local level [8]. Essentially, the People's Committee is responsible for administrative management in the locality, holds responsibility to the local People, the People's Council at the same level and the Government for the performance of its functions and tasks.

The Provincial People's Committee has a particularly important role in the system of State administrative agencies. Reality has shown that many issues related to all aspects of the social life must be managed and resolved by the Provincial People's Committee, such as: implementation of socio-economic development tasks of the province, conducting measures to build all-people defense posture in accordance with the people's security posture in the province, etc. The Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee has the duties and powers in "directing the implementation of measures to protect the environment, prevent and control fire and explosion; directing and applying measures to deal with unscheduled tasks and emergencies in the prevention and control of natural disasters, epidemics, and social security, order and safety in the province as prescribed by the law" [8].

*The capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic* is the ability to implement response measures to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in the prevention and control of this pandemic in the province or city. The capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic is demonstrated through the effectiveness and efficiency of the response. In other words, the effectiveness and efficiency of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic are determined by the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee. In the current tendency of building and operating a tectonic Government, the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of State management are assessed based on people's satisfaction. Particularly in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee is assessed based on the quality and effectiveness of the local pandemic prevention and control efforts.

Applying the "good governance" model [1\*], the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in Vietnam in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic is demonstrated and assessed based on the following aspects: *First*,

the mobilization of all resources to participate in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. *Second*, the guidance and creation of social consensus in the locality in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. *Third*, the accountability in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic. *Fourth*, the transparency in updating information on the pandemic situation. *Fifth*, the prompt, resolute and timely decision-making and action to respond to the pandemic situation. *Sixth*, the equality and fairness to all different local segments in the pandemic. *Seventh*, the assurance that all pandemic management and response measures comply with the laws and regulations. *Eighth*, the effectiveness and efficiency of the response to the pandemic situation.

## **2. Advantages and disadvantages for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and proficient crisis management associated with sustainable development in Vietnam**

In responding to the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Vietnam, the Provincial People's Committee has the advantages as follows:

*Firstly*, the rational, resolute and timely leadership and direction from the Party and the State, along with the high determination and strong actions taken by the whole political system; and the close and effective coordination among all levels, sectors, localities, agencies and units combine as the first advantage for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*First*, right after the pandemic showed signs of an outbreak and rapid spread in China at the end of 2019, the Communist Party of Vietnam quickly identified the risk that the pandemic could potentially affect Vietnam, and provided timely directions. In March 2020, General Secretary and State President Nguyen Phu Trong appealed to compatriots, comrades and soldiers nationwide and overseas compatriots to stay united in the fight against the pandemic. The Politburo, the Secretariat, Party committees and organizations at all levels have always ensured regular, resolute and timely leadership and direction.

In January 2021, the 13<sup>th</sup> National Party Congress determined that the focus during the tenure was: "Focusing on controlling the Covid-19 pandemic and on widely providing Covid-19 vaccination for the community" [1]. The resolute and wise leadership and direction, as well as the rational and timely guidelines and orientations of the Party have demonstrated the superiority of Vietnam's regime and truly created favorable conditions for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the pandemic.

*Second*, the Government has proactively and correctly assessed the situation for resolute and timely solutions that are suitable for the country's capacity and the actual situation. The cross-cutting directions are "fighting the epidemic like fighting the enemy", which mobilizes the strength and participation of the entire political system and social community; "making pandemic prevention a priority", "locking up all the risks of disease transmission from outside, implementing strict concentrated isolation, intensive detection and tracing from the inside, providing effective medical treatment"; "willing to sacrifice economic benefits in the short term for best protection of the health of people" [2]. As of date, the Government along with ministries and sectors have issued hundreds of documents regarding the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic, and policies to support businesses as well as people facing difficulties due to the pandemic [2\*]. Among which, Decision No. 437/QĐ-TTg dated March 30, 2020 issued by the Prime Minister on the regulations for targeted support from the central budget to localities for the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic not only acts as a legal basis, but also creates favorable conditions for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Third*, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations at all levels have actively propagandized and mobilized the people to participate in the program entitled "All people join hands in supporting the

*prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic";* have mobilized, received and coordinated the allocation of resources to support pandemic prevention and control; and have implemented monitoring programs in pandemic prevention. Vietnamese Fatherland Front Committees at all levels and member organizations have enhanced the propaganda of the pandemic prevention and control strategy that is "preventing, detecting, isolating, suppressing, and providing treatment"; have propagandized and mobilized local people to prepare for all possible scenarios and to not become negligent to pandemic prevention and control; optimally adopted the motto "4 on-the-spot" (human resources on-the-spot, leadership on-the-spot, means on-the-spot, and logistics on-the-spot) so that there is an immediate response plan whenever an outbreak occurs. The propaganda efforts have successfully mobilized people's thorough participation in pandemic prevention and control, limiting its transmission in the community [6]. The coordination in propagandizing and mobilizing from the Front and related organizations have truly created favorable conditions for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

*Secondly*, the capacity, professional skills and qualifications of the cadres, civil servants and public employees in the Provincial People's Committee system in Vietnam gradually being enhanced and standardized is also an advantage for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The capacity of the Provincial People's Committee is demonstrated largely through the capacity of the cadres, civil servants and public employees working in the agencies and units of the People's Committee, since they are those who directly perform the functions and tasks of the People's Committee and of the specific agency or unit. In recent years, the capacity of the civil servants and public employees in performing official duties in agencies and units of the Provincial People's Committee has seen many positive

changes. Awareness of their role to the People and society has also been raised. Cadres, civil servants and public employees truly are the public servants who wholeheartedly and painstakingly serve the People. In responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, successfully enhancing the capacity and dedication of cadres, civil servants and public employees would create many advantages for the Provincial People's Committee.

*Thirdly*, the tradition of patriotism, humanity and solidarity of the Vietnamese people is the miraculous strength that has created favorable conditions for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. When Vietnam detected the first Covid-19 cases, the Vietnamese People quickly enhanced their patriotic spirit; and had absolute confidence in and strictly abided by the guidelines and measures set forth by the Party and the Government. The tradition of patriotism, solidarity and loyal trust in the Party has formed a consensus from central to grassroots levels, with people from all regions of the country reinforcing the motto: "Each citizen must be a soldier, each family must be a fortress, joining hands to fight the pandemic". Along with this, the humanity and benevolence of the Vietnamese people were also highly promoted when the outbreak erupted. In the difficult times caused by the pandemic, the care and support shared between the people not only creates a resilient fighting strength but is also a great source of encouragement for the Party, army and people in the fight against the pandemic.

*Fourth*, the capacity and experience in epidemic prevention and control of the health sector is also one of the factors creating favorable conditions for the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Vietnam has had experience in successfully addressing the SARS outbreak in 2003, influenza A virus subtype H1N1 epidemic in 2009, etc. This has helped the political system in general and the Provincial People's Committee in particular to quickly and timely improvise, take actions and make decisions in the prevention, control and limit-

ing the transmission of the Covid-19 pandemic in a flexible and effective manner.

Apart from the advantages, Provincial People's Committees have also faced difficulties in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. *First*, Vietnam has yet to establish an institution in responding to crises or responding to emergencies occurring on a national scale. *Second*, Vietnam's healthcare, economic and social resources are limited and would be insufficient in the case when the pandemic spreads rapidly on a large scale. *Third*, a number of key economic and tourism localities are always at the risk of pandemic transmission and outbreak. *Fourth*, there remain cadres, civil servants, public employees and people in some localities who lack awareness in law compliance. Overcoming such difficulties is an obligation and requirement for the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee.

### **3. The current capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Vietnam, timely preventing crises and implementing sustainable socio-economic development**

Applying the "good governance" model, the current capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in Vietnam in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic is demonstrated based on the following aspects:

*First, under the leadership and direction from Party committees at all levels, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have mobilized all resources to participate in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic*

Right after the first Covid-19 cases were detected in Vietnam, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have quickly issued documents directing the urgent implementation of pandemic prevention and control measures in the locality. The prevention and control measures were not only carried out by the health sector but also other sectors including the police, the army, press and media, etc. All municipal and provincial agencies, departments and organizations immedi-

ately established Steering Committees for Covid-19 prevention and control to proactively respond and address all possible scenarios. With their management authority, many Municipal and Provincial People's Committees directed the Chairmen of the People's Committees at lower levels to "Immediately coordinate with the Vietnamese Fatherland Front Committees at district and town level and relevant agencies to develop plans, and conduct propaganda and mobilization for support and donation from organizations and individuals for the Covid-19 Prevention and Control Funds at district and town level to finance Covid-19 prevention and control measures, and to provide vaccination for people in the districts and towns; Encourage local businesses and organizations to allocate their own budgets to ensure vaccination for their staff, workers and employees" [5]. The donation amount from organizations and individuals to Covid-19 Prevention and Control Funds has quickly been mobilized to finance local pandemic prevention and control measures.

People in all localities have enthusiastically joined hands in the fight against the pandemic. In residential areas where medical isolation was applied due to Sars-CoV-2-positive cases, many people have faced necessity shortage. This was when many smartphone applications were developed to allow these individuals to report their difficulties so that the social community can provide donations and support. The Vietnamese people's tradition of solidarity now reigns more than ever. Under the resolute direction of the Government and the People's Committees, all levels, sectors, agencies, organizations, businesses and people from 63 provinces and cities in Vietnam have hurriedly participated in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Second, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have guided public opinion and created a social consensus in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic*

Regarding public opinion guidance, closely following the directions of the Party, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have directed the information-communications sector and press agencies to guide information intake and propagandize to create the People's consensus and support in pandemic prevention and control [3\*]. People in most cities and provinces have proficient awareness on the developments, situation, dangers and adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic; have complete trust in pandemic combat guidelines and solutions set forth by the Party and the State; enhance awareness and responsibility, proactively cooperate with the Party, the State and local authorities in pandemic prevention and control, and in protecting people's health. Taking advantage of the tense pandemic situation, hostile and reactionary forces have distorted and fabricated information on social media sites to trigger the public and entice disruption in social order and security. However, thanks to the rational and timely information guidance and propaganda, the majority of people have shown unity in awareness, thoughts and actions. Each citizen is a soldier on the social media front, fighting against distorted information regarding Vietnam's efforts in Covid-19 prevention and control, therefore defeating the schemes of hostile and reactionary forces.

By providing wise, resolute and timely directions, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have created a social consensus in Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control. The consensus is demonstrated firstly within municipal and provincial agencies, departments and units. Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have directed and assigned Covid-19 prevention and control tasks based on the functions and tasks of each agency and department. With a high spirit of consensus, cadres, civil servants and public employees in agencies, departments and units have not only ensured the accomplishment of professional assignments, but have also led by example in implementing

pandemic prevention and control measures. Social consensus is also demonstrated in the people's support for the direction and pandemic prevention and control measures for each specific scenario set forth by Municipal and Provincial People's Committees. Foreigners and the press in many countries have acknowledged that Vietnam's quick containment of the Covid-19 pandemic is owed to the fact that authorities at all levels have created consensus from the people [4\*].

*Third, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have ensured the accountability in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic.*

Internal accountability is clearly stated in many documents issued by the Party and the Government. Directive No. 19/CT-TTg dated April 24, 2020 issued by the Prime Minister requested to: "...enhance discipline, law compliance and responsibility of senior officials in strictly implementing pandemic prevention and control measures following the directives of the Politburo, the Secretariat, the National Assembly, the Government, and the Prime Minister" [9]. According to which, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees must always ensure the serious and timely implementation of all directives, and must be accountable and responsible to the Government and the Prime Minister on issues regarding Covid-19 prevention and control. It is via accounting the pandemic combat process that law violations have been exposed and handled in accordance with legal regulations. A prime example is the case when the Director of Hanoi Center for Disease Control, with mercenary motives, colluded with several subordinates to inflate the cost of Covid-19 testing machines and equipment at a time when Hanoi and the entire country were making every effort in fighting against the pandemic. The case was quickly investigated, prosecuted and tried by relevant authorities in accordance with the law.

The accountability to the people is demonstrated in the justification to the people on the measures taken and implemented by the Municipal and Provincial People's

Committees. When the people have yet to fully grasp the new and unfamiliar measures such as social distancing, medical isolation, area isolation, temporary blockade, etc. the authorities immediately provided complete, in-depth and highly persuasive explanations. Thanks to this, the people rested reassured to comply with and implement such measures.

*Fourth, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have been fully transparent in updating information on the Covid-19 pandemic situation*

Information regarding the developments and situation of the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide, nationwide and in the locality has been constantly updated by Municipal and Provincial People's Committees on the municipal and provincial Radio and Television Stations, as well as on other mass media to widely inform the public. Many Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have also been creative in their information dissemination methods – they have collaborated with a number of social media services such as Facebook, Zalo, etc. to update information to the public in the 4.0 era when digital platforms are growing exponentially. Simply type the keyword "eGovernment" into the search bar in Zalo and dozens of results would appear: Hai Phong eGovernment, Quang Ninh eGovernment, Vinh Phuc eGovernment, Binh Dinh eGovernment, Ninh Thuan eGovernment, etc. There have been times when every citizen was waiting every second and minute for the updated data and situation from Municipal and Provincial People's Committees on the number of infections and cases relevant to the infections per day, in order to take prevention and control measures for themselves and their families. Information being communicated fully, timely, clearly and coherently is the demonstration for the complete transparency of Municipal and Provincial People's Committees in updating pandemic information. Authorities in many other countries also have a high level of trust in this transparency [5\*].

*Fifth, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have taken prompt, resolute and*

*timely decisions and actions to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic*

In addition to strictly complying with the Government's decisions in pandemic prevention and control, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have also made timely and appropriate decisions based on the actual situation of each locality. Thanks to making the right decisions, provinces and municipalities have all overcome 03 pandemic waves by containing the number of infections and minimizing the number of deaths. The fourth Covid-19 wave is taking a toll on Vietnam, with a significantly higher risk of community transmission compared to the previous three waves due to the new super infectious Delta variant. With the experience from the previous waves, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees, especially in localities with a high risk of pandemic outbreak such as Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, quickly grasped the situation and made the decision to impose social distancing to prevent further spread of the pandemic [6]. The prompt and timely issuance and implementation of the decisions have helped keep the pandemic under control.

Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have also strictly implemented the 5K message announced by the Ministry of Health, meaning *Khau trang* (Face mask) – *Khu khuan* (Disinfection) – *Khoang cach* (Distance) – *Khong tap trung* (No gathering) – *Khai bao y te* (Health declaration) in workplaces, companies, business establishments, and residential areas. Due to the complicated developments of the Covid-19 pandemic, the People's Committees have directed the education sector to organize online teaching and testing for lecturers, teachers and students; and cadres, civil servants and public employees to work online on a rotation basis. Meetings to direct Covid-19 prevention and control measures held by Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have also taken place online to ensure the urgency, safety and efficacy. When a Sars-CoV-2-positive case is detected in the locali-

ty, the People's Committee would immediately direct relevant levels and sectors to coordinate in the tracing and detection of related cases to implement scoping, medical isolation and temporary blockade to contain widespread transmission.

Faced with complicated and unpredictable pandemic developments, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have always taken resolute and timely actions to minimize the spread of the disease. Field hospitals have been quickly established in sports stadiums, university dormitories, etc. to temporarily provide medical care for patients before they are transferred to healthcare facilities for long-term treatment. Concentrated medical isolation areas for cases related to the infections have also been set up in military barracks or even privately owned hotels [7]. A number of additional pandemic prevention and control measures have been taken in accordance with the actual situation. While last year, only medical isolation measures were implemented in areas affected by Covid-19 transmission, this year, in addition to maintaining this measure, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have called for the people's cooperation to form "Green Zones" (virus-free areas) established by the residential area itself to proactively prevent and control the pandemic, thereby maintaining safety for people in the area. Following the directives from the Party and the Government, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have been providing Covid-19 vaccination for the people. However, since currently Vietnam still has to import Covid-19 vaccines, the amount of vaccines has not met the demand of the population. The vaccination drive has even been too slow in a number of localities. These are several limitations that need to be addressed shortly.

*Sixth, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have taken decisions and actions that ensure equality and fairness to all different local segments in the pandemic*

Following the directives from the Party and the Government, Municipal and Provin-



cial People's Committees have ensured that all people have access to medical services and supplies, especially face masks, protective suits, and sanitizers. All patients are treated timely with no discrimination and no distinction of wealth, social status, age, sex, ethnicity, belief, or religion. Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have also ensured the implementation of Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP dated July 01, 2021 issued by the Government on policies to support employees and employers facing difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the specific conditions and budget capacity of each locality, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have developed the criteria, identified those in need and determined the levels of support for employees working without labor contracts and other distinctive cases.

In localities where social distancing measure is imposed, people's lives have been facing many difficulties. As a result, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have established policies to support cash and essential goods for their people who are currently living in localities under social distancing order. On August 01, 2021, Quang Binh Provincial People's Committee issued Official Dispatch No. 1422/UBND-NCVX on supporting Quang Binh people living in Ho Chi Minh City and southern provinces facing difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic with a support rate of 01 million VND/household [10]. On August 17, 2021, Hai Phong People's Committee issued Decision No. 2322/QD-UBND on allocating budget to support families who are Hai Phong people living in Ho Chi Minh city and facing difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Each household would receive a support rate of 02 million VND/household [4]. Vinh Phuc people facing difficulties living in cities and provinces under social distancing order following Directive 16 would also receive a support of 10 – 20 kg of rice/person. In addition, each person would receive 01 million VND/person in cash [13].

*Seventh, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have ensured that all pandemic management and response measures comply with the law.*

In pandemic management and response, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have always ensured that the implemented measures comply with the law. First is the implementation of regulations regarding pandemic prevention and control, and conditions to ensure safe pandemic prevention and control in accordance with the 2007 Law on Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases. Next is the strict and timely implementation of documents from the Government and the Prime Minister regarding Covid-19 prevention and control [8\*]. Violations regarding pandemic prevention and control regulations have also been handled strictly and timely. For example, in some cities and provinces, there have been cases when people with insufficient awareness disseminated misinformation about the pandemic on social media sites, did not comply with social distancing regulations, or did not wear face masks in public which have all been handled in accordance with the law.

*Eighth, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have truly demonstrated effectiveness and efficiency in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic*

Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have demonstrated their effectiveness by taking appropriate and timely decisions and actions to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, which have brought about positive results. Agencies, units, cadres, civil servants, public employees, organizations, businesses and the people have quickly and seriously complied with the regulations, policies and laws set forth by the State on Covid-19 prevention and control. There has been a great amount of support and trust from the people towards Municipal and Provincial People's Committees. Not only have people in all regions of the country willingly abided by pandemic prevention and control measures, but they have also voluntarily reduced the burden from the State, the Gov-

ernment and People's Committees at all levels by actively and enthusiastically contributing physical and material support in the combat against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The efficiency of the Covid-19 pandemic response measures implemented by Municipal and Provincial People's Committees is reflected in its results. The pandemic situation is always kept under control; pandemic prevention and control measures are introduced and implemented synchronously and resolutely, resulting in high efficiency; resources are mobilized and used rationally and economically. Compared to many other countries in the world, as of date, Vietnam is still considered a country with a low rate of Covid-19 infections and deaths. Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have truly demonstrated their capacity in the prevention, control and containment of the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam, and are progressing towards eradicating the pandemic in the near future.

#### **4. Solutions to strengthen the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and proficient crisis management associated with sustainable development in Vietnam in the coming time**

The actual capacity of the Provincial People's Committee is part of the evidence for Vietnam's success in Covid-19 prevention and control during the past time. Under the leadership of Party committees at all levels, with the coordination of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations at the same level, and with the enhanced role of the people, Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have truly proven the superiority of the socialist regime, demonstrated their capacity, enhanced their efficiency and obtained great results in Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control. To strengthen the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic in Vietnam in the coming time, a number of solutions as follows

should be implemented synchronously and effectively:

*First*, to continue promoting the participation of the whole political system, organizations, businesses and the people in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Specifically, it is crucial to strengthen the leadership from the Party; the coordination between State authorities and mass organizations; the management of the superior agencies to their subordinate agencies; the responsibility of Party committees and authorities at all levels and sectors; and to enhance the autonomy and self-management of the People's Committees at all levels in the leadership, direction and implementation of Covid-19 prevention and control measures. Awareness of the role of businesses and the people in joining hands with the Party, the State and the People's Committees at all levels in pandemic prevention and control should also be enhanced. Organizations and individuals with solutions and initiatives that are useful for pandemic prevention and control should be appropriately encouraged, acknowledged and commended.

*Second*, to quickly develop and perfect the institutions and laws regarding response to emergencies, natural disasters and epidemics so that authorities at all levels shall have a legal basis to implement more effective management and response measures. It is necessary to establish a response mechanism to natural disasters and epidemics in general, and to the Covid-19 pandemic in particular at each level to clearly define the role of each task force; in which it is crucial to define the duty of the Government, of the People's Committees at all levels, of other agencies and organizations in the political system, of businesses and of the community in the event of natural disasters and epidemics.

*Third*, the Provincial People's Committee needs to strengthen the qualifications of cadres, civil servants and public employees in key sectors and fields related to pandemic prevention and control, such as healthcare, education, propaganda, information – com-

munications, etc. In addition, it is essential for cadres, civil servants and public employees to promote their role as pioneers who set examples and comply with policies and regulations; and to be enthusiastic in serving the lives and well-being of the people. This also acts as a proof to local people and the international community for the capacity of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Fourth*, to further enhance the accountability, and transparency and timely update of information regarding the pandemic situation. Along with this, it is necessary to emphasize the responsibility of senior officials in leading and directing pandemic prevention and control measures. The leader of the Provincial People's Committee needs to have a combination of a good heart – competence – stature, and needs to be capable of managing and providing directives in responding to the complicated developments of the pandemic. It is crucial to transfer and replace leaders, cadres, civil servants and public employees whose qualifications cannot meet the requirements of pandemic prevention and control tasks.

*Fifth*, the Provincial People's Committee needs to further enhance their ability to predict and analyze the situation to come up with appropriate and timely pandemic response directions. Following the general regulations issued by the Government, the Provincial People's Committee needs to develop suitable mechanisms and policies for sustainable socio-economic development in their locality when the Covid-19 pandemic situation remains extremely complicated.

*Sixth*, the State, including the Provincial People's Committee, businesses and the society, needs to increase investment in infrastructure, and promote training for human resources in the health sector to effectively respond to possible epidemics in the future. This is an important preventive measure that helps affirm the capacity and vision of the Provincial People's Committee in responding to epidemics and crises.

*Seventh*, to continue strengthening the communication, propaganda, dissemination and education of the law using new and diverse forms, focusing on the application of information technology in the communication to increase people's awareness on pandemic prevention and control regulations and measures. In addition, it is crucial to organize regular training and drills for agencies, departments, organizations, bodies, businesses and the People from all classes so that all can proactively respond to possible pandemic situations.

*Eighth*, to enhance inspection, supervision and strictly handling violations of Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control regulations, and cases of disseminating and communicating misinformation regarding the pandemic situation and the prevention and control progress in Vietnam.

*Ninth*, to summarize and study experience between localities in the countries and international experience in responding to the pandemic; and to strengthen international cooperation and call for Covid-19 vaccine funding via the Government's mechanism in Covid-19 prevention and control. Research and production of a vaccine to be widely provided to people in all cities and provinces should be further promoted.

*Tenth*, the enhanced strength of the grand unity of all people shall be the "key" to our gradual containment of the Covid-19 pandemic, leading towards its complete eradication. This is also the basis to disregard all opinions that deliberately deny Vietnam's success in the combat against the pandemic, deny the leadership role and capacity of the Party, of the Government, of the People's Committees at all levels, and the strength of Vietnam's great unity in Covid-19 prevention and control.

#### References

1. \*According to Yap Kioe Sheng (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), the concept of "good governance" has 08 major characteristics: 1) participatory; 2) consensus oriented; 3) accountable; 4) trans-

- parent; 5) responsive; 6) effective and efficient; 7) equitable and inclusive; 8) follows the rule of law.
2. \*Key documents include: Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP dated April 09, 2020 issued by the Government on measures to support people facing difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic; Circular No. 01/2020/TT-NHNN dated March 13, 2020 issued by the State Bank of Vietnam directing credit institutions and foreign bank branches to restructure loan maturities; waive and reduce banking fees and interests; and retain debt classifications to support customers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; Official Dispatch No. 897/TCT-QLN dated March 03, 2020 issued by the General Department of Taxation on tax deferral and exemption of late interest payment for taxpayers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, etc.
  3. \*Municipal and Provincial People's Committees have issued documents directing the promotion and enhancement of Covid-19 prevention and control propaganda. For example: Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee issued Official Dispatch No. 6299/UBND-NC1 dated July 28, 2021 on promoting propaganda and handling violations regarding Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control; Can Tho People's Committee issued Plan No. 174/KH-UBND dated August 18, 2021 on continuing to promote propaganda on Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control in the city.
  4. \*On May 5, 2020, an article entitled "German expert: Public consensus in COVID-19 prevention and control in Vietnam" by author Manh Hung was published on the online Vietnamese Fatherland Front Journal – an Agency of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front Committee. In the article, Mr. Manuel Wendle, a German expert working as a financial advisor in Vietnam says that the key to Vietnam's successful containment of the Covid-19 pandemic was the widespread public consensus in supporting strict pandemic prevention and control measures, which have been implemented from grassroots to central level. Mr. John MacArthur, Country Director of the US Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) in Thailand also speaks highly of Vietnam's success in pandemic containment.
  5. \*On May 14, 2020, an article entitled "Australian Newspaper: Many countries "dream" of Vietnam's achievement in pandemic containment" by author Thanh Dat was published on the online Dan Tri newspaper – an Agency of the Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs. In the article, Ms. Huong Le Thu, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, told *ABC news* that as international organizations, foreign epidemiologists, and even Australia's Ambassador to Hanoi have expressed confidence in Vietnam's data, she had "no reason" to doubt the figures. "I don't see any alarm bells ringing about the accuracy or lack of transparency in the numbers," said Sharon Kane, Vietnam Country Director at Plan International, a non-governmental organization that works on public health.
  6. \*Quickly grasping the risk of a widespread outbreak due to a large number of infections with unknown sources of transmission in the community, Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee issued Directive No. 10/CT-UBND dated June 19, 2021 on enhancing and strengthening Covid-19 prevention and control measures in Ho Chi Minh City; and Hanoi People's Committee issued Directive No. 17/CT-UBND dated July 23, 2021 on the imposition of social distancing in the city for Covid-19 prevention and control.
  7. \*To prepare medical isolation for cases related to Covid-19 infections to prevent widespread transmission, Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee issued Decision No. 4637/QD-UBND on the establishment of paid quarantine wards in hotels under district-level People's Committees for Covid-19 prevention and control (quarantine wards for short) to serve people under quarantine and flight crews; and Hanoi People's Committee issued Decisions No. 2419/QD-UBND and No. 2420/QD-UBND dated June 01, 2021 on the establishment of concentrated isolation areas for Covid-19 prevention and control in the city, etc.
  8. \*Key documents issued by the Prime Minister include: Decision No. 173/QD-TTg dated February 01, 2020 announcing the acute respiratory epidemic caused by the novel Coronavirus; Directive No. 05/CT-TTg on the prevention and control of the acute respiratory epidemic caused by the novel Coronavirus; Directive No. 06/CT-TTg dated January 31, 2020 on strengthening prevention and control measures amid the new complicated developments of the acute respiratory epidemic caused by the novel Coronavirus; Directive No. 13/CT-TTg dated March 11, 2020 on continuing to promote Covid-19 prevention and control in the new situation; Directive No. 15/CT-TTg dated March 27, 2020 on the resolute implementation of the peak prevention phase of the Covid-19 pandemic; Directive No. 16/CT-TTg dated March 31, 2020 on the implementation of immediate Covid-19 pandemic prevention measures; Directive No. 19/CT-TTg dated April 24, 2020 on continuing the implementation of Covid-19 prevention and control measures in the new situation; Directive No. 01/CT-TTg dated January 05, 2021 on strengthening the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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## СРОЧНОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ МОНОГРАФИЙ И ДРУГИХ КНИГ



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## У НАС ДЕШЕВЛЕ

- Печать тиража в типографии
- Обязательная рассылка
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