

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING**

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**ACADEMY OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION**

**BUI THI BICH THUY**

**THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY  
COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES,  
WARDS, AND TOWNS TODAY**

**PHD THESIS MAJORING IN PARTY BUILDING  
AND STATE GOVERNMENT**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. The urgency of the topic

The Southeast region of Vietnam encompasses Ho Chi Minh City and five centrally-run provinces: Tay Ninh, Binh Phuoc, Binh Duong, Dong Nai, and Ba Ria - Vung Tau. This region holds a crucial role in the nation's socio-economic development, as well as in ensuring national defense, security, and foreign relations. To further enhance its strategic importance, the Politburo issued Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW on October 7, 2022. This resolution outlines the goals for socio-economic development and national defense and security in the Southeast region, with a vision extending to 2045.

Under the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees, the process of building and implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast has seen notable progress in recent years. The sense of responsibility, awareness, and attitudes of the majority of cadres and party members have significantly improved. Furthermore, this progress has contributed to innovating leadership methods and enhancing the leadership capacity of Party Committees at all levels, as well as improving government administration. There has also been an innovation in the content and operational methods of unions, alongside the promotion of pioneering and exemplary behavior. Efforts have been made to refine the working styles and practices of cadres, civil servants, and public employees, steering them toward modernizing the administrative system. These efforts have made a significant contribution to preventing and combating negative situations, while also strengthening internal solidarity.

However, the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels still faces several limitations that need to be addressed. In some areas, the promotion and organization of democratic practices are not consistent or regular. The implementation of democratic principles is sometimes incomplete or not fully adhered to. The role of the People in monitoring has not been effectively promoted. Additionally, some members of the public focus more on their rights than their duties, fail to fulfill their civic responsibilities, and even exploit the concept of democracy or misuse extreme democratic practices. In light of these challenges, it has become urgent to research and evaluate the practical leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region, focusing on the implementation of democracy at the local level. Proposing appropriate solutions to enhance the quality of this process is essential to improving governance and civic engagement.

Based on the reasons outlined above, I have chosen the topic: "*The Leadership of Provincial and City Party Committees in the Southeast Region in the Implementation of Democracy in Communes, Wards, and Towns Today*" for my doctoral thesis in the field of Party Building and State Government. This topic is highly relevant to address the challenges and opportunities in enhancing democratic practices and governance at the local level in the Southeast region.

### 2. Research purpose and tasks

#### 2.1. Research purpose

Based on research to clarify both the theoretical and practical aspects of the role of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns today, the thesis proposes directions and solutions aimed at strengthening the leadership of these committees. Specifically, it focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of the provincial and city Party Committees in guiding the implementation of democracy at the local level in the coming years. The proposed solutions will address existing challenges and aim to improve the overall quality of governance and civic engagement in the region.

#### 2.2. Research tasks

- To provide an overview of research works related to the topic.

- To explain and clarify theoretical and practical issues regarding the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region to implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns.
- To survey and properly evaluate the current situation of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns from 2015 to present, pointing out advantages, disadvantages, causes and some experiences.
- To propose directions and solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region to implement democracy in communes, wards and towns in the coming time.

### **3. Study subjects and scope of the thesis**

#### **3.1. Study subjects**

Provincial Party Committees and city Party Committees in the Southeast region leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns.

#### **3.2. Scope of the study**

- *In terms of space:* The thesis surveys and studies the current situation of the leadership of provincial Party Committees and city Party Committees in the Southeast region, specifically focusing on the following entities: Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, Tay Ninh Provincial Party Committee, Binh Phuoc Provincial Party Committee, Binh Duong Provincial Party Committee, Dong Nai Provincial Party Committee, and Ba Ria - Vung Tau Provincial Party Committee.

- *In terms of time:* The thesis investigates the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns during the period from 2015 to the present, with an orientation toward 2035.

### **4. Theoretical, practical basis and research methods of the thesis**

#### **4.1. Theoretical basis**

The theoretical basis of the thesis is Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought and the views of the Communist Party of Vietnam on socialist democracy and the Party's leadership.

#### **4.2. Practical basis**

The practical basis of the thesis is the current situation of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns from 2015 to present.

#### **4.3. Research methods**

The thesis is conducted based on the Marxism-Leninism methodology and employs a combination of research methods, including: systematization; analysis and synthesis; historical method combined with logical method; inductive and deductive methods, used to interpret and clarify key issues identified from practice; statistical and comparative methods; sociological investigation methods; and practical summary method.

### **5. Scientific contributions of the thesis**

- Introduce the concept and clarify the content and methods of leadership used by provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast to implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns.
- Extract key lessons from the leadership experiences of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.
- Propose new and feasible solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region for the effective implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns in the future.

### **6. Theoretical and practical meaning of the thesis**

- The thesis contributes to summarizing practice, supplementing and developing theory on the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region to implement democracy in communes, wards and towns today.
- The research results of the thesis can be a reference for Party Committees and organizations at all levels in the Southeast for leaders implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns,

contributing to improving the effectiveness of implementation. democracy in communes, wards and towns, meeting the proposed requirements.

- The thesis can be used as a reference for research, teaching and building the Party and State Government at universities, political schools, and the system of schools under the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics.

## **7. Structure of the thesis**

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, list of published scientific works of the author related to the thesis, list of references and appendices, the thesis consists of 4 chapters and 9 sections.

## **Chapter 1**

### **OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE RESEARCH RELATED TO THE TOPICS**

#### **1.1. RESEARCH OUTSIDE VIETNAM**

##### **1.1.1. Research projects related to democracy in communes, wards and towns**

Robert Alan, Dahl (1991), *Democracy and its Critics*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez, Jose Antonio Chebub and Fernando Limongi (1996), *What Makes Democracies Sustainable?*, Journal of Democracy, January, pp.39-45.

Liu Yifeng (2005), *The meaning of strengthening the building of grassroots democracy in rural areas and some practical difficulties*, Beijing Jiaotong University Research Journal, (4).

Zhang Haiyan (2006), *Building grassroots democracy in rural areas under the influence of traditional political culture*, Anhui Provincial Police Academy Magazine, (5).

Duong Ai Dan (2007), *Research on building political democracy at the grassroots*, Hebei University Press.

Thomas Meyer, Nicole Breyer (2007), *The future of social democracy*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi.

Thomas E. Patterson (2008), *The American democracy*, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Vuong Dong (2008), *Building grassroots democracy in 30 years of reform and opening up*, Journal of Contemporary World and Socialism, (5).

Alan Price, UK: Blackwell (2013), *Democratic Western Europe*, New York: United Nations.

Dylan Tylor (2021), *Social movements and democracy in the 21st century* (Nguyen Vuong Tuan, Dao Thi Hong Hanh, Truong Hoang Anh Letter translated; edited by Dinh Trong Minh), Truth National Political Publishing House, Hanoi.

Simone Chambers (2023), *Contemporary Democratic Theory*, Polity.

##### **1.1.2. Research projects related to the ruling political party on implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns**

Thai Dai Hong (2010), *Thoughts on promoting the building of grassroots democracy in rural areas*, Changchun University Research Journal, (1).

Harold Hongju Koh (2000), *The right to Democracy, Towards a community of democracy*, Issue of Democracy, May, p.9.

Virginia Beramandi, Andrew Elis and colleagues (2014), *Direct Democracy (International IDEA Handbook)* (Editor-in-Chief translation Dao Tri Uc, Vu Cong Giao), Hanoi National University Publishing House.

Tu Van Toan (2016), *The process of implementing grassroots democracy in new rural construction through the practice of Guangdong, China*, Chinese Studies Review, (March 199).

Les Donaldson, Edward E. Scannell (2016), *Highlighting the role of the People, really promoting democracy at grassroots level, then building new rural areas will be successful*, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley Publishing.

Sashi Tharoor (2017), *Gaps in the exercise of democracy in rural Asia*, India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## 1.2. RESEARCH IN VIETNAM

### 1.2.1. Research projects on democracy in communes, wards and towns

Vu Van Hien (Editor) (2004), *Democracy at the grassroots through the experiences of Sweden and China*, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi.

Do Tien Sam (2005), *Issues of implementing grassroots democracy in rural China*, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi.

Dao Thanh Hai (Collected and selected) (2005), *Party and State on practicing thrift, fighting against corruption and waste, promoting democracy at the grassroots in the new era*, Labor Publishing House Society, Hanoi.

Duong Trung Y (Editor) (2016), *Building a mechanism to implement democracy within the Communist Party of Vietnam: Theoretical and practical basis*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi.

Ha Thi Thuy Duong (2019), *Negative effects of smallholder psychology on the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level in Vietnam today*, Doctoral thesis specializing in Dialectical Materialism and Historical Materialism, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Ho Thi Nham (2019), *Social Democratic Model in Northern European countries today - Values and main changes*, Doctoral thesis in Politics, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Hoang Thi Thu Thuy (2020), *Improving the law on direct democracy in Vietnam today*, Doctoral thesis specializing in Theory and history of state and law, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Nguyen Dinh Hoa (Editor) (2020), *Implementing democracy within the Party in our country today: Current situation and solutions*, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi.

Trong That (2021), *"Suggestions for democracy" or calls for pluralism, multi-party, change of political institutions?*, Journal of Political Theoretical Scientific Information, No. -2021, p.22 - 27.

Le Van Thuc, Le Van Thu (2021), *Implementing democratic ordinances at the grassroots level in ethnic minority areas in Dak Lak province today: Current situation and solutions*, Journal of Socialism - Theory and Practice farewell, No. 4-2021, pp.23-39.

Bui Thi Phuong Lien (2021), *Implementing grassroots democracy in the urbanization process in Vietnam*, State Organization Magazine, No. 5-2021, pp.38-41.

Pham Van Giang (2022), *Innovating the political system associated with implementing democracy at the grassroots in Dak Lak province*, State Organization Magazine, No. 1-2022, pp. 21-24.

Nguyen Thi Ngo (2022), *Implementing democracy at local grassroots in building socialist democracy in Vietnam*, Journal of Political Theory, No. 8-2022, pp. 123-129.

Nguyen Dang Dung (2022), *Improving the law on implementing democracy at the grassroots*, Journal of Legislative Studies, No. 15 (463), August 1, pp. 21-25.

Do Thi Kim Hoa (2023), *Vietnamese democratic values: A blend of tradition and modernity*, Vietnam Social Sciences Magazine, No. 9, pp. 3-10

Nguyen Quoc Suu (2024), *The relationship between practicing democracy and strengthening the rule of law, ensuring social discipline in the field of state administrative reform*, Journal of State Management, No. 1, p.34- 39.

Nguyen Anh Tuan (Editor), *Resolving the relationship between practicing democracy and strengthening the rule of law, ensuring social discipline in Vietnam during the reform process*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi.

Nguyen Duc Toan, Tran Hung Phi (2024), *Democratic ideology of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar*, Journal of Political Theory, No. 4, pp. 150-156.

### **1.2.2. Research projects related to the leadership of Party Committees at all levels in implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns**

Hoang Truong (2014), *Implementing grassroots democratic regulations in the Army - Issues raised*, National Defense Magazine, No. 9-2014, pp. 97-99, 96.

Le Thanh Long (2018), *The work of institutionalizing the Party's policies and viewpoints on building and implementing democratic regulations at the grassroots, promoting the People's right to independence*, People's Movement Magazine, No. 7-2018, pp. 13-16.

Le Minh Hoan (2018), *Dong Thap: Implementing democratic regulations at the grassroots associated with building self-governance models of people in residential communities*, Dan Dan Magazine, No. 7-2018, p. 17-19.

Phan Viet Cuong (2018), *Quang Nam: Implementing democratic regulations at the grassroots level in site clearance and implementing socio-economic development programs and projects*, Dan Dan Magazine, No. 7-2018, pp.20-22.

Truong Thi Mai (2018), *Creating more positive and effective changes in building and implementing democratic regulations at the grassroots*, Dan Dan Magazine, No. 7-2018, pp. 9-12.

Nguyen Huu Dong (2019), *Results and experiences in implementing the Democracy Regulations at the grassroots level in Son La province in recent years*, Communist Magazine, No. 921 (No. 7-2019), pp. 75-78.

Ngo Van Sy (2020), *Some issues raised for the implementation of Democracy Regulations at the grassroots*, State Management Journal, No. 4-2020, pp. 49-53.

Nguyen Van Vuong (2020), *Implementing the Democratic Ordinance in communes, wards and towns in building new rural areas in the Central Highlands today*, Doctoral thesis specializing in Scientific Socialism, Academy of Politics Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi.

Ngo Van Sy (2021), *Some results and experiences in implementing the Grassroots Democracy Regulations (1998-2020)*, Party History Magazine, No. 1-2021, pp. 109-112.

Bui Van Bia (2021), *Ben Tre: Promoting the implementation of democratic regulations at the grassroots, promoting the active role of the People*, Journal of Civil Affairs, No. 4-2021, pp. 39-41.

Sam Hoang Minh (2022), *Improving the effectiveness of government mobilization work and implementing grassroots democracy regulations in Hau Giang province*, Journal of Mass Mobilization, No. 6-2022, pp. 39-41.

Vo Nguyen Nam (2022), *An Giang: Strengthening the leadership and direction of the Party Committee in implementing grassroots democracy and promoting the People's right to independence*, People's Journal, No. 7, p.48- 50.

Nguyen Viet Thanh, Luu Thuy Hien (2022), *Strengthening the leadership of the Party Committee at enterprises in Dong Thap in implementing grassroots democracy regulations*, Journal of Culture and Arts, No. 1, p.112- 114.

Dao Ngoc Bau (2022), *Some requirements for implementing democracy at the grassroots according to the motto "People know, People discuss, People do, People check, People supervise, People enjoy"*, Journal Dan Dan magazine, No. 9-2022, pp. 23-27.

Do Tan Hung (2022), *Promoting government mobilization work and implementing grassroots democracy regulations to strengthen consensus and arouse People's energy in Tien Giang*, Journal of Public Mobilization, No. 9-2022, p. .44-46.

Nguyen Danh Van (2022), *Quang Ninh: Improving the quality of implementation of democratic regulations at the grassroots, creating consensus of the People*, People's Journal, No. 10-2022, pp.77-79.

My Hanh (2022), *Dak Nong: Promoting democratic regulations at the grassroots in implementing socio-economic development tasks*, Dan Dan Magazine, No. 11-2022, pp. 43-44.

Tran Thi Minh Ngoc (2023), *Democracy issues and implementation of democracy in universities in Vietnam today*, Journal of Political Theory and Communication, No. 7, pp.68-72.

Do Huyen Trang (2023), *Improving the effectiveness of implementing grassroots democracy in Nam Dinh province*, Journal of Theoretical Education, No. 12, pp.65-71.

Le Tri Vu (2024), *Improving the effectiveness of democratic implementation, contributing to building harmonious, stable and progressive labor relations in enterprises in Hai Phong city*, Communist Magazine, No. 1, pp.50-57.

Nguyen Anh Tuan, Pham Thi Nhu Quynh (2024), *Practicing democracy in new rural construction in Quang Tri province*, Journal of Political Theoretical Scientific Information, No. 3, pp.78-86.

To Lam (2024), *Resolving the relationship between practicing democracy and strengthening the rule of law, ensuring social discipline, contributing to the successful implementation of the cause of building and protecting the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland*, Communist Magazine, No. 1036, pp. 3-9.

Nguyen Quoc Doan (2024), *Duc Van well implemented democratic regulations at the grassroots, creating consensus among the People*, Dan Dan Magazine, No. 8, pp.57-58.

Dao Ngoc Bau (2024), *Implementing full-process people's democracy in China and lessons learned for Vietnam*, Journal of Legislative Studies, No. 15, pp. 45-51.

### **1.3. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE AVAILABLE RESEARCH, AND RESEARCH DIRECTIONS OF THE THESIS**

#### **1.3.1. General comments on the results of available research**

The published research works have studied democracy, democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, and the leadership of Party Committees at various levels in implementing democracy at these levels in several localities, from different perspectives and approaches. These studies have achieved significant theoretical and practical results, including:

*Firstly*, the research works have clarified many theoretical issues related to democracy, democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, and the leadership of Party Committees in implementing democracy at these levels.

*Secondly*, in terms of practice, many studies have examined and evaluated the current state of democracy implementation at the commune, ward, and town levels, as well as the leadership of Party Committees in this process, using specific data and examples.

*Thirdly*, to varying degrees, many studies have proposed directions and solutions to strengthen the leadership of Party Committees in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, particularly in relation to local agencies and authorities.

Thus, the scientific works and experiences mentioned above have made significant contributions both in terms of theory and practical summaries. They serve as an important and useful resource for further research and for implementing the thesis topic, especially by providing valuable materials and guiding the approach to the research subject. The author selectively inherits the results of these research works in the process of studying and developing the thesis topic.

#### **1.3.2. Research directions of the thesis**

Although many studies have addressed the leadership of Party Committees at various levels in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, none have systematically and comprehensively researched the theoretical and practical aspects of how the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region lead the implementation of democracy at these levels. Due to the specific objectives, scope, and research subjects, this gap presents a significant opportunity for further study. Therefore, the doctoral candidate has chosen this issue as the research topic, which meets the current practical needs and relevance of the subject matter.

The thesis will focus on addressing the following fundamental issues:

*Firstly*, clarifying the theoretical issues about the provincial and city Party Committees in the



Southeast leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels: The study will further clarify the concept of democracy, democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, thereby constructing the concept and specifying the content of democracy implementation at these levels in the Southeast provinces. In particular, the thesis will focus on developing the concept of how the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast lead the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels; identifying the subjects, objects of leadership; defining the content and methods of how these committees lead the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Secondly*, systematically analyzing and evaluating the current situation of democracy implementation at the commune, ward, and town levels and the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at these levels, identifying the strengths and limitations in the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels; identifying the causes, and drawing practical experiences.

*Thirdly*, forecasting the factors that impact the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels; proposing directions and feasible solutions, including new and breakthrough solutions to enhance the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming time.

## **Chapter 2**

### **THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEE IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNITIES, WARDS AND TOWNS NOWADAYS**

#### **2.1. PROVINCES, CITIES, PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES, CITY COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITIES, WARDS AND TOWNS IN THE SOUTH EAST PROVINCES AND CITIES**

##### **2.1.1. Provinces, cities, provincial Party Committees, cities, provincial Party Committees, and city Party Committees in the Southeast region**

###### ***2.1.1.1. Overview of provinces and cities in the Southeast region***

The Southeast region is one of the key economic regions of Vietnam, located in the south-eastern part of the country. It includes Ho Chi Minh City and five provinces: Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Binh Phuoc, and Tay Ninh. The region covers an area of 23,551 km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for 7.1% of the country's total area, with a population of approximately 18.8 million people, making up 18.9% of the country's population (2022).

###### ***2.1.1.2. Party Committees of provinces and cities in the Southeast region***

The Southeast region includes Ho Chi Minh City and 5 provinces, respectively the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee and 5 provincial Party Committees.

###### ***2.1.1.3. Functions, tasks, powers, responsibilities and characteristics of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region today***

###### ***2.1.1.3.1. Functions, tasks, and powers of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region***

*\* Functions of the provincial Party Committee and city Party Committee in the Southeast region*

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of resolutions from the provincial and city Party Congresses, as well as the policies, resolutions, and directives of the Central Committee and the laws and policies of the State.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees propose and recommend issues related to the leadership of the locality to the Politburo and the Secretariat.

*\* Duties and powers of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region*

From the above functions of the provincial Party Committee, Regulation No. 10-QDi/TW of the Politburo also clearly states that provincial and city Party Committees have eight specific tasks. The thesis generalizes those eight specific tasks into three groups of tasks.

*\* Responsibilities of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Party Charter and Regulation No. 10-QDi/TW of the Politburo, provincial and city Party Committees have the following responsibilities: to be responsible to the Central Executive Committee, the Politburo, the Secretariat, the Party Committee and the People in the province or city for all aspects of the local situation and their decisions.

*\* Working relationship of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast*

*Firstly*, the working relationship between the provincial and city Party Committees and the Central Executive Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat is one where local Party Committees are subordinate to the leadership of the Central Party.

*Secondly*, the relationship between provincial-level Party Committees and Party Committees, Party organizations, and agencies directly under the Central Committee, as well as the Party Committees of military regions and the Border Guard Party Committees, is one of coordination.

*Thirdly*, the working relationship between provincial-level Party Committees and Party Committees, Party organizations directly under the Central Committee, and specialized agencies in charge of advising and assisting is one of leaders and followers.

*2.1.1.3.2. The role of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region*

*Firstly*, the leadership and direction of the provincial and city Party Committees are decisive factors in the successful implementation of the Party's guidelines, policies, and the State's laws in the provinces and cities of the Southeast region.

*Secondly*, the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees is a decisive factor in successfully carrying out the central political tasks of the locality, with the leadership in building clean and strong provincial and city Party organizations being a key task.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast are the leading bodies of the Party organizations at the provincial and city levels between two Party Congresses and play a decisive role in successfully implementing the resolutions of the Party Congress for the term.

*Fourthly*, the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast is a decisive factor in building the organizational structure and activities of the political system in the provinces and cities to be clean, strong, and effective; and providing political orientation for local social organizations to operate in line with the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast participate in building and perfecting the Party's guidelines, policies, and the State's laws, and provide recommendations to the Central Committee on the Party's leadership content for the Party organizations at the provincial and city levels in the Southeast region.

*2.1.1.3.3. Characteristics of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region today*

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region focus on strengthening the leadership bodies and the organizational structure of advisory and supporting agencies from the beginning of their terms in accordance with the regulations of the Central Committee.

*Secondly*, the composition, number, and quality of Party Committee members at the provincial and city levels are continuously strengthened, organized, and utilized to meet the requirements of maintaining political stability and promoting the rapid socio-economic development of the provinces and cities in the Southeast.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast lead the provinces and cities in the southern key economic region, which is particularly important for the country.

### **2.1.2. Communes, wards and towns in the provinces and cities of the Southeast region**

#### ***2.1.2.1. Overview of communes, wards and towns of provinces and cities in the Southeast region***

The administrative units of communes, wards, and towns are grassroots administrative units, where the local government at the grassroots level consists of the People's Council at the commune level and the People's Committee at the commune level. However, in some centrally-run cities that are in the process of piloting the establishment of urban governments according to the new model, the wards of the city do not organize ward People's councils; this includes Ho Chi Minh City in the Southeast region.

#### ***2.1.2.2. Characteristics of communes, wards and towns of provinces and cities in the Southeast***

*Firstly*, the communes, wards, and towns of the Southeast provinces have particularly diverse natural conditions, including a variety of terrains, soils, and climates, spanning the plains, midlands, mountains, islands, and large urban areas.

*Secondly*, the communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast provinces and cities experience very rapid and dynamic socio-economic development.

*Thirdly*, the communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast provinces and cities exhibit rich and diverse socio-cultural development.

*Fourthly*, the communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast provinces and cities place great emphasis on ensuring national defense, security, and order, alongside economic, cultural, and social development.

*Fifthly*, the communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast provinces and cities focus on addressing ethnic, religious, and population issues to build a great national unity bloc in the locality.

## **2.2. PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IN COMMUNES, WARDS, TOWNS**

### **2.2.1. Implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns of provinces and cities in the Southeast region**

#### ***2.2.1.1. Democracy in communes, wards and towns of provinces and cities in the Southeast region***

##### ***\* Concept of Democracy***

Democracy is a broad concept that primarily discusses the political system in which the People are the source and masters of state power; the People exercise state power through state agencies and through political organizations, socio-political organizations, and social organizations established by them.

##### ***\* Concept of Socialist Democracy***

Socialist democracy is the democracy of the majority of working people, linked to social justice, the struggle against oppression and injustice, organized and implemented across all political, economic, and socio-cultural fields. The democratic rights of citizens are guaranteed by the constitution and laws, represented by state agencies, with the People supervising the implementation of the law. The Communist Party is the organizer and leader in building Socialist Democracy.

##### ***\* Concept of Socialist Democracy in Vietnam***

After nearly eighty years of building the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, our Party and People have gradually perfected Socialist Democracy to ensure increasingly substantive citizen rights such as freedom, democracy, and equality.

*\* Concept of “Democracy in Communes, Wards, and Towns” and “Implementing Democracy in Communes, Wards, and Towns”*

“Democracy in communes, wards, and towns” is the People's right to political, economic, and socio-cultural ownership, recognized and guaranteed by law in the administrative units of communes, wards, and towns.

Implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns is the practice of the People's right to ownership (as prescribed by law) in political, economic, and socio-cultural matters in practical life, within local administrative units, where people live, work, study, and engage in labor.

*\* Content of implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns in the provinces and cities in the Southeast region*

*Firstly*, implementing transparency of information in communes, wards, and towns.

*Secondly*, implementing the People's right to discuss and decide.

*Thirdly*, implementing the People's participation in giving opinions before the competent authority makes decisions.

*Fourthly*, implementing the People's right to check and supervise the matters that have been discussed and decided.

*\* Characteristics of implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns in the provinces and cities in the Southeast region*

*Firstly*, the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns in the Southeast region is closely led, directed, and organized by local Party Committees and government authorities at all levels.

*Secondly*, the People in the communes, wards, and towns of the Southeast provinces and cities show high consensus and have many creative models for implementing democracy at the grassroots level.

*Thirdly*, the People's right to ownership in the communes, wards, and towns of the Southeast region provinces and cities is respected and promoted.

*Fourthly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in the Southeast provinces have effectively promoted their core role in enabling the People in communes, wards, and towns to implement democracy at the grassroots level.

## **2.2.2. Provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns today - concept, content, method and role**

### **2.2.2.1. Key Concepts**

*\* Concept of leadership*

Leadership is a process in which the subject determines policies, guidelines, goals, and organizes, mobilizes, encourages, persuades, and taps into the creative efforts and potential of the object (the subject of leadership) to implement the established policies and guidelines, while also monitoring and supervising their implementation.

*\* Concept of the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns today*

The leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns refers to the entire activity of the provincial and city Party Committees, including the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees, with the participation of local Party Committees, Party organizations, and the staff and Party members of the provincial and city Party organizations; organizations within the political system, the People in communes, wards, and towns, and relevant organizations in the process of developing and issuing resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions by the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees regarding the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town level; leading, directing the organization of

implementation, and conducting inspections and monitoring to ensure the successful implementation of these resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions.

***2.2.2.2. Leadership content of provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the grassroots level***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees thoroughly implement the Party's views, guidelines, and the laws of the State; they determine the goals, solutions, programs, and plans for implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns within the province or city.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the provincial government to implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns according to the functions and duties of these authorities.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the subordinate Party Committees and organizations to implement the Party's guidelines and resolutions regarding democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the construction and improvement of the organizational structure and staff of the political system to meet the requirements for implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations in the province and city to cooperate with the provincial government in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the review and summarization of the leadership work in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

***2.2.2.3. Leadership methods to implement democracy in communes, wards and towns of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by issuing guidelines, resolutions, programs, and plans for implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns, so that organizations and social forces can carry out their tasks according to their functions and responsibilities.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by promoting the role of local governments, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations at all levels.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through advocacy, persuasion, and mobilization efforts.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through organizational and personnel work.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through the exemplary role of Party officials and members working in relevant agencies, units, and organizations.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through inspection and supervision activities.

***2.2.2.4. The leadership role of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns today***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast play a decisive role in leading, directing, and organizing the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the political system organizations to ensure that the People can practice democracy in communes, wards, and towns in accordance with the law and in line with the local situation.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees enhance the inspection and supervision of Party organizations and members working in the field of democracy implementation in communes,

wards, and towns, thereby ensuring the People's right to be masters in the administrative units at the commune level.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead ideological work and promote the political-spiritual factors among officials, Party members, and the People in participating in the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees are the political leadership nucleus and the center of unity for the political system and social organizations in the provinces and cities of the Southeast in the process of implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

### **Chapter 2 summary**

Chapter 2 examines both theoretical and practical issues related to the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in local communes, wards, and towns. It provides an overview of the natural, economic, cultural, and social characteristics of the current provinces in the Southeast region; clarifies the functions, tasks, and characteristics of provincial and city Party Committees in the region, thereby offering a clear understanding of the actual context surrounding their leadership in implementing democracy at the grassroots level. The leadership of provincial and city Party Committees is always strongly influenced by the objective situation, as reflected in the main characteristics outlined in the thesis. Additionally, the chapter clarifies key concepts and tools directly related to the thesis, such as: the concept of democracy at the grassroots level, the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns, the content of implementing democracy at these levels, and the Party's role in leading all aspects of social life. By clarifying these leading concepts, the chapter presents the central theme of the thesis: the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns today.

The thesis focuses on analyzing and clarifying six contents and six methods of leadership in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns by the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region today. These contents and methods of leadership emphasize both the general aspects and the unique characteristics of the leadership by the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in carrying out the task of implementing democracy at the grassroots level. The findings from Chapter 2 will directly contribute to the research in Chapter 3, which evaluates the current situation of how the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns across the provinces and cities in the region today.

### **Chapter 3**

## **IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS AND THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST IN IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS TODAY - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES AND EXPERIENCES**

### **3.1. CURRENT STATUS OF DEMOCRACY IMPLEMENTATION IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION TODAY**

#### **3.1.1. Advantages**

*Firstly*, information is fully disclosed in communes, wards, and towns.

*Secondly*, people are given the opportunity to participate in discussing and making decisions on important issues.

*Thirdly*, people's participation in providing feedback before competent authorities make decisions is highly effective.

*Fourthly*, people are allowed to monitor and oversee the work that has been discussed and decided.

### **3.1.2. Limitations**

*Firstly*, the implementation of public information disclosure in communes, wards, and towns is sometimes not consistent or timely.

*Secondly*, in some areas, the people have not been proactive in participating in discussing and making decisions on local issues.

*Thirdly*, some people are not fully engaged and contribute little to providing feedback before competent authorities make decisions.

*Fourthly*, the practice of allowing people to monitor and supervise the work that has been discussed and decided remains limited.

## **3.2. THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST IN IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS TODAY - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND EXPERIENCES**

### **3.2.1. Current status of the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing of democracy in communes, wards and towns**

#### **3.2.1.1. Advantages**

#### ***\*Advantages of the leadership content delivery of provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the grassroots level***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees focus on leading the thorough understanding and implementation of the Party's policies, resolutions, and the state's laws; they develop resolutions, decisions, plans, and programs related to leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns in their respective areas, achieving notable results.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the provincial government to implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns in accordance with their functions and tasks, achieving positive outcomes.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the local Party Committees and affiliated Party organizations to implement the Party's policies and resolutions on democracy at the grassroots level, in a timely manner and aligned with actual conditions and requirements.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees pay attention to leading and directing the construction and improvement of the organizational structure and the team of officials and civil servants within the political system, ensuring they meet the requirements of implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns consistently and promptly.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead and direct the Vietnam Fatherland Front and other political and social organizations at the provincial and city levels to cooperate with the government in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns, resulting in positive changes.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees regularly lead the summarization and evaluation of the work related to implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns.

#### ***\* Advantages of the leadership methods in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns by provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by issuing policies, resolutions, programs, and plans that guide democratic practices in these localities. These documents are closely aligned with the political tasks of the localities, ensuring that organizations and social forces execute them in accordance with their respective functions and responsibilities.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by effectively promoting the roles of the government, the Vietnam

Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations at all levels, increasing their effectiveness over time.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through an increasingly innovative and practical approach to advocacy, persuasion, and mobilization.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns through organizational and personnel work, achieving many positive results.

*Fifthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees emphasize leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by encouraging the exemplary role of officials and Party members working in related agencies, units, and organizations. This is achieved through concrete and creative actions.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by improving and ensuring the effectiveness of their inspection and supervision activities.

### **3.2.1.2. Limitations**

#### ***\* Limitations in the leadership content delivery of provincial and city Party Committees regarding the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns by issuing policies, resolutions, programs, and plans for democratic practices. However, at times and in some places, these documents do not fully align with the local realities, and there is insufficient practical application.

*Secondly*, some provincial and city Party Committees have been slow or lax in leading and directing the provincial government to implement democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in accordance with their functions and responsibilities.

*Thirdly*, some provincial and city Party Committees have been slow or less thorough in leading and directing subordinate Party Committees and organizations to implement the policies and resolutions set out by the provincial and city Party Committees regarding democracy at the grassroots level.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees' leadership in building and improving the organization and staffing of the political system in some areas has not fully met the requirements for implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fifthly*, in some cases, provincial and city Party Committees have not been proactive or have lacked coordination in leading and directing the collaborative efforts between the local government and the Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations in implementing democratic regulations at the grassroots level.

*Sixthly*, the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in reviewing and summarizing the work of implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels has, at times, been delayed or formalistic.

#### ***\* Limitations in the leadership methods for implementing democracy at the grassroots level (communes, wards, towns) by the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region***

*Firstly*, some provincial and city Party Committees have occasionally failed to pay adequate attention or act promptly in leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels through the issuance of policies, resolutions, programs, and plans for democratic practices, which should be carried out by organizations and social forces according to their assigned functions and tasks.

*Secondly*, some provincial and city Party Committees have not effectively utilized the roles of the local government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations at various



levels in implementing democracy at the grassroots level, leading to results that fall short of expectations.

*Thirdly*, some provincial and city Party Committees have led the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level through communication, persuasion, and mobilization efforts that have not seen much innovation and have not been engaging enough.

*Fourthly*, the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the grassroots level through organizational work and staffing still faces some limitations and challenges.

*Fifthly*, the role of leading by example through the active, pioneering involvement of Party members and officials working in relevant organizations, agencies, and units has not fully met the required standards. At times and in some areas, the effectiveness has not been high.

*Sixthly*, the monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the grassroots democratic regulations by some provincial and city Party Committees has been formalistic and inconsistent, lacking regularity.

### **3.2.2. Causes and experiences**

#### **3.2.2.1. Causes**

##### *3.2.2.1.1. Causes for Advantages*

*Firstly*, our Party and State have long recognized and promptly issued policies, laws, and guidelines on grassroots democracy in general, and democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in particular, establishing a solid political and legal foundation for localities to implement.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees have effectively and timely translated the guidelines, resolutions, and conclusions of the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat into actionable plans for the entire political system, thereby achieving important and relatively comprehensive results.

*Thirdly*, the majority of officials, civil servants, Party members, especially key leaders from the provincial and city Party Committees down to the grassroots, have a clear understanding of the importance of implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fourthly*, the Steering Committee for implementing the Grassroots Democracy Regulation has always been proactive in researching, proposing, and advising the provincial and city Party Committees on key issues, developing plans to issue resolutions, specialized topics, and organizing seminars, roundtables, and exchanges of experience on activities related to the implementation of grassroots democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fifthly*, the leadership and direction of provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the grassroots level through mass mobilization, activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations continue to show positive changes.

*Sixthly*, the Party Committees of the provinces and cities in the Southeast region consistently receive the close attention, leadership, and guidance of the Politburo, the Secretariat, the Government, and other ministries, sectors, and central agencies.

##### *3.2.2.1.2. Causes for Limitations*

*Firstly*, the awareness of some provincial and city Party Committees and their leaders about the significance and importance of implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels is still inadequate.

*Secondly*, the responsibility of some grassroots Party organizations and Party members in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels is sometimes vague and superficial.

*Thirdly*, the role and responsibility of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and other political-social organizations in some localities in propagating and mobilizing the People to implement the Grassroots Democracy Regulation are not sufficiently high.

*Fourthly*, the work of planning, training, and fostering officials responsible for mass mobilization and union activities has not received the appropriate attention.

#### **3.2.2.2. Experiences**

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees, as well as the leaders of the provincial Party Committees and local governments in the Southeast region, deeply understand and apply the lessons learned from the Party's experiences.

*Secondly*, emphasis is placed on building, strengthening, and consolidating the organizational structure of advisory bodies and supporting units of the Party Committees, as well as the team of officials responsible for mass mobilization, advocacy, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations involved in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees and local Party organizations must focus on leading and directing the core role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and political-social organizations to ensure that the People actively engage in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees and local Party organizations in the Southeast region pay special attention to monitoring and supervising the implementation of resolutions and programs related to implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fifthly*, strengthening solidarity and unity within the Party Committees, particularly at the provincial level, along with collective action from the local political system, is essential in leading and implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels across provinces and cities in the Southeast region.

### **Chapter 3 summary**

The Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region have actively led and directed the implementation of the grassroots democracy regulations, integrating it with the synchronized implementation of tasks related to party building, political system development, and socio-economic development. This has been based on promoting unity, practicing democracy in party activities in line with local political tasks, and strengthening the work of monitoring and supervising the construction and implementation of grassroots democracy regulations.

However, alongside the achieved results, there are still some limitations in the implementation of the laws regarding democracy at the grassroots level in some agencies, units, and localities in the Southeast region. Specifically, the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels remains somewhat formal, and the work of understanding the public's thoughts, feelings, and aspirations, particularly on emerging issues at the grassroots level, has sometimes been delayed. While administrative reforms have shown progress, they are still not fully synchronized; some officials still create difficulties for citizens when they come to do business, and the adherence to internal regulations, agency rules, and the civilized workplace regulations is not always strict. The activities of the People's Inspection Committees and the Community Investment Monitoring Boards in some areas are limited, and their effectiveness is not high, especially in overseeing the construction of infrastructure projects funded by the government. In some enterprises, the role and responsibility of trade unions and the People's Inspection Committees have not been effectively promoted.

### **Chapter 4**

## **DIRECTIONS AND MAIN SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN**

## **IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS IN THE COMING TIME**

### **4.1. FORECASTING ADVANTAGES, DIFFICULTIES AND DIRECTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS AND TOWNS IN THE COMING TIME**

#### **4.1.1. Forecasting advantages and difficulties in strengthening the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns in the coming time**

##### ***4.1.1.1. Advantages***

*Firstly*, the trend of democratization, strengthening and expanding democracy, peace, and cooperation for development, along with international law and multilateral mechanisms, continues to be an important means in preventing and peacefully resolving complex issues. ASEAN continues to enhance cooperation and development.

*Secondly*, the great and historically significant achievements of the renovation process after 40 years nationwide, and the reform results in the provinces and cities of the Southeast region, including the contributions from the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, will continue to strongly encourage provincial and city party committees to lead the effective implementation of democracy at the local level.

*Thirdly*, the Party's and State's viewpoints on grassroots democracy are becoming increasingly refined. The Politburo and the Secretariat always emphasize the leadership in implementing democracy in society, including at the commune level, alongside the building and perfecting of the socialist rule of law state of Vietnam, for the People, by the People, and of the People.

*Fourthly*, the results of the work on party building and rectification, particularly in the fight against degradation and corruption, continue to encourage and motivate the political system and the People at the grassroots level in the Southeast region to implement grassroots democracy effectively, leading to positive changes in local areas and successful efforts in fighting degradation and corruption.

*Fifthly*, through leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels during the renovation period, the provincial and city Party Committees, especially those at the grassroots level in the Southeast region, have accumulated valuable experiences. These experiences will be applied to achieve success in the coming years.

*Sixthly*, the Party congresses at all levels leading up to the 14th Party Congress will be a broad political activity within the Party at the provincial and city levels. This will create strong momentum for the newly elected provincial and city party committees to lead the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

##### ***1.1.2. Difficulties***

*Firstly*, the global situation continues to change rapidly, becoming increasingly complex and difficult to predict. The trend of democratization in all aspects of social life is being influenced and manipulated by major powers, which impacts the People at the commune level in the Southeast region, creating significant challenges for the provincial and city Party Committees in strengthening leadership and implementing democracy at the grassroots level in this region.

*Secondly*, many cadres and Party members have been disciplined by the Party and prosecuted under criminal law. The majority of them violated the principles of democratic centralism, working regulations, and lost democracy, which has a strong impact on the thinking of the People in the Southeast region. This represents a considerable difficulty for the provincial and city Party Committees in leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, hostile forces are intensifying their use of the achievements of modern science and technology, especially global social networks, to carry out schemes aimed at undermining the Party, the State, and our regime in all areas. Among their priorities is the disruption of grassroots democracy implementation.

*Fourthly*, the leadership capacity for implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels is still limited and inadequate among many Party members at the district and commune levels. These officials have not yet effectively implemented the resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committees and the Standing Party Committees regarding the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level.

*Fifthly*, while the socialist rule-of-law state in Vietnam is being built and perfected, many issues remain unclear and theoretical, presenting significant challenges for the provincial and city Party Committees in leading the implementation of this important work.

#### **4.1.2. Directions to strengthen the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns in the coming time**

*Firstly*, we need to create a profound and unified awareness among the provincial and city Party Committees, all levels of Party organizations, political system organizations, cadres, Party members, and the People in the Southeast region regarding the content and forms of implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, as well as the necessity to strengthen the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in this area in the coming years.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees, particularly the Standing Committees, should focus on leading and directing the formulation and issuance of resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions related to the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level, emphasizing the practice of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, the provincial and city Party Committees should strengthen leadership by concretizing the Law on Implementing Democracy at the Grassroots Level (Law No. 10/2022/QH15, dated November 10, 2022) in accordance with the local communes, wards, and towns, facilitating successful implementation.

*Fourthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees should focus on leading the effective implementation of summarizing Resolution No. 18-NQ/TW, dated October 25, 2017, regarding the organization of the political system during the merger of hamlets, neighborhood groups, communes, wards, and towns, ensuring stable organizational structures and personnel to guarantee efficient operations, including the implementation of democracy.

*Fifthly*, leadership should tightly integrate the functions and duties of the local government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and various political-social organizations with the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, while also aligning these efforts with economic and social development activities and ensuring security and order within the communes, wards, and towns.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees should effectively lead efforts to prevent and eliminate factors that hinder the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in their locality, while simultaneously thwarting the schemes and tactics of hostile forces that aim to undermine the democratic process at the grassroots level in the region.

### **4.2. MAIN SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION IN IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRACY IN COMMUNES, WARDS, AND TOWNS IN THE COMING TIME**

**4.2.1. Raising awareness and responsibility of Party Committees in provincial and city Party Committees, organizations in the political system, attaching importance to Party Committees, cadres, Party members, and people at the commune level on democracy,**

### **implementing democracy, and strengthening the leadership of provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy in communes, wards, and towns**

*Firstly*, there is a need to intensify the advocacy to raise awareness and responsibility among the members of the provincial and city Party Committees, Party organizations, local government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, political-social organizations, cadres, and Party members regarding key issues of democracy, its implementation at the commune, ward, and town levels, and strengthen the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at these levels.

*Secondly*, the provincial and city Party Committees, along with district-level Party Committees, should strengthen leadership and guidance to ensure that all Party Committees, the Standing Committees, local government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, political-social organizations, and the People at the commune, ward, and town levels deeply understand the Law on Implementing Democracy at the Grassroots Level, particularly regarding the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level.

*Thirdly*, diversify the forms and methods to raise awareness and responsibility among the provincial and city Party Committees, Party organizations, cadres, Party members, and local governments in the Southeast region regarding the need to enhance the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming period.

#### **4.2.2. Improving the quality of resolutions, decisions, directives and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committee, provincial and city Standing Committee on implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns, correctly identifying key issues of concern to the People to determine effective solutions**

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees, particularly the Standing Committees, should closely follow the practical situation, identifying the key and emerging issues related to the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels that are of great concern to a large number of cadres, Party members, and the People, in order to build resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions and organize their implementation.

*Secondly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should strengthen leadership and guidance to enhance the quality of draft resolutions, decisions, and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees regarding the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, improve the quality of the meetings of the provincial and city Party Committees or their Standing Committees in the Southeast region to discuss, debate, and decide on the content of the resolutions, decisions, and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees concerning the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fourthly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should lead and guide the editing and finalization of the resolutions, decisions, and conclusions regarding the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in accordance with the conclusions of the meetings of the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees on this issue.

#### **4.2.3. Building a strong provincial and city Party Committee; improving the leadership and direction capacity to implement democracy in communes, wards and towns of the members of the provincial and city Party Standing Committees in charge of district-level Party Committees and of district-level Party Secretaries; improving the quality of specialized agencies advising and assisting the provincial and city Party Committees**

**4.2.3.1. Building a strong provincial and city Party Committee; improving the leadership and direction capacity to implement democracy in communes, wards and towns; training the**

***working style of being close to the grassroots of the members of the provincial and city Party Standing Committees in charge of district-level Party Committees and of district-level Party Secretaries***

*Firstly*, there is a need to concretize the standards for provincial and city Party Committee members and the members of the Standing Committees of provincial and city Party Committees, creating a foundation for effectively carrying out other aspects of personnel work, in order to build a strong provincial and city Party Committee and Standing Committee, capable of meeting the requirements to enhance leadership in the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Secondly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should strengthen leadership and guidance in ensuring effective personnel selection to integrate qualified staff into the planning for the provincial and city Party Committees for the upcoming term and the following terms.

*Thirdly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should lead and direct the effective implementation of planning, training, development, and rotation of personnel within the planning for the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees, as well as promote self-learning and self-discipline among these officials.

*Fourthly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should strengthen leadership in the management, inspection, supervision, and evaluation of officials in the planning for the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees, and implement personnel policies for these officials.

*Fifthly*, there is a need to improve the quality of current members of the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees, ensuring they continue to meet the requirements to enhance the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Sixthly*, the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees should prioritize and effectively implement the training and enhancement of leadership capacity, directing the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, and cultivate the work style of closely engaging with grassroots-level work by the Standing Committee members in charge of district-level Party Committees and the secretaries of district Party Committees.

***4.2.3.2. Improving the quality of specialized agencies advising and assisting the provincial and city Party Committees, especially the mass mobilization and advocacy committees, to meet the requirements of strengthening the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy in communes, wards and towns***

*Firstly*, the provincial and city Party Committees, Party organizations, officials, and Party members should fully understand and recognize the role of the specialized advisory bodies that assist the provincial and city Party Committees. These bodies, particularly the departments of mass mobilization and advocacy, are crucial for the quality and effectiveness of the work of the provincial and city Party Committees, especially in leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Secondly*, the organization and staffing of the specialized advisory bodies assisting the provincial and city Party Committees should be streamlined and restructured to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the demands of enhancing the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, the quality of personnel in the specialized advisory bodies should be improved, ensuring that they can successfully carry out their duties and responsibilities. This will contribute positively to strengthening the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fourthly*, the Standing Committees of the provincial and city Party Committees should

strengthen leadership and guidance on coordinating the work of the specialized advisory bodies. This includes guiding, monitoring, and pushing forward the implementation of resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committees and their Standing Committees regarding the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

**4.2.4. Building a high-quality Party Committee at the commune level, effectively leading the implementation of democracy in the area; strengthening the leadership of the government, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations to effectively implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns; creating resources to effectively carry out this work**

***4.2.4.1. Building a clean and strong Party Committee of communes, wards and towns, directly leading and directing the effective implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns by the provincial Party Committee and city Party Committee***

*Firstly*, it is important to effectively implement the adjustment of administrative boundaries, including the merger of villages, hamlets, neighborhood groups, communes, wards, and towns as directed by higher authorities. This will help stabilize the organizational structure and personnel to carry out the functions and tasks of the newly formed units.

*Secondly*, the goal is to build a clean and strong Party organization at the commune, ward, and town levels, following the Party's regulations regarding the functions and tasks of grassroots Party organizations and the Resolution of the 5th Central Committee of the 13th Party Congress on Party organization at the grassroots level. This ensures direct leadership in effectively implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, improving the quality of the Party Committee and the Standing Committee of the Party Committee at the commune, ward, and town levels is necessary to meet the demands of effectively carrying out their functions and tasks, as well as leading the successful implementation of democracy at the grassroots level.

*Fourthly*, it is essential to innovate the content and methods of leadership of the Party Committee and its Standing Committee at the commune, ward, and town levels. These innovations should be tailored to the specific characteristics and operational conditions of each Party organization, with a focus on improving the quality of the village, hamlet, and neighborhood Party branches, as well as enhancing the capacity of Party members.

***4.2.4.2. Strengthening the leadership of the government, the Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations to effectively implement democracy in communes, wards, and towns, especially valuing the leadership of the government to create necessary resources, means, and finances to serve the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns***

*Firstly*, the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee and the City Party Committee should lead and direct the effective restructuring of government agencies, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations at the commune, ward, and town levels to streamline operations and improve efficiency as per higher-level instructions. This includes stabilizing the organizational structure, personnel, and ensuring smooth operations.

*Secondly*, it is essential to correctly define and specify the functions and tasks of newly merged agencies and units. The leadership should ensure thorough understanding and implementation of these defined functions and tasks. Additionally, the leadership should guide non-merged agencies to effectively perform their functions and tasks.

*Thirdly*, the leadership should strengthen efforts to enhance the role of local governments and socio-political organizations at the commune, ward, and town levels, reinforcing the leadership of the Provincial and City Party Committees in implementing democracy at these levels.

*Fourthly*, the Provincial and City Party Committees should prioritize leadership and direct local governments at the provincial, district, and commune levels to generate necessary resources,

tools, and finances to support the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

**4.2.5. Strengthening the inspection and supervision of provincial and city Party Committees, the leadership, inspection and supervision of the Politburo and the Secretariat, and the facilitation of central agencies and socio-political organizations for provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast in leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns**

***4.2.5.1. Strengthening inspection, supervision, and interim and final reviews, drawing experiences from the provincial and city Party Committees in leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards, and towns***

*Firstly*, the Standing Committee of the provincial Party Committees and city Party Committees should strengthen their leadership over the Provincial Party Inspection Committees and City Party Inspection Committees, ensuring they conduct checks and supervise party organizations, officials, and party members regarding the implementation of the resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the Provincial and City Party Committees, as well as the Standing Committees, on the practice of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Secondly*, the Standing Committee of the Provincial and City Party Committees should prioritize leadership and guidance for the specialized agencies assisting the Provincial and City Party Committees to conduct inspections of subordinate party committees on the implementation of the contents specified in the resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the Provincial and City Party Committees, and the Standing Committees, regarding the practice of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, as per regulations.

*Thirdly*, when necessary, the Provincial and City Party Committees and their Standing Committees should directly undertake the task of inspecting and supervising subordinate party committees, party organizations, and party members regarding the implementation of the resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the Provincial and City Party Committees and the Standing Committees about democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Fourthly*, there should be a clear understanding of the characteristics and operational conditions of the party organizations, officials, and party members to select and apply appropriate methods and forms of inspection and supervision, ensuring effective implementation of the resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the Provincial and City Party Committees and the Standing Committees regarding the practice of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Finally*, it is important to maintain a regular routine of summarizing, evaluating, and drawing lessons from the leadership of the Provincial and City Party Committees in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

***4.2.5.2. Strengthening the leadership, inspection and supervision of the Politburo and the Secretariat over provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region in leading the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns***

*Firstly*, the quality of resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the Party regarding democracy, and the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level, including at communes, wards, and towns, should be improved. This will create favorable conditions for the Provincial Party Committees and City Party Committees in the Southeast region to effectively lead the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming period.

*Secondly*, the Politburo and the Secretariat should strengthen leadership and guidance in summarizing practical experiences and clarifying the theoretical aspects of democracy and its implementation at the commune, ward, and town levels. These actions should directly address issues that will help the Provincial Party Committees and City Party Committees in the Southeast region effectively lead the implementation of democracy at these local levels.



*Thirdly*, the Politburo and the Secretariat should enhance leadership and direction to the Central Inspection Commission in supervising and inspecting the Provincial Party Committees and City Party Committees in the Southeast region on their leadership regarding the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels. At the same time, they should carry out the inspection and supervision of these committees in accordance with the Party's Statute regarding this important work.

***4.2.5.3. Central agencies and socio-political organizations facilitate provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast to effectively lead the implementation of democracy in communes, wards and towns***

*Firstly*, based on their specific functions, tasks, and conditions, each central-level committee, agency, and socio-political organization should facilitate the provincial and city party committees in the Southeast region to lead the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Secondly*, each central agency and organization should closely coordinate with the specialized advisory bodies of the provincial and city party committees, especially the provincial and city party office, to facilitate the leadership of provincial and city party committees in effectively implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

*Thirdly*, there is a need to strengthen the coordination between the central-level committees, agencies, and organizations to support the provincial and city party committees in leading the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

### **Chapter 4 summary**

Based on the analysis and clarification of the theoretical and practical issues regarding the leadership of provincial and city party committees in the Southeast region in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, the survey and evaluation of the leadership of the provincial and city party committees in this area over the past years, highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, limitations, causes, and experiences, the thesis proposes key solutions to strengthen the leadership of the provincial and city party committees in this region for the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming years.

To enhance the leadership of the provincial and city party committees in the Southeast region in effectively implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming years, it is essential to implement the proposed solutions of the thesis, focusing on breakthrough measures: building high-quality commune-level party committees that lead the implementation of democracy effectively; strengthening the leadership of the government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in effectively carrying out democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels; and generating the necessary resources to ensure the successful implementation of these tasks.

## CONCLUSION

The effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the Southeast region plays a crucial role and has significant impact on the development of the region, including economic and social progress, improving people's living standards, ensuring national defense and security, building the Party and the political system at all levels, particularly at the commune level, and contributing significantly to the success of the renovation process in the localities as well as in the entire country. This can only be achieved with the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the region. The implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the Southeast region is constantly evolving, with new contents and requirements that demand strengthened leadership from the provincial and city Party Committees. This is a very important and urgent issue.

In recent years, the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region have made significant progress in leading the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, achieving important results that contribute to the renovation process in the provinces and cities and improving the living standards of local people. However, the leadership in implementing democracy at these levels still has some shortcomings and limitations, which have affected the overall development of the communes, towns, and localities. The provincial and city Party Committees in this region have recognized these shortcomings, identified their causes, and sought solutions to overcome them. Through studying the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in recent years, useful experiences can be drawn.

To strengthen the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region for the effective implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels in the coming years, it is necessary to research and implement a number of solutions. The proposed solutions include: *Firstly*, raising the awareness and responsibility of the Party Committees at the provincial and city levels, as well as the organizations in the political system, regarding democracy, its implementation, and the importance of strengthening the leadership of the provincial and city Party Committees in implementing democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels. *Secondly*, improving the quality of resolutions, decisions, directives, and conclusions of the provincial and city Party Committees, particularly their Standing Committees, on the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, focusing on the key issues of concern to the People and determining solutions for effective resolution. *Thirdly*, strengthening the provincial and city Party Committees, enhancing the leadership capacity of the members of the Standing Committees of the Party Committees, particularly those in charge of district-level Party organizations, and the district-level Party secretaries, as well as improving the quality of specialized advisory agencies supporting the Party Committees. *Fourthly*, building high-quality commune-level Party organizations to effectively lead the implementation of democracy at the grassroots level, strengthening the leadership of the government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations to effectively carry out democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels, and ensuring the allocation of resources to support these tasks. *Fifthly*, increasing the monitoring and supervision efforts of the provincial and city Party Committees, the leadership, and the monitoring from the Politburo and the Secretariat, as well as facilitating support from central-level political-social organizations to help the provincial and city Party Committees in the Southeast region lead the implementation of democracy at the commune, ward, and town levels.

## **LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE THESIS**

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