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**THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM
FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL
IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL
GOVERNMENT BUILDING TODAY**

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

SUMMARY OF PHD THESIS

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**The thesis will be defended in front of the Thesis Committee at Academy
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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the topic

In the process of building the socialist rule-of-law state in Vietnam, the consolidation and promotion of the role of socio-political organizations, especially the Vietnam Fatherland Front, plays a particularly important role in ensuring democracy, transparency, and the effectiveness of the government apparatus at all levels. The Vietnam Fatherland Front is not only the representative organization of the great national unity bloc but also serves as a bridge between the people and the Party and the State. It actively contributes to building the government, supervising the activities of public authorities, and participating in social criticism.

Particularly at the provincial level, where the implementation of the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws is carried out directly, the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front has become increasingly evident. This is demonstrated through activities such as supervision, social criticism, contribution to policy-making, and the promotion of the people's right to mastery. With a deep awareness of this role, in recent years, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has always actively fulfilled its function of participating in building same-level government, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of socio-economic development tasks, the safeguarding of national defense and security, and the development of provinces and cities in the region.

However, in practice, the implementation of activities related to participation in building same-level government by the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta still faces certain limitations. Specifically, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level has not fully promoted its role and responsibility in building same-level government; the effectiveness of its participation is still not clearly defined and continues to show inconsistencies. There remains a lack of clarity in distinguishing between the government-building activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and those of other socio-political organizations at the provincial level. The coordination between supervision and social criticism with the activities of government building is not yet well integrated. The mobilization of advisory forces and collaborators of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level remains hesitant and lacks a clear mechanism. The coordination mechanism between the Vietnam Fatherland Front and state agencies is not truly close-knit or effective. In some cases, the reception and feedback of opinions from the Vietnam Fatherland Front by the government remain formalistic and insufficiently addressed. Additionally, the proactiveness and creativity in some activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front remain limited and do not yet meet the requirements of the new context.

Given the above situation, the research on theoretical foundations, the summarization of practical experiences, the accurate assessment of the current situation, and the identification of solutions to strengthen the participation in building same-level government by the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has become an urgent requirement today.

As a Party member and a leadership officer currently working at the School of Politics of Hau Giang Province, and having previously undertaken tasks at the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Hau Giang Province, based on my practical work experience, theoretical knowledge, research methodology, and analytical thinking cultivated during my time as a doctoral candidate at the Academy of Journalism and Communication, I have decided to choose the topic ***"The participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building today"*** as the subject of my doctoral thesis in the field of Party Building and the State Government.

2. Research purpose and tasks

2.1. Research purpose

Based on clarifying the theoretical and practical issues regarding the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government today, the thesis proposes orientations and key solutions to strengthen the

participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in this region in same-level government building in the coming years.

2.2. Research tasks

- To provide an overview of notable scientific studies directly related to the thesis topic, identifying the key findings that the thesis should inherit in order to fulfill its objectives and tasks; determine the aspects that require further research and clarification.

- To analyze and clarify theoretical and practical issues regarding the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government.

- To survey and assess the actual situation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in participating in building same-level government from 2014 to the present; identify the strengths, limitations, causes, and lessons learned.

- To propose orientations and key solutions to enhance the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government in the coming years.

3. Study subjects and scope of the thesis

3.1. Study subjects

Vietnam Fatherland Front at the Provincial Level in the Mekong Delta in Same-Level Government Building Today.

3.2. Scope of the thesis

- *In terms of space:* The thesis surveys and studies the current situation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta participating in building the same-level government, including the provinces of Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Soc Trang, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang, Bac Lieu, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Hau Giang, Ca Mau, and the city of Can Tho.

- *In terms of time:* The thesis surveys the participation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta in building the same-level government from 2014 to the present, with a strategic orientation toward 2035. However, due to limitations in time, data collection resources, and the page limit of the thesis, the research focuses primarily on data from recent years within the 2019-2024 term of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front congress, with occasional references to data from the 2014-2019 term.

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

4.1. Theoretical basis

The theoretical foundation of the thesis is based on Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front, political-social organizations, and the building of the state and local government.

4.2. Practical basis

The practical foundation of the thesis is the current situation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta participating in the construction of same-level government in the provinces of Long An, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Soc Trang, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang, Bac Lieu, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Hau Giang, Ca Mau, and Can Tho City from 2014 to the present.

4.3. Research methods

The thesis is conducted based on the methodology of Marxism-Leninism and applies a combination of research methods, including: the method of systematization; the method of analysis combined with synthesis; the methods of induction and deduction; statistical and comparative methods; sociological survey method; and the method of summarizing practical experiences.

5. Scientific contributions of the thesis

Firstly, the thesis develops a definition of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government: it encompasses all activities of propaganda, mobilization, supervision, social criticism, participation in policy development, and protection of the legal rights and interests of the people, contributing alongside party organizations, local governments, officials, Party members, civil servants, and the people - to the successful development of a clean, strong provincial-level government capable of fulfilling its assigned functions and tasks.

Secondly, valuing the construction of a team of officials for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level with sufficient quality, capacity, and prestige, while focusing on enhancing intellectual level and political courage, will ensure the Front's effective participation in building the local government.

Thirdly, the thesis analyzes and explains a breakthrough solution to enhance the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in building same-level government in the Mekong Delta in the coming years: consolidating and stabilizing the organizational structure; enhancing the quality of the dedicated staff of the provincial People's Front Committee to strengthen the effectiveness of participation in building the local government.

6. Theoretical and practical meaning of the thesis

- The thesis contributes to summarizing practical experiences and supplementing and developing the theoretical framework regarding the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government today.

- The research findings of the thesis can serve as reference material for provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front Committees in the Mekong Delta to formulate guidelines and measures for leading and directing their participation in building same-level government.

- The research results of the thesis can also be used as reference material for teaching, learning, and research in the subject of Party Building at universities, political schools, and the system of institutions under the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics.

7. Structure of the thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, the list of the author's published works related to the thesis topic, the list of references, and the appendices, the thesis consists of 4 chapters and 10 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE RESEARCH RELATED TO THE TOPICS

1.1. RESEARCH OUTSIDE VIETNAM

1.1.1. Research works related to the provincial level, provincial government, and the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front

Alain Faure, Emmanuel Négrier (2018), *Some Policies in Local Government in France*, Policy Press, France.

Barry Naughton (2018), *The Political Economy of Local Government in China: A Case Study in Guangdong Province*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, United Kingdom.

Sonny Shiu-Hing Lo, Steven Chung-Fun Hung, Jeff Hai-Chi Loo (2019), *The Work of the New United Front Department of China in Hong Kong*, Springer, Singapore.

John Shutt, Joyce Liddle (2019), *Network Governance in the UK, Decentralization and Local Government Sustainable Development Strategies*, *The Journal of the Local Economy Policy Unit*, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 91–93, UK.

Bounkham Phonmany (2020), *The Organization of Local Government: Global Experience and Implications for the Lao People's Democratic Republic*, *Vietnam Social Sciences Journal*, No. 12, pp. 124–134.

Jean C. Oi, Andrew G. Walder (2020), *Decentralization and Local Governance in China: The Impact of Marketization*, Oxford University Press, United Kingdom.

Ann O'M. Bowman, Richard C. Kearney, Carmine Scavo (2021), *State and Local Government* (11th edition), Cengage Learning, United States.

Michael Chisholm (2021), *Local Government in the UK: Trends and Developments*, *Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance*, Issue 26, December 2021, UK.

Lawrence Pratchett and David Sweeting (2023), *Local Government and Democracy in the United Kingdom*, Manchester University Press, United Kingdom.

Stifterverband (2024), *Development Directions in Policy Innovation at the State Level*, Stifterverband Publishing, Germany.

1.1.2. Research works related to the development of local government, socio-political organizations, the Fatherland Front, and provincial-level Fatherland Front participation in building same-level government

Kevin J. O'Brien and Li Lianjiang (2019), *Rural Politics in China: Village-State Relations*, Routledge Publishing, London.

Ganyuan Cheng (2019), *The Secrets of the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China*, Citizen Press, China.

Kham Bay Dam Lat (2019), *Introduction to the Core Tasks and Working Methods of the Lao Front for National Construction*, presented at the theoretical symposium of the United Fronts of China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Laos, themed "Uniting Strengths to Strengthen Consensus", held in Beijing, China.

Phetsamone Duagpasert (2022), *The Lao Front for National Construction in Implementing Ethnic Policy in Northern Provinces Today*, PhD thesis in Scientific Socialism, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Sengthavy Sengphachanh (2023), *Implementing social supervision and criticism of the Lao Front for National Construction Today*, PhD thesis in Scientific Socialism, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Kathleen Duval (2024), *Native Nations: A Millennium in North America*, Random House Publishing Group, USA.

1.2. RESEARCH IN VIETNAM

1.2.1. Research works related to the provincial level, provincial government, and the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front

Trinh Tuan Thanh (2015), *Improving the Provincial Government Apparatus to Meet the Requirements of Building a Socialist Rule-of-Law State in Vietnam*, PhD thesis in Theory and History of the State and Law, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Tran Hau (2016), *On the Contribution Activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Building the Party and State Today*, *Journal of the Fatherland Front*, (147), pp.30-31, Hanoi.

Nguyen Van Pha (2016), *Enabling the Vietnam Fatherland Front to Effectively Perform Its Role in Supervision and Social Criticism*, *Journal of Party Building*, (1+2), pp.21-23, Hanoi.

Nguyen Tuan Anh (2017), *Renovating and Improving the Effectiveness of Collecting and Reflecting People's Opinions and Petitions to the Party and State by the Vietnam Fatherland Front*, *Journal of the Fatherland Front*, (164), pp.21-23, Hanoi.

Dang Thi Kim Ngan (2017), *The Vietnam Fatherland Front Promotes People's Right to Mastery, Participating in Building the Party and the State*, *Journal of the Fatherland Front*, (166-167), pp.55-57, Hanoi.

Nguyen Van Hung (2017), *Some Solutions for Supervisory and Social Criticism Work of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Towards Party Secretaries Who Are Also Chairpersons of the People's Committees at the Same Level*, *Journal of Mass Mobilization*, (8), pp.24-27, Hanoi.

Nguyen Trong Binh, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Anh (2018), *The Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, People's Organizations and Social Organizations in Local Governance Today*, Journal of the Fatherland Front, No. 8, 2018, Hanoi.

Truong Minh Luan (2018), *The Vietnam Fatherland Front Participating in Party Building in the Current Period*, PhD thesis in Party and Government Building, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Ta Van Sy (2019), *The Vietnam Fatherland Front in Propagating and Mobilizing People to Implement Anti-Corruption Laws*, Journal of the Fatherland Front, (192), Hanoi.

Tran Thanh Man (2020), *The Vietnam Fatherland Front Participating in Building the Party, Government and Preparing for Party Congresses at All Levels Toward the 13th National Congress of the Party*, Communist Review, No. 5 (942), pp.35-41, Hanoi.

Tran Duc Tuan (2022), *Renovating the Organization and Operations of the Provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee in the Current Period*, PhD thesis in Party and Government Building, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Pham Xuan Hoang (2022), *Building the Grassroots Political System in Dak Lak Province Today*, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi.

Bui Tuan Quang (2023), *Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Political-Social Organizations in Participating in the Construction and Perfection of the Socialist Rule-of-Law State*, Journal of Mass Mobilization, No. 1+2, pp.35-39, Hanoi.

Quach Minh Phuong (2023), *The Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Supervising Urban Government in Ho Chi Minh City*, Journal of State Organization, No. 5, pp.35-38, Hanoi.

1.2.2. Research works related to the development of local government, socio-political organizations, the Fatherland Front, and provincial-level Fatherland Front participation in building same-level government

Y Phuong (2016), *Practical Issues in the Supervision, Social Criticism, and Participation in Building the Party and Government by the Vietnam Fatherland Front and Political-Social Organizations of Kon Tum Province*, Communist Review - Grassroots Special Issue, (109), pp.76-79, Hanoi.

Truong Thi Hong Ha (2017), *The Organization and Operations of Local Government in Vietnam Today*, National Political Publishing House Truth, Hanoi.

Le Mau Nhiem (2017), *Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at All Levels in Participating in Building the Party and the State Today*, Party History Review, (316), pp.66-70, Hanoi.

Truong Thi Bach Yen (2018), *Effectiveness of Supervision and Social Criticism by the Vietnam Fatherland Front on District-Level Governments in the Central Highlands*, Ministry-level scientific research project, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

Le Thi Diep (2018), *Applying Ho Chi Minh's Ideology to Local Government Building in the Current Period*, Theoretical Education Journal, Issue 4 (274), pp.30-37, Hanoi.

Nguyen Duy Hanh, Nguyen Tung Lam (2018), *Ho Chi Minh's Thought on Building Local Government*, Political Theory and Science Information Journal, Issue 2, pp.10-14, Hanoi.

Ho Thanh Hon, Huynh Minh Hiep (2019), *Improving the Legal Framework for Organizing and Operating Local Governments in Vietnam Today*, Political Science Information Journal, Issue 2(15), pp.34-37, Hanoi.

Nguyen Hai Long, Hoang Xuan Chau (2020), *Organization and Operation of Local Government*, National Political Publishing House Truth, Hanoi.

Pham Thi Giang (2020), *The Local Self-Government Model in Some Countries and Reference Values for Vietnam*, State Management Journal, Issue 7(294), pp.41-44, Hanoi.

Pham Thi Phuong (2020), *Local Government in Ensuring the Exercise of Citizens' Rights in Vietnam*, Political-Administrative Publishing House, Hanoi.

Vuong Van Nam (2021), *Renewing the Content and Methods of Operation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front to Meet the Requirements of the Current Period*, Vietnam Fatherland Front Journal, (215+216), pp.34-37, Hanoi.

Nguyen Quang Minh (2021), *The Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Anti-Corruption Work*, Vietnam Fatherland Front Journal, (215+216), Hanoi.

Tran Ngoc Duong (2021), *Building Local Government under the 2013 Constitution*, Communist Review, Issue 2(960), pp.51-56, Hanoi.

Ha Thanh (2023), *Strengthening the Cooperative Relationship Between the Central Mass Mobilization Commission and the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction for Increasing Practical Effectiveness*, Journal of Mass Mobilization, Issue 5 (335), pp.9-10, Hanoi.

Vo Cong Khoi (2023), *The Current Situation and Solutions for Renewing the Organization and Operation of Local Governments*, Political Theory Journal, Issue 2 (540), pp.105-110, Hanoi.

Vu Dang Minh, Tran Huu Thang (2023), *Ho Chi Minh's Views on Building Local Government – Application to the Renewal of Local Government Organization and Operation Today*, State Management Journal, Issue 1 (324), pp.38-43, Hanoi.

Doi Van Tang (2023), *The Vietnam Fatherland Front and Political-Social Organizations in Supervision and Social Criticism*, Political Theory Publishing House, Hanoi.

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

Scientific topics, research projects, and published articles have studied local governments in China, the United Kingdom, and Laos; the united front work of the Communist Parties of China and Laos; the Vietnam Fatherland Front; local governments; and the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at various levels in building local government from many angles and approaches, achieving important theoretical and practical results, including:

Firstly, the research works have comprehensively and fundamentally addressed the roles, functions, and tasks of the Front and local governments; the Vietnam Fatherland Front and local government in Vietnam. Some research works have discussed the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in participating in building local government. Some projects and studies have directly addressed the reform of the local government apparatus, in which the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front plays a decisive role in the process of forming and developing guiding viewpoints and in strengthening the governance capacity of local authorities at all levels.

Secondly, the research works have provided accurate assessments of the current state of the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in building local government, supported by concrete, accurate data and evidence. These works analyze the major difficulties and challenges the Vietnam Fatherland Front is facing. Among them are the degradation of political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle among some officials, and the presence of negativity and corruption within the organizational structure, which not only reduces the operational effectiveness of the Front but also undermines public trust and diminishes the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in exercising supervision and participating in building government at all levels.

Thirdly, some research works have addressed the selection of practical content and appropriate methods tailored to the characteristics of each locality for the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in building local government. Certain studies have also highlighted valuable experiences of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in contributing to local government building.

Fourthly, each research work approaches the subject from different perspectives and proposes various directions and solutions, but all aim toward the common goal of strengthening the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in building local government.

Fifthly, a few other studies have initially analyzed and made recommendations to further address the issue not only in terms of methodology and epistemology but also through specific proposals and suggestions in each aspect and field to strengthen the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in building local government.

The research results of the aforementioned works provide valuable reference materials for carrying out the thesis objectives; they offer a theoretical basis for constructing the thesis's conceptual

framework and inspire ideas for developing solutions to enhance the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government.

In addition to the significant scientific contributions made by these published studies, there remain some theoretical and practical issues regarding the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government that have not yet been fully addressed or systematically studied by previous researchers.

From the overview of published scientific works related to the topic, it can be seen that there is currently no research that comprehensively and systematically studies the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government. Therefore, this thesis represents a new research direction that does not duplicate existing published studies.

1.3.2. Research directions of the thesis

Although many studies have addressed the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in building local government, due to differences in research objectives, scope, and subjects, there has not yet been a study that systematically, comprehensively, and in-depth examines the theory and practical summary of the participation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government today. Therefore, the doctoral candidate selected this issue as the thesis topic to meet both the current relevance and the practical demands of the field.

The thesis will focus on addressing the following key issues:

Firstly, to explain and clarify knowledge units directly related to and serving the construction of the theoretical framework of the thesis, including: an overview of the provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta; key issues concerning the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta; main issues regarding provincial governments in the region; and the process of building provincial-level governments in the Mekong Delta.

Secondly, to develop the theoretical framework of the thesis, including: the central concept of the thesis – “the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta participating in building same-level government”; identifying and analyzing the content of this participation and the methods by which the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta contributes to building same-level government; and clarifying the role of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in this participation.

Thirdly, to objectively analyze and assess the current status of the participation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta in building same-level government. In particular, the thesis will devote substantial attention to surveying, analyzing, and evaluating the strengths and limitations of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in this regard; analyzing the underlying causes; and drawing lessons from practical experience in building same-level government in the Mekong Delta.

Fourthly, to forecast favorable and challenging factors affecting the participation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in building same-level government in the Mekong Delta, and to propose orientations and a set of feasible, comprehensive solutions. Among these will be innovative proposals, with in-depth analysis of breakthrough solutions aimed at enhancing the participation of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in building same-level government in the region in the coming years.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING TODAY

2.1. PROVINCIAL LEVEL, THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA TODAY

2.1.1. Overview of provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta

2.1.1.1. *Natural and economic conditions*

The total natural area of the provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta is 40,834.4 square kilometers, accounting for 11.8% of the country's total area. The land in these provinces and cities is very fertile, the climate is temperate with few storms, and the region features a dense network of rivers and canals. Its road transport infrastructure and seaports are being modernized, and the area is also home to an international airport and several domestic airports, offering favorable conditions for economic development in general, and agricultural development in particular.

2.1.1.2. *Political conditions*

The people of various ethnic groups in the Mekong Delta provinces and cities have a long-standing tradition of patriotism, deep hatred of enemies, and steadfastness in resisting foreign invaders and reactionary, oppressive forces. They are also diligent and creative in building their homeland and the nation. In the renovation period, people in these provinces and cities have remained enthusiastic and absolutely confident in the leadership of the Party, the local Party Committees, and the management of the State and local governments.

2.1.1.3. *Cultural and social conditions*

The culture of residents in the Mekong Delta provinces and cities is diverse and rich. The sectors of education, training, healthcare, and public health have received attention and investment from the Party, the State, the Party Committees, and local governments, with their quality significantly improved.

2.1.1.4. *National defense and security*

The provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta hold a particularly important position and role in terms of the country's national defense and security.

2.1.2. The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta – Definition, functions, duties, organizational structure, operating principles, role, and characteristics

2.1.2.1. *Definition of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta*

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta is a component of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and a part of the provincial-level political system in the region. It is a political alliance and voluntary union of political organizations, socio-political organizations, social organizations, and outstanding individuals from all social strata, ethnic groups, and religions within the provinces and cities. It serves as the political foundation of the provincial government; represents and protects the lawful and legitimate rights and interests of the people; promotes the strength of unity among the local population; ensures democracy; strengthens social consensus; supervises and conducts social criticism; participates in building the Party, the State, and people-to-people diplomacy, especially in building the provincial-level Party organization, government, and external relations, thus contributing to national construction and defense.

2.1.2.2. *Functions*

Firstly, it serves as the political foundation of the provincial-level government in the region. *Secondly*, it represents and protects the lawful and legitimate rights and interests of the people in the provinces and cities. *Thirdly*, it unites and mobilizes the strength of the people to realize democracy and build a healthy society at the local level, contributing to a healthy national

society. *Fourthly*, it facilitates consultation, coordination, and unified action among its member organizations.

2.1.2.3. Duties

Firstly, to unite and mobilize the strength of all people in the provinces and cities to realize democracy and enhance social consensus. *Secondly*, to educate and encourage the people to exercise their democratic rights in participating in the formulation and implementation of the Party's policies, State laws, and the resolutions and decisions of the provincial Party Committees and governments. *Thirdly*, to protect the lawful and legitimate rights and interests of the people in the provinces and cities. *Fourthly*, to participate in building the provincial-level Party organization and government. *Fifthly*, to conduct supervision and social criticism. *Sixthly*, to collect and consolidate public opinions and recommendations and convey them to the provincial Party Committees, governments, and to the Party and State for consideration and resolution. *Seventhly*, to carry out people-to-people diplomacy within the provinces and cities in accordance with the Party's guidelines and the State's laws, under the leadership of the provincial Party Committees and the State management of the provincial governments.

2.1.2.4. Organizational system and operating principles

The *organizational system* of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta includes: The Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of the centrally governed provinces and cities; The Provincial Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of the centrally governed provinces and cities; Specialized agencies; Several advisory councils.

The *operating principles* of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta are as follows: *Firstly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta is organized and operates within the framework of the Constitution and laws of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as well as the Charter of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. *Secondly*, its organization and operations are based on the principles of voluntarism, democratic consultation, coordination, and consensus in action among member organizations. *Thirdly*, in the process of coordination and consensus in action, member organizations of the provincial-level Fatherland Front must comply with the Charter of the Vietnam Fatherland Front while maintaining their organizational independence. *Fourthly*, the Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta are both member organizations and leaders of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the region.

2.1.2.5. Role

Firstly, it is a highly important member organization within the provincial-level political system, making a significant contribution to the strength and effectiveness of the political system in the provinces and cities in this region. *Secondly*, it is the core force in building and promoting solidarity among all social strata in the provinces and cities in the region, contributing to the construction and defense of the nation. *Thirdly*, it plays an important role in strengthening the close relationship between the Party organizations and Provincial Party Committees with the people, generating great strength to successfully fulfill the political tasks of the provincial Party Committees. *Fourthly*, it is a crucial force contributing to the outcomes of the campaigns for Party building and rectification, and the construction and perfection of the socialist rule-of-law state of the people, by the people, and for the people.

2.1.2.6. Characteristics of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta

Firstly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has undergone a process of development and growth. Its personnel have become younger, with overall improved qualifications and working capacity compared to previous terms. *Secondly*, its member organizations are diverse and abundant, including socio-political organizations and most social and professional associations in the provinces and cities, as well as representatives of religious leaders such as Catholics, Protestants, Khmer Buddhism, Islam, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, etc. *Thirdly*,

the operational environment of the provincial-level Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta is highly diverse and favorable for socio-economic and cultural development, facilitating the functioning of the overall political system and specifically the Vietnam Fatherland Front in this region. *Fourthly*, the activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta have distinctive features compared to those of other socio-political organizations and those of provincial-level Fatherland Fronts in the Red River Delta region.

2.2. PROVINCIAL-LEVEL GOVERNMENT IN THE MEKONG DELTA - CONCEPT, FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, POWERS, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, OPERATING PRINCIPLES, ROLE, AND CHARACTERISTICS

2.2.1. Concept, functions, duties, and powers of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

2.2.1.1. Concept of provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

The provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta refers to a component of Vietnam's state governance system, established in the provinces and cities within the Mekong Delta region. It comprises the organizational apparatus responsible for the exercise of power, administration, and management of state affairs and societal activities within these provinces and cities. It operates under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, directly and regularly led by the provincial or municipal Party Committees, striving toward the highest goal of building socialism in Vietnam and firmly safeguarding the Fatherland.

2.2.1.2. Functions of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

The functions of the Provincial People's Council in the Mekong Delta are as follows: *Firstly*, it serves as the state power body at the provincial and municipal levels within the Mekong Delta. *Secondly*, it represents the will, aspirations, and right to mastery of the people in the provinces and cities. *Thirdly*, the Provincial People's Council issues resolutions based on the Constitution, laws, and documents from higher-level state bodies. These resolutions address: measures to ensure strict enforcement of the Constitution and laws within the provinces and cities; socio-economic development plans and provincial/municipal budgets; national defense and security in the provinces and cities; measures to stabilize and improve the people's livelihoods; and fulfill tasks assigned by higher levels, meeting obligations to the State. *Fourthly*, it performs inspection and supervision. The Provincial People's Council supervises the Provincial People's Committee in implementing its resolutions, encouraging and promoting the strengths of exemplary collectives and individuals, and preventing or eliminating shortcomings and deviations in the operations of the Provincial People's Committee.

The functions of the Provincial People's Committee in the Mekong Delta are as follows: *Firstly*, it acts as the state administrative body in the provinces and cities, responsible for state administrative management over all activities within the provincial or municipal jurisdiction. *Secondly*, it serves as the executive body of the Provincial People's Council and as an administrative agency of the central government, executing the resolutions and decisions of the Provincial People's Council and the State.

2.2.1.3. Duties and powers of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

The duties and powers of the Provincial People's Council and the Provincial People's Committee in the Mekong Delta are specified in Articles 19 and 21 of the Law on Organization of Local Government (2015). The duties and powers of the People's Council and the People's Committee of Can Tho City are stipulated in Articles 40 and 42 of the Law on Organization of Local Government (2015).

2.2.2. Organizational structure and operating principles of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

2.2.2.1. Organizational structure

The organizational structure of the People's Council at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta includes: Deputies of the Provincial People's Council, the Standing Committee of the Provincial People's Council, and the various committees of the Provincial People's Council.

The organizational structure of the Provincial People's Committee in the Mekong Delta includes: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and Members of the Provincial People's Committee, as well as specialized agencies under the Provincial People's Committee.

2.2.2.2. Operating principles

The organizational and operational principles of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta are based on Article 5 of the Law on Organization of Local Government (2015).

2.2.3. Role and characteristics of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

2.2.3.1. Role

Firstly, the provincial-level government plays a particularly important role in concretizing and institutionalizing the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws, as well as the resolutions, decisions, and conclusions of the provincial or municipal Party Congress, Party Committees, and Standing Committees, ensuring their successful implementation throughout the province or city. *Secondly*, it represents the will, aspirations, and legitimate interests of the people in the provinces and cities, entrusted by the people to exercise their authority in organizing and developing a prosperous, strong locality that enhances the people's living standards, contributing to the overall achievements of the national renewal process. *Thirdly*, it represents the State in the provinces and cities of the region, organizing and managing all state activities at the local level, ensuring that these activities align with the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws, thereby achieving effectiveness and contributing to the successful implementation of the renewal goals. *Fourthly*, it is a key institution within the political system of the provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta, serving as a pillar that strengthens the overall political system and ensures its effective operation at the provincial level.

2.2.3.2. Characteristics of the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

Firstly, during the renewal period, especially in recent terms, the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta has been consistently consolidated and strengthened under the attention of the Provincial or Municipal Party Committees. The cadre and civil servant workforce, particularly key leaders, has been rejuvenated and significantly improved in terms of qualifications and working capacity. *Secondly*, the vast majority of officials, especially key leaders of the provincial government in the Mekong Delta, are descendants of families with strong revolutionary traditions - resilient and steadfast - who inherit the admirable qualities of the local people in resisting foreign aggression and injustice, as well as in building their homeland and country. *Thirdly*, due to the many commonalities in various conditions across the provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta, the exchange of personnel, including key leadership positions, between these provinces and cities occurs frequently and smoothly. In contrast, this process is more challenging in many northern provinces of Vietnam, except in cases where higher-level authorities arrange for the rotation or reassignment of officials.

2.3. BUILDING THE PROVINCIAL-LEVEL GOVERNMENT IN THE MEKONG DELTA AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING – CONCEPTS, CONTENT, METHODS, AND ROLES

2.3.1. Building the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta – Concept, content, and methods

2.3.1.1. Concept of building the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

Building the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta refers to the entirety of activities undertaken by the provincial party committees, standing committees of the provincial party committees, grassroots party organizations, provincial-level government bodies, officials, party members, and civil servants. These activities involve the participation of the Vietnam

Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, other related entities, and the people in the area. The aim is to establish a streamlined organizational system and a team of competent, effective, and efficient officials and civil servants within the People's Councils and People's Committees at the provincial level, ensuring they fulfill their assigned functions and duties to effectively serve socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs in the province or city.

2.3.1.2. Content of building the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

Firstly, to disseminate and popularize the policies and laws of the State, as well as resolutions, decisions, projects, programs, and plans on socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs issued by the provincial-level government to the people. *Secondly*, to build a strong, effective, and efficient organizational structure for the provincial-level government. *Thirdly*, to develop a contingent of provincial-level government officials and civil servants with the necessary qualities, capabilities, and credibility to fulfill their assigned responsibilities while preventing, eliminating, and addressing ideological degradation, corruption, and misconduct within provincial-level government agencies and their staff. *Fourthly*, to concretize the functions and duties of the provincial-level People's Councils and People's Committees and ensure their effective implementation. *Fifthly*, to ensure the necessary resources and means for the effective operation of the provincial-level government.

2.3.1.3. Methods of building the provincial-level government in the Mekong Delta

Firstly, through the issuance of resolutions, decisions, conclusions, and projects related to building the provincial-level government by the People's Councils and People's Committees at the provincial level. *Secondly*, through the implementation of key processes in personnel work to build a qualified team of provincial-level government officials and civil servants. *Thirdly*, through inspection, supervision, auditing, and accounting activities aimed at identifying and correcting errors and shortcomings, as well as timely and strictly handling organizations, officials, and civil servants at the provincial level who commit serious violations subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with regulations and the law. *Fourthly*, by promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, social organizations, professional associations, and the people in participating in provincial-level government building. *Fifthly*, through regular reviews, summaries, and extraction of lessons learned from the provincial-level government building process. *Sixthly*, by strengthening the leadership of provincial party committees and the leadership, direction, and supervision of the Politburo, the Secretariat, and central party and state agencies over the process of provincial-level government building in the Mekong Delta.

2.3.2. The participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building – Concept, content, methods, and role

2.3.2.1. Concept of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

The participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building refers to the entirety of activities conducted by the Front to coordinate with party organizations, government bodies, officials, party members, civil servants, public employees, and local people in successfully implementing initiatives aimed at building a clean, strong provincial government. This ensures the effective fulfillment of the functions and tasks assigned to the provincial government.

2.3.2.2. Content of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, to participate in disseminating and popularizing the State's policies and laws, as well as in developing and promoting the resolutions, decisions, projects, programs, and plans on socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs of the provincial government. *Secondly*, to participate in implementing the functions and tasks of the provincial People's Councils and People's Committees in certain areas as stipulated by the Law on Organization of Local Government. *Thirdly*, to participate in the development of the

organizational structure of the provincial government, including the structure of the provincial People's Councils, People's Committees, their committees, and specialized agencies. *Fourthly*, to participate in the development of the contingent of provincial government officials and civil servants. *Fifthly*, to participate in preventing and combating ideological degradation, corruption, and misconduct within provincial government agencies and among provincial government officials and civil servants.

2.3.2.3. Methods of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, through decisions, programs, and plans of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front on participating in party and government building at the provincial level. *Secondly*, through communication, mobilization, and promoting the role of members and various social strata in participating in government building, and through coordination and consensus-building among members when engaging in government building. *Thirdly*, through social supervision and feedback conducted by the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front regarding the operations of the provincial People's Councils, People's Committees, and their officials and civil servants. *Fourthly*, through the provision of written feedback by the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front to government bodies and their leaders on relevant issues. *Fifthly*, through participation in governmental meetings related to the Vietnam Fatherland Front and expressing opinions in these meetings. *Sixthly*, by leveraging the role of advisory councils, working groups, and collaborators in participating in provincial government building. *Seventhly*, through periodic reviews, evaluations, and extraction of lessons learned regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in provincial government building.

2.3.2.4. Role of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, it plays an important role in improving and ensuring the appropriateness and feasibility of the provincial government's policies, decisions, programs, and plans for socio-economic development, national defense, and security, serving as the foundation for successful implementation. *Secondly*, it is a key factor in enhancing the quality of the provincial government's organizational structures, officials, civil servants, and public employees, ensuring they fulfill their functions and duties effectively. *Thirdly*, it contributes to improving the operational quality of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta and its member organizations during the current period of national reform, the government is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people. *Fourthly*, it strengthens the close relationship between the Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels in the Mekong Delta and the local population with the provincial governments, creating momentum for the strong development of these provinces and cities.

Summary of Chapter 2

Chapter 2 of the thesis holds significant importance as it lays the theoretical foundation for the entire study. In this chapter, the thesis focuses on clarifying the concept of same-level government building at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, identifying four key areas and six methods for building provincial-level government in this region. At the same time, the thesis concentrates on elaborating the core concept of the research topic: the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building, identifying five key areas and seven methods of the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in same-level government building at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta.

Chapter 3

THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING: CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND EXPERIENCES

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING

3.1.1. Advantages

3.1.1.1. Advantages regarding the content of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta frequently and actively participates in disseminating and promoting policies and laws; drafting and promoting resolutions, decisions, projects, programs, and plans for socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs of the provincial government.

In recent years, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has focused on disseminating and promoting policies and laws, mobilizing, uniting, and gathering people from all walks of life to enhance awareness and foster consensus in implementing the Party's directives, resolutions, and the State's policies and laws. The Front has also encouraged active participation in patriotic movements and campaigns organized by the Vietnam Fatherland Front. At the same time, the Front has proactively contributed to drafting and promoting resolutions, decisions, projects, programs, and plans for socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs of the provincial government.

Secondly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has proactively and actively participated in effectively implementing the functions and duties of the People's Council and the People's Committee at the provincial level in several areas as stipulated by the Law on Organization of Local Government.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has been highly active in performing the functions and duties of the People's Council and the People's Committee at the provincial level across various fields in accordance with legal regulations, achieving many practical results. This contribution has enhanced the operational effectiveness of the People's Council, safeguarded the lawful rights and interests of the people, and promoted sustainable local development, fostering strong unity, consensus, and democracy among the people, thereby contributing to the successful fulfillment of the locality's political tasks.

Thirdly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta frequently participates in building the organizational structure of the provincial government, contributing to strengthening and improving the effectiveness of the local political system.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has consistently coordinated with the People's Council and the People's Committee at the provincial level in implementing policies on organizing the government apparatus in line with Resolution No. 18-NQ/TW dated October 25, 2017, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on "Some issues regarding the continued innovation and reorganization of the political system's apparatus to be lean, efficient, and effective," helping ensure that the government apparatus operates with increasing transparency, democracy, and efficiency.

Fourthly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta consistently pays attention to and focuses on participating in the development of the contingent of cadres and civil servants of the provincial government, contributing to enhancing the quality of state management and the operational effectiveness of the local government apparatus.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has been closely involved in the process of consultation and nomination of personnel, contributing to the successful

election of many capable and qualified deputies of the People's Council, leaders of the People's Council, and the People's Committee. Additionally, the Front has been highly active in monitoring the implementation of regulations regarding responsibility and public service ethics, helping detect and recommend the handling of many violations, contributing to strengthening administrative discipline.

Fifthly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has actively participated in preventing and combating degradation and corruption among government agencies, cadres, and civil servants of the provincial government.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has coordinated with the People's Council, the People's Committee, and relevant agencies to inspect and supervise the enforcement of policies and laws, particularly in public service management, anti-corruption, and thrift practice. As a result, many violations have been detected and promptly addressed, contributing to enhancing transparency in government operations. Furthermore, numerous cases of misconduct have been exposed and strictly handled thanks to the active involvement of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, thereby strengthening public oversight of government activities.

3.1.1.2. Strengths in the methods of participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has regularly participated in same-level government building through decisions, programs, and plans, achieving positive results.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has consistently led, directed, and effectively implemented the development and issuance of decisions, programs, and plans on participation in Party and same-level government building at the provincial level. Through these activities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has contributed to improving state management efficiency, safeguarding the interests of the people, and promoting sustainable local development.

Secondly, through the mobilization and promotion of its members and various social groups to participate in same-level government building and coordination with member organizations, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level has achieved notable outcomes.

In recent years, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has consistently collaborated with its member organizations to mobilize civil servants, public employees, and various social groups to actively engage in same-level government building. This has enhanced the effectiveness of state management, empowered the people, strengthened the great national unity bloc, and fostered social consensus, thereby contributing significantly to building a stronger, more democratic, transparent, and people-centered provincial government.

Thirdly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has actively engaged in same-level government building through social supervision and criticism of the activities of the People's Councils, People's Committees, and their officials and employees.

Through supervisory and social criticism activities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has monitored and assessed the implementation of policies and laws, ensuring transparency and efficiency in state management. These efforts have timely identified shortcomings in the operations of the People's Councils and People's Committees at the provincial level. Furthermore, by supervising the work ethics and sense of responsibility of officials and employees in these bodies, the Vietnam Fatherland Front has contributed to enhancing the quality of the public workforce and building a transparent, accountable administration that serves the people better.

Fourthly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level has regularly and proactively provided written feedback to provincial government bodies and leaders on essential issues.

Through reports and recommendations sent to the People's Committees and People's Councils, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has offered feedback on various important topics such as socio-economic development, administrative reform, social welfare policies, environmental protection, and addressing pressing public concerns.

Fifthly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has actively participated in government-related conferences and expressed opinions, thereby contributing effectively to same-level government building.

By participating in meetings of the People's Councils and People's Committees, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level has represented the voice of the people, reflecting the sentiments and aspirations of voters and proposing solutions to improve policies and state management at the local level.

Sixthly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has effectively leveraged its advisory boards, working groups, and collaborators in same-level government building.

The advisory boards and working groups of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta have actively engaged in supervisory and critical activities, offering feedback on policies and draft resolutions of the government. They frequently hold meetings and discussions to analyze and propose practical development solutions tailored to local conditions. Additionally, the collaborators of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level regularly mobilize, disseminate information, and reflect the public's aspirations.

Seventhly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has regularly conducted reviews, summaries, and drawn lessons from its participation in same-level government building.

Overall, through periodic reviews and summaries, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has identified its strengths and limitations and extracted lessons to improve its activities related to same-level government building.

3.1.2. Limitations

3.1.2.1. Limitations in the content of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta have not been consistent or regular in their participation in the dissemination of state policies and laws. They have not accurately identified key areas for building and promoting resolutions, decisions, projects, programs, and plans for socio-economic development, national defense, security, and foreign affairs of the provincial government.

In reality, some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta have not ensured regularity and continuity in disseminating policies and laws, leading to limited effectiveness and not fully meeting the needs of the people.

Secondly, in some areas, certain provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta have not been truly effective in performing functions and tasks alongside the People's Councils and People's Committees at the provincial level as stipulated in the Law on Local Government Organization.

In areas such as organizing and ensuring the enforcement of the Constitution and laws, as well as in economic development, resource management, and environmental protection, some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees have not been proactive or effective in supervising the implementation of laws and socio-economic policies. Their social critique activities on economic development policies also lack depth.

Thirdly, some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta have not been proactive or active enough in participating in the organization and restructuring of the provincial government apparatus (including the structure of the People's Council, People's Committee, its departments, and specialized agencies).

Despite their important role in supervising and critiquing government activities, the participation of some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in reforming the government apparatus at the provincial level has not been maximized.

Fourthly, some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta lack proactivity, activeness, and effectiveness in participating in the development of the provincial government's cadre and civil servant workforce.

Some committees have not been assertive or proactive enough in supervising elections, especially in appraising and selecting candidates for key positions such as People's Council deputies, chairpersons, and vice-chairpersons of the People's Council and People's Committee. The process of nominating candidates by the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front in some cases has lacked transparency.

Fifthly, the participation in preventing and combating degradation and corruption within government bodies and among provincial cadres and civil servants by some provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta has sometimes lacked proactivity and determination.

Some committees have not been proactive or determined enough in supervising government operations and the conduct of civil servants, especially in sensitive areas such as public financial management, bidding, construction permits, and land management.

3.1.2.2. Limitations in the methods of participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building

Firstly, some decisions, programs, and plans of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front regarding participation in Party building and same-level government building in the Mekong Delta are not yet aligned with practical realities.

Certain decisions, programs, and plans of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta related to participation in Party and same-level government building have not truly reflected practical conditions, leading to limited effectiveness, difficulty in coordinated implementation, and failure to meet the development needs of each locality.

Secondly, the work of mobilizing and promoting the role of members and social strata in participating in provincial government building, as well as the coordination and unified action among member organizations, has sometimes remained superficial and ineffective.

The content and methods of dissemination and mobilization in some localities remain monotonous and formalistic, lacking innovation and creativity suited to the cultural characteristics, education levels, and information needs of different target groups. The use of traditional forms such as conferences, loudspeaker systems, and radio broadcasts has not fully tapped into their potential, especially in the context of rapid information technology development and increasingly diverse public access to information.

Thirdly, the supervisory and social critique activities of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta over the operations of the People's Councils, People's Committees, and their officials have sometimes been scattered and lacked proactivity.

Over recent times, the supervisory and social critique work of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees regarding the activities of the People's Councils, People's Committees, and the civil servants at the provincial level has revealed many limitations, affecting the effectiveness of their participation in same-level government building.

Fourthly, written feedback provided to government agencies, authorities, and leaders at the provincial level on necessary issues has sometimes lacked timeliness and the feedback content has been overly general.

Written suggestions from the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees to government bodies and their leaders on necessary matters have, at times, lacked promptness and flexibility.

Fifthly, the participation in government-related conferences and the delivery of opinions in these conferences have not been conducted regularly.

The attendance and contribution of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front committees at government conferences related to the Front have not always been regular or comprehensive, which has significantly affected the quality and effectiveness of social critique activities.

Sixthly, the role of advisory councils, working committees, and collaborators in participating in provincial government building, as part of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, has sometimes been formalistic and has not fully utilized the expertise of specialists.

In many localities, advisory councils only meet a few times a year, mainly for reporting and general discussions, without a mechanism for members to participate from the early stages of drafting or critiquing provincial socio-economic development programs and projects.

Seventhly, the review and summarization of experiences regarding the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in provincial government building have, in some cases and places, remained formalistic and untimely.

In some provinces, the interim and final reports of the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front focus mainly on listing the number of activities conducted, documents issued, the number of conferences organized, or the number of feedback opinions gathered, without assessing the quality of the feedback content or the level of impact these recommendations have had on government policies.

3.2. CAUSES AND EXPERIENCES

3.2.1. CAUSES

3.2.1.1. Causes for advantages

Firstly, the viewpoints, regulations of the Party, and laws of the State regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations participating in Party building and same-level government building have been issued, thoroughly directed, and implemented in a timely and specific manner. *Secondly*, there has been consistent attention and leadership from Party committees, as well as coordination from governments and member organizations. *Thirdly*, the quality of the Fatherland Front's personnel has been increasingly improved. *Fourthly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has effectively promoted the role of its member organizations in participating in same-level government building. *Fifthly*, the provincial and city authorities in the Mekong Delta always value and take into account the contributions of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level regarding their activities and facilitate the Front's effective participation in this work.

3.2.1.2. Causes for limitations

Firstly, the quality of Fatherland Front personnel at the provincial level in some provinces of the Mekong Delta remains uneven, with limitations in professional capacity and skills to engage in essential issues of same-level government building, particularly in social critique. *Secondly*, the Party's regulations on the Fatherland Front's participation in building the Party and the government, as well as the state's laws regarding the Front's involvement in government construction, contain some content that has not been clearly specified or timely guided, which sometimes leads to confusion for the provincial Front in the Mekong Delta in implementation. *Thirdly*, the forms and methods of participation in same-level government building by the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta have, in general, not been strongly innovated, remaining overly administrative and lacking proactivity and creativity. *Fourthly*, the advisory and coordination capacity of some key Fatherland Front leaders at the provincial level in working with same-level governments regarding the Front's participation in government building remains limited and inconsistent. *Fifthly*, the impact of the merger of provincial-level agencies, including the Vietnam Fatherland Front committees in the Mekong Delta, has affected many Fatherland Front officials, imposing certain limitations on their participation in provincial government building.

3.2.2. Experiences

Firstly, when the provincial Party committees place importance on and enhance their leadership over the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in provincial government building, it ensures this activity of the Front is properly directed and effective. *Secondly*, emphasizing the construction of a team of officials for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level with sufficient quality, capacity, and prestige, while focusing on enhancing their knowledge, intellect, and political will, will ensure the Front's effective participation in building the local government. *Thirdly*, vigorously innovating the methods of participation in same-level government building by the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, in alignment with the specific conditions of each province or city, will ensure more effective participation. *Fourthly*, strongly promoting the role of member organizations of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level, as well as the involvement of various local social strata, in participating in provincial government building - especially in performing government functions and tasks, and in preventing and repelling degradation and corruption among government officials and civil servants - ensures the effectiveness of same-level government building efforts.

Summary of Chapter 3

Based on the theoretical framework established in Chapter 2, the dissertation closely follows the five areas of content and seven methods, evaluating both the strengths and limitations of these five areas and seven methods of the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building. The dissertation utilizes findings and data from documents of the People's Councils, People's Committees, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, while also incorporating results from sociological surveys conducted as part of the dissertation's research project as evidence and justification for the researcher's assessments. The dissertation analyzes the causes of strengths and the causes of limitations and draws four key lessons from the Vietnam Fatherland Front's participation in same-level government building at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta today.

Chapter 4

DIRECTIONS AND KEY SOLUTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN THE COMING YEARS

4.1. FORECAST OF ADVANTAGES, CHALLENGES, AND DIRECTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN THE COMING YEARS

4.1.1. Advantages and challenges

4.1.1.1. Advantages

Firstly, the achievements of national renovation and the results of reform efforts in the provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta, with significant contributions from provincial governments, continue to encourage and motivate the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in this region to actively participate in building strong provincial governments and to effectively perform their functions and tasks in the coming period. *Secondly*, the Party's resolutions and policies on building and improving the quality of state and government activities at all levels, along with the Party's viewpoints and regulations regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations participating in Party and government building, continue to be led and directed for implementation. This creates favorable conditions for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta to participate effectively in same-level government building. *Thirdly*, science and technology are and will continue to develop vigorously, achieving significant accomplishments and producing highly modern and high-quality technological products. These advancements enhance the quality of operations for organizations

and individuals, including the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in their participation in same-level government building. *Fourthly*, the merging of provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta under the leadership and direction of higher authorities will bring about substantial changes for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in all aspects. In the immediate term, there may be certain difficulties and confusion; however, in the long run, this will be a major advantage for all activities of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front, including their participation in same-level government building. *Fifthly*, the upcoming congresses of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level after the merging of provinces and cities will assess their activities in recent times, draw valuable lessons, and determine solutions for implementing new tasks, including participation in provincial government building. This will create favorable conditions for the Vietnam Fatherland Front to perform this work effectively.

4.1.1.2. Challenges

Firstly, the overall capacity and competence for participating in provincial government building remain limited and inadequate when compared to the requirements for constructing and improving the quality of provincial government activities in the Mekong Delta after the merging of provinces and cities. *Secondly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, after the merging of provinces and cities, will face considerable difficulties in their operations and quality of activities in the coming years, including their participation in same-level government building. *Thirdly*, the qualifications and skills in applying modern scientific and technological achievements, and the use of modern tools to effectively fulfill responsibilities and tasks, remain limited and inadequate among the majority of staff in the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta, including their participation in same-level government building. *Fourthly*, a segment of government officials at various levels nationwide and in the Mekong Delta, including some senior officials, have experienced degradation and serious violations, resulting in disciplinary and criminal sanctions. This situation has impacted and somewhat reduced the active participation of some Vietnam Fatherland Front staff at the provincial level in same-level government building.

4.1.2. Directions for promoting the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building in the coming years

Firstly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta must thoroughly grasp the particularly important position and role of the Mekong Delta region, closely linked with the position and role of its provinces and cities, and of provincial and municipal governments in ensuring strong and sustainable local development. This includes recognizing the necessity of building strong governments at the provincial and municipal levels, as well as understanding the functions and tasks of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level. *Secondly*, focus on seriously, synchronously, and effectively implementing the policy of merging the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee with the agencies of political-social organizations and some specific associations under the leadership and direction of the provincial party committee, city party committee, and higher levels to meet the requirements of enhancing participation in building the provincial and city government by the Front. *Thirdly*, create a clear transformation in the quality of the staff of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the coming time, meeting new requirements, especially the need to enhance the effectiveness of participation in building the local government. *Fourthly*, strengthen coordination among member organizations of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in participating in provincial and municipal government building. This includes strongly promoting the core role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level and its socio-political member organizations in mobilizing and organizing local people to participate in provincial and municipal government building.

4.2. KEY SOLUTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAM FATHERLAND FRONT AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN THE MEKONG DELTA IN SAME-LEVEL GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN THE COMING YEARS

4.2.1. Raising awareness and responsibility among Party Committees, Governments, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level, member organizations, and local people in the Mekong Delta regarding the promotion of the Front's participation in same-level government building

4.2.1.1. Raising awareness and responsibility among provincial and municipal Party Committees and Governments about the functions, tasks, role, and necessity of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level participating in same-level government building

Firstly, raise awareness within provincial and municipal Party Committees and governments regarding the functions, tasks, roles, and necessity of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level participating in same-level government building. *Secondly*, foster accurate understanding and emphasize the responsibility of provincial and municipal Party Committees and governments in the Mekong Delta for enabling and supporting the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in building provincial and municipal governments. *Thirdly*, diversify forms and methods for raising awareness and responsibility among provincial and municipal Party Committees and governments concerning the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in same-level government building.

4.2.1.2. Raising awareness and responsibility among the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level, its member organizations, and the people in the Mekong Delta regarding participation in same-level government building

Firstly, ensure full and deep understanding of the content, methods, and role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in participating in provincial and municipal government building today. *Secondly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta must continue to thoroughly grasp the Party's decisions and regulations, and the laws of the State, regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the people's participation in building the Party and State, particularly in the context of same-level government building in this region. *Thirdly*, provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front committees must assist and facilitate communal-level Front committees (wards, communes, and townships) in continuing to internalize the aforementioned decisions and laws in their activities and collaborate effectively with the provincial-level Front to participate in government building. *Fourthly*, the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front must closely coordinate with mass media agencies in their provinces and cities to promote awareness and responsibility among its member organizations and their individual members regarding the Vietnam Fatherland Front's role in building provincial and municipal governments.

4.2.2. Continued leadership by provincial and municipal Party Committees in concretizing and institutionalizing the Party's resolutions on building a law-governed Socialist State in accordance with local conditions; directing the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in identifying and implementing content and solutions for participating in provincial and municipal government building

Firstly, provincial and municipal Party Committees must continue to lead the concretization and guide local governments in institutionalizing the Party's resolutions on building a law-governed socialist state - especially the views, tasks, and solutions outlined in the 13th National Party Congress documents and the 6th Plenum of the 13th Central Committee - in accordance with the realities of the merged provinces and cities. *Secondly*, provincial and municipal Party Committees must lead and direct the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in internalizing the Party's resolutions, decisions, and conclusions related to government building and guide the Front in identifying specific contents and solutions for its participation in provincial and municipal government building. *Thirdly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level should develop and issue decisions, programs, plans, and proposals related to participation in government building at the provincial and municipal levels. *Fourthly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level must focus on implementing the issued decisions,

programs, plans, and proposals for government building; and strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of its member organizations in carrying out these directives effectively.

4.2.3. Strengthen the understanding and serious implementation of the Party's viewpoints, resolutions, and policies on building a rule-of-law state, and enhance the quality of participation in the construction of provincial government after the merger.

Firstly, provincial and municipal Party Committees lead and direct the establishment of the Party organization within the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level immediately after the merging of provinces and cities, in accordance with the leadership and direction of the Politburo and the Party Central Secretariat, and define its functions and tasks for implementation. *Secondly*, develop the Party Committee, Standing Committee, and the Secretary of the Party Committee within the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level to meet leadership requirements, ensuring the Front effectively fulfills its tasks, including participation in provincial and municipal government building. *Thirdly*, strictly implement the Party's principles of organization and operation within the Party Committee and Party organization of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level; establish proper working regulations for the Party Committee and Party organization within the Front and ensure their strict enforcement. *Fourthly*, enhance the quality of subordinate Party organizations within the Party Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level and its members, promoting the role of Party organizations and Party members in the leadership of the Front's participation in provincial and municipal government building. Strengthen inspection and supervision activities.

4.2.4. Consolidating and stabilizing the organizational structure; improving the quality of the specialized staff of the provincial-level Front Committee to strengthen the effectiveness of participation in building the provincial and city government.

Firstly, thoroughly grasp and strictly implement the major Party policy on reviewing the implementation of Resolution No. 18-NQ/TW, dated October 25, 2017, of the 12th Party Central Committee regarding the organization of the political system's apparatus, including reforms and reorganization of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta. *Secondly*, improve the quality of the Vietnam Fatherland Front's staff at the provincial level, with a particular focus on key personnel, to meet the effectiveness requirements for participating in provincial and municipal government building under new demands. *Thirdly*, Building and perfecting a system of appropriate mechanisms and policies to ensure motivation for the team of dedicated officials to fully utilize their capabilities and responsibilities is a key factor in attracting qualified and committed personnel to participate in the Front work.

4.2.5. Comprehensively renew the content and methods of participation in building the government at the provincial and city levels by the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level to enhance the effectiveness of fulfilling its functions according to new task requirements.

Firstly, the Provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee in the Mekong Delta identifies key issues of great concern to the public. *Secondly*, there is a strong innovation in the methods by which the Provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front participates in building the provincial and city government. *Thirdly*, a feedback mechanism and evaluation of implementation results are established.

4.2.6. Strengthening coordination between socio-political organizations, social organizations, and the people in the Mekong Delta and the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in participating in same-level government building

Firstly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level should promote the role of socio-political and social organizations in provinces and cities in participating in same-level government building, as they are member organizations of the Front. These organizations should collaborate and achieve consensus on actions within the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level regarding government building. *Secondly*, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level should closely coordinate with socio-political and social organizations in

provinces and cities, especially socio-political organizations, in participating in same-level government building. *Thirdly*, build a capable team of staff, especially key personnel and leaders of socio-political organizations, who can effectively perform assigned tasks and meet the requirements for strengthening coordination between socio-political organizations and the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in participating in provincial and municipal government building. *Fourthly*, socio-political organizations at the provincial level should encourage, motivate, and facilitate their members and the general public to actively participate in provincial and municipal government building and coordinate closely with the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in performing this work.

4.2.7. Strengthening the leadership and direction of provincial and municipal Party Committees in the Mekong Delta, and creating favorable conditions by local governments, departments, and the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level to effectively participate in same-level government building

Firstly, provincial and municipal Party Committees, specifically the Standing Committees, must strengthen leadership and direction over the Party organizations within the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in all activities, with a particular emphasis on guiding and directing their participation in provincial and municipal government building.

Secondly, provincial and municipal Party Committees must strengthen leadership and direction for the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level and local governments to jointly research and clarify theoretical and practical issues regarding provincial and municipal government building in the Mekong Delta and the Front's participation in this work.

Thirdly, provincial and municipal Party Committees must enhance inspection and supervision of the Party organizations, officials, and Party members operating within the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level across all activities, with a focus on the leadership aspect of their participation in provincial and municipal government building.

Fourthly, provincial and municipal governments and departments in the Mekong Delta must create favorable conditions to ensure that the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level can participate effectively in provincial and municipal government building.

Fifthly, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front should provide support, assistance, and facilitation to help the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta effectively carry out its role in building same-level government.

Summary of Chapter 4

Chapter 4 of the thesis has focused on clarifying the following issues: *Firstly*, the thesis has presented and clarified five advantageous factors and four challenging factors that affect the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in same-level government building in the coming period. *Secondly*, the thesis has analyzed and explained four directions for strengthening the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in same-level government building in the coming period. *Thirdly*, to enhance the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in same-level government building in the coming period, the thesis has identified six key solutions.

CONCLUSIONS

Building and perfecting the socialist rule of law state of the people, by the people, for the people in general, constructing the provincial and city governments in the Mekong Delta today in the new development era of the country is a very significant, important, and urgent issue. In this context, establishing clean and strong provincial and city governments in the Mekong Delta that meet the requirements and tasks of the provincial and city authorities, especially after the merger of provinces and cities, is a very important and urgent matter. To achieve the above goals for the provincial and city governments in the Mekong Delta, the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and provincial socio-political organizations is essential. Among them, the participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level is particularly important..

In the coming period, the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta has participated in building the local government with many advantages, progress, and encouraging results, contributing significantly to the construction of clean and strong provincial and city governments that effectively fulfill their functions and tasks. However, this participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level still has limitations and weaknesses. The Front has identified the causes of these limitations and weaknesses and is currently determining and implementing solutions to address them. Through the process of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta participating in building the local government, four valuable experiences have been drawn: First, the provincial and city party committees should value and strengthen the leadership of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in participating in the construction of provincial and city governments, ensuring that the Front's activities are correct and effective. Second, it is important to focus on building a team of officials in the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level with sufficient quality, capacity, and prestige, and to pay attention to...

To enhance participation in building the local government of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta in the coming time, it is necessary to implement synchronously the solutions outlined in the thesis. Only then can the Front truly become the core force in the great national unity bloc and an important factor in building a local government that is increasingly democratic, transparent, and effective.

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