

THE PARTY'S GUIDELINES AND LEADERSHIP ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN VIETNAM FROM 2013 TO 2023

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ABSTRACT

Corruption is one of the greatest risks directly threatening the survival of the regime, eroding public trust in the Party and the State, hindering socio-economic development and obstructing the process of international integration. With a profound awareness of this issue, from 2013 to 2023, the Communist Party of Vietnam has introduced and implemented numerous guidelines and resolutions, while exercising strong and comprehensive leadership over anti-corruption efforts. A significant highlight was the consolidation of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, headed directly by the General Secretary, along with the establishment of provincial-level steering committees, thereby creating a synchronized mechanism for inspection, supervision and law enforcement. Over the past decade, anti-corruption work has achieved important results: hundreds of serious and complex cases have been detected and handled; many officials, including senior leaders, have been strictly disciplined, affirming the political resolve of “no forbidden zones, no exceptions.” This paper analyzes the Communist Party of Vietnam’s guidelines and leadership on anti-corruption during the 2013–2023 period, evaluates the outcomes, identifies limitations and challenges and suggests directions for future anti-corruption effort.

Keyword: *Communist Party of Vietnam; corruption; leadership; guidelines.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption has long been identified as one of the most serious threats, capable of directly undermining national sustainable development and endangering the survival of the regime (Bui Thi Thu Huyen, 2024). In Vietnam, within the context of renovation and international integration, the development of a socialist-oriented market economy has created significant opportunities for growth, while at the same time posing potential risks of corruption. In reality, corruption not only causes substantial economic losses but also erodes public trust, diminishes the credibility and vitality of the Communist Party and threatens the legitimacy of the political system.

Since the 5th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee in 2012, the Party has identified the fight against corruption as one of its central, regular and long-term tasks, closely linked with Party building and rectification (Central Committee, 2012). A major turning point occurred in 2013 when, on February 1, the Politburo issued a decision to establish the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption, comprising 16 members, headed by General Secretary Nguyen

Phu Trong, with five deputy heads and ten members, tasked with directing, coordinating, inspecting and urging nationwide anti-corruption efforts (Central Committee, 2013). This marked a strong affirmation of the Party’s political determination in combating corruption.

During the 2013–2023 period, the Party promulgated numerous resolutions, directives and regulations, while providing leadership and direction for functional agencies to implement a series of preventive, investigative and punitive measures against corruption. Many serious and complex corruption and economic cases, some prolonged for years, were brought to light and strictly handled. A number of senior officials, including members of the Politburo, the Central Committee and high-ranking officers in the armed forces, were disciplined, prosecuted and tried in accordance with the law. These efforts have not only contributed to restoring discipline and order within the Party and the state apparatus but also strengthened the people’s confidence in the Party’s leadership.

Nevertheless, anti-corruption work still faces considerable challenges. Petty corruption has not

been completely eradicated; mechanisms for recovering corrupt assets remain limited; and coordination among functional agencies in detecting, investigating and handling cases is sometimes inconsistent. Moreover, in the context of deep international integration, new challenges concerning governance, transparency and power control have raised higher demands for anti-corruption efforts. Therefore, examining and analyzing the Communist Party of Vietnam's guidelines and leadership on anti-corruption during the 2013–2023 period is of great significance. Such an analysis not only helps summarize practical experiences and draw lessons but also contributes to shaping and improving strategies for the next phase, toward building a truly clean, strong socialist rule-of-law state that serves the people and promotes sustainable development

2. THE CONCEPT AND IMPACTS OF CORRUPTION

2.1. The Concept of Corruption

According to Clause 1, Article 3 of the Law on Anti-Corruption (2018), corruption is defined as the act of a person holding a position of authority who abuses the position and power entrusted to them for personal gain, that is, for self-interest (National Assembly, 2018). This definition emphasizes two fundamental elements: the subject of the act and the purpose of seeking personal gain.

Persons holding positions of authority in this context include individuals who are appointed, elected, recruited, contracted or assigned tasks in any form, whether salaried or not, but entrusted with a specific duty or public service associated with certain powers. This group includes officials, civil servants and public employees; officers, professional soldiers, workers and civilian staff in the People's Army; officers and non-commissioned officers in command or technical roles, as well as workers in the People's Public Security; state capital representatives in enterprises; holders of managerial titles and positions in enterprises and organizations; as well as other individuals assigned tasks and powers in the course of their duties.

Personal gain is understood as the use of one's position and authority to obtain illegitimate material or non-material benefits. Corruption may take many forms, such as embezzlement, bribery, abuse of position and authority for appropriation

or profiteering, misuse of authority, extortion, falsification of documents, using official positions to exert undue influence for personal benefit or obstructing inspection, investigation, prosecution, trial and enforcement for self-interest. Corruption exists not only in the public sector but also in the non-state sector, where individuals holding positions of authority in enterprises or organizations may embezzle, accept bribes, offer bribes or act as intermediaries in bribery to settle matters for their entities. Therefore, corruption not only distorts the function of public service but also directly undermines transparency and integrity in both state governance and corporate management.

2.2. The Impacts of Corruption

Corruption is not merely a negative phenomenon in state management. It is also a disease that weakens the political, economic and social foundations of the country (Do Van Ngoan, 2014). Its impacts are comprehensive, affecting both the short term and the long term and hindering sustainable national development. The documents of the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th Party Congresses all affirmed the severe harm of corruption. Corruption depletes resources for socio-economic development, creates major obstacles to reform and national growth, reduces public trust in the leadership of the Party and the management of state agencies, threatens the stability and development of the country, poses a serious challenge to the leadership role of the Party and the effectiveness of the State's governance, damages the reputation of the Party, weakens the apparatus of the Party and the State and erodes public trust in the Party and the regime. It even provides opportunities for hostile forces to exploit in order to undermine the system and threaten its survival. The 13th Party Congress further emphasized that corruption remains one of the dangers threatening the survival of the Party and the regime (Bui Thi Thu Huyen, 2023).

First, corruption causes serious harm to economic development.

When corruption occurs, social resources are misallocated. Allocation is no longer based on efficiency or competitiveness but depends on relationships of favoritism and the influence of interest groups. Legitimate enterprises face difficulties in accessing capital, land and business licenses, while those able to pay informal costs are

given advantages. This distorts market competition, reduces labor productivity and lowers investment efficiency. International research has shown that corruption can reduce GDP growth by 0.5 to 1 percent annually and cause the loss of trillions of dong from the state budget. In Vietnam, major corruption cases such as PVC, AVG and more recently Viet Á, have caused serious damage to public finances and reduced public confidence in economic governance.

Second, corruption diminishes the credibility and effectiveness of state governance.

A state apparatus that is influenced by corruption gradually loses legitimacy and the respect of the people. When people see officials and civil servants exploiting their positions for personal gain, they develop resentment, suspicion and even distrust of policies and leadership. The erosion of social trust results in political apathy, reduced compliance with the law and a weakening of democracy and social stability.

Third, corruption creates social burdens and deepens inequality.

In a corrupt society, the poor are often the most disadvantaged. They are forced to pay unofficial costs to access basic public services such as healthcare, education, justice and administrative procedures. This widens the gap between the rich and the poor and obstructs the goal of social equity that the Party and the State emphasize. Corruption in healthcare and education not only causes financial losses but also directly affects the quality of human resources and the health of the community.

Fourth, corruption is a major barrier to international integration.

In the context of globalization, national reputation and institutional quality are crucial in attracting foreign investment. A country perceived as highly corrupt creates concerns for investors about legal risks, lack of transparency and informal costs. This negatively affects foreign direct investment, limits opportunities for technology transfer and weakens economic integration. The annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) published by Transparency International clearly reflects the international community's concern about corruption in each country. Vietnam has shown some improvement in recent years, but many

challenges remain in achieving higher regional standards of transparency.

Fifth, corruption threatens national security and social order.

When interest groups and corruption penetrate the fields of security and defense, they can affect national safety. Likewise, corruption in land, environmental and natural resource management often leads to prolonged disputes, social instability and even community conflicts (Pham Thi Thanh Tra, 2023).

In summary, corruption is not only a violation of the law but also a cause of systemic weakness in the political, economic and social spheres. For this reason, the Party and the State of Vietnam consider anti-corruption to be both an urgent and a long-term task, closely linked with Party building, rectification and the construction of a socialist rule-of-law state of the people, by the people and for the people (Pham Anh Tuan, 2012).

3. THE GUIDELINES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE PERIOD 2013–2023

During the period 2013–2023, anti-corruption in Vietnam was identified by the Communist Party of Vietnam as a central, regular and continuous task, closely linked to the efforts of Party building, Party rectification and the development of a socialist rule-of-law state. These guidelines were clearly expressed through resolutions and directives of the Central Committee, the Politburo, the Secretariat, as well as through the resolute direction of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption and Negative Practices. The key guidelines can be summarized as follows:

First, affirming that anti-corruption is vital to the survival of the Party and the regime.

Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Central Committee (2012) and Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee (2016) on Party building and rectification stressed that corruption and wastefulness constitute one of the direct dangers threatening the survival of the Party and the regime. From this, the Party set forth the requirement to resolutely and persistently prevent and push back corruption and negative practices, considering it an uncompromising struggle closely linked with building a clean and strong Party.

Second, innovating leadership methods and strengthening centralized and unified direction.

A significant milestone in this period was the establishment by the Politburo of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption in 2013, directly headed by the General Secretary. This reflected strong political determination and ensured centralized and unified direction from the central to the local levels. By 2021, the Steering Committee was expanded into the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption and Negative Practices, representing a new development in both thinking and action, aimed at addressing not only economic corruption but also degradation in ideology, morality and lifestyle (Nguyen Thuy, 2021).

Third, perfecting institutions and establishing mechanisms to prevent corruption.

During this period, many important legal documents and policies were promulgated and implemented, such as:

- The 2013 Constitution, which institutionalized the principle of division, coordination and control of state power.
- The Law on Anti-Corruption 2018 (replacing the Law of 2005 and its amendments in 2007 and 2012), expanding regulation to the non-state sector and strengthening transparency and accountability.
- The Law on Access to Information (2016), the Law on Management and Use of Public Assets (2017), the Law on Public Investment (2019) and amendments to the Law on Bidding, all of which contributed to reducing risks of corruption.

Fourth, strict handling without “no-go zones” or exceptions.

The Party directed the handling of many serious and complex corruption and economic cases of public concern, which were brought to public and transparent trial. Typical examples include cases related to PetroVietnam Construction Corporation (PVC), OceanBank, AVG, Viet Á, AIC and violations committed by many senior officials, including members of the Politburo, ministers, provincial Party secretaries and chairpersons. Disciplinary measures and prosecutions were carried out

decisively in line with the principle: “There are no no-go zones and no exceptions, regardless of who the person is” (Thuy Linh, 2023).

Fifth, promoting transparency and mobilizing the role of society.

The Party emphasized the role of supervision by the National Assembly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the press and the people. Internal inspection and supervision within the Party were strengthened. Asset and income declarations of officials and public servants were expanded. Inspection and auditing were conducted comprehensively and promptly. The press was regarded as a sharp weapon in the struggle against corruption and negative practices.

Sixth, linking anti-corruption with Party building and streamlining the apparatus.

In recent years, efforts to restructure and streamline the state apparatus, reform administrative procedures and enforce discipline have been implemented in a synchronized manner. The Party affirmed that corruption can only be sustainably prevented if the state apparatus operates transparently and effectively, with a capable and upright contingent of officials.

Overall, the period 2013–2023 marked a strong transformation in the thinking and actions of the Party on anti-corruption. From identifying it as a major political task, the Party turned it into concrete actions with centralized leadership mechanisms, increasingly complete institutions and the handling of a series of major cases. These guidelines not only contributed to enhancing public trust in the Party and the State but also affirmed the political determination to build a just and transparent society oriented toward sustainable development.

4. THE LEADERSHIP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION BY THE PARTY IN THE PERIOD 2013–2023

During 2013–2023, anti-corruption in Vietnam underwent fundamental, comprehensive, decisive and extensive changes. This was the period that marked the strong and direct engagement of the Party with many strategic and coordinated directives, demonstrating the firm political will of “no no-go zones, no exceptions, regardless of who the person is.”

4.1. Strengthening the Direct and Comprehensive Leadership of the Party

The direct and comprehensive leadership of the Party in this period created fundamental changes in both awareness and action, reflecting strong political determination to build a clean and strong state apparatus. Particularly, the establishment of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption in 2013, later expanded into the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption and Negative Practices, with the General Secretary as Head, was a strategic turning point. This institution ensured unified leadership from central to local levels, created focused and timely mechanisms of action and avoided fragmentation and overlap that had previously hindered anti-corruption work. As a result, major and complex cases of corruption of public concern were closely monitored and directed, ensuring progress and strict handling, thereby strengthening public trust.

In parallel, the Party issued many important resolutions and directives, notably the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th and 12th Central Committees on Party building and rectification. These resolutions focused on preventing and pushing back political, moral and lifestyle degradation as well as combating manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” within the Party, which often serve as a breeding ground for corruption. Directive No. 50-CT/TW dated December 7, 2015 further affirmed the determination to strengthen the Party’s leadership in detecting and handling corruption cases, considering it a breakthrough in both prevention and deterrence. At the 13th Party Congress (2021), the anti-corruption struggle continued to be emphasized with a more comprehensive and profound perspective: “Resolutely and persistently fight corruption, negative practices and wastefulness; establish strict preventive mechanisms to prevent corruption, strict deterrence and punishment mechanisms to discourage corruption and protective mechanisms so that officials do not need to engage in corruption.” This was not only a strong political declaration but also a consistent course of action, combining three groups of solutions: prevention, deterrence and elimination of corruption motives, reflecting a new development in the Party’s leadership thinking.

Thus, the Party’s direct and consistent leadership in this period provided a firm political foundation

and strategic orientation for the entire political system in anti-corruption. The combination of a unified steering apparatus with key resolutions and directives contributed to increasing decisiveness and affirmed the Party’s commitment to an uncompromising fight against corruption for the integrity and strength of the political system, the trust of the people and the sustainable development of the country.

4.2. Promoting the Improvement of Institutions, Laws and Mechanisms for Power Control

During the period 2013–2023, one of the key aspects demonstrating the strong political will of the Party in the fight against corruption was the promotion of institutional, legal and power control reforms. Based on the 2013 Constitution, the Party directed the State and the political system to specify provisions related to power, accountability, publicity and transparency, thereby forming a more coherent and stringent legal framework for anti-corruption efforts. The Law on Anti-Corruption of 2018, with many new points regarding the control of assets and income of officials and public servants, regulations on the responsibility of leaders, as well as the mechanism of job rotation to prevent corruption, has become an important milestone in institutionalizing the Party’s guidelines. Alongside this, other legal documents such as the Law on Access to Information 2016, the Law on Management and Use of Public Assets 2017, the Law on Thrift Practice and Anti-Waste 2013 and the Law on Public Investment 2019 (amended) were enacted, revised and supplemented, contributing to the establishment of a comprehensive legal basis for transparent management of state resources.

In addition to improving the legal system, the Party placed special emphasis on the establishment and operation of mechanisms for controlling power. Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW of the 7th Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee in 2018 on building the cadre contingent at all levels, especially at the strategic level, clearly stated that power must be bound by mechanisms and must be strictly controlled, avoiding the situation of “absolute power leading to absolute corruption.” The Party required stronger supervision mechanisms in cadre work, including the control of appointments, rotations, rewards and disciplinary measures, while strictly enforcing regulations on setting an example by

cadres and Party members, especially leaders. The 4th Plenums of the 12th and 13th Central Committees on Party building and rectification affirmed the need to strictly handle cases of abuse of position and power for corruption and misconduct, considering this a key priority to maintain people's trust.

Furthermore, regulations on publicity and transparency in the activities of state agencies, accountability to the people, the National Assembly and People's Councils at all levels were strongly emphasized. Internal control mechanisms within agencies and units were gradually consolidated, linked with inspection, supervision and auditing activities. Particularly, the coordination between Party inspection agencies and state inspection, auditing, investigation, prosecution and adjudication bodies was strengthened, thereby creating multiple layers of "legal and organizational barriers" to effectively control power and minimize loopholes for corruption. It can be said that over the past decade, the Party's resolute leadership has helped form an increasingly complete and consistent institutional and legal system, laying an important foundation for enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption and misconduct both in the present and in the long term.

4.3. Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, Auditing and Strict Handling of Corruption Acts

Between 2013 and 2023, inspection, supervision, auditing and law enforcement were strongly directed by the Party as one of the central pillars in the fight against corruption and misconduct. The Central Committee, the Politburo, the Secretariat and especially the Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption and Misconduct issued many important resolutions, directives and regulations to tighten discipline and order within the Party and the political system. Party inspection bodies, the Central Inspection Commission, the Government Inspectorate, the State Audit Office and law enforcement agencies were tasked with expanding inspections and audits, focusing on fields, areas, projects and sensitive issues prone to corruption such as land management, natural resources, public investment, finance and banking, as well as the equitization of state-owned enterprises.

In recent years, thousands of inspections and audits have been conducted, uncovering and recommending the recovery of hundreds of trillions of VND for the state budget, while transferring many cases with criminal indications to investigative bodies. The Central Inspection Commission promptly reviewed, concluded and strictly handled many Party organizations and senior officials, including Politburo members, Central Committee members, ministers, deputy ministers and generals in the armed forces. This demonstrates the Party's very high political determination that there are "no forbidden zones" and "no exceptions" in the fight against corruption and misconduct.

At the same time, the coordination mechanism between inspection, supervision, auditing and judicial bodies has become increasingly close and effective. The Central Steering Committee for Anti-Corruption and Misconduct directly monitored and directed the handling of many serious and complex cases of great public concern, such as those related to PetroVietnam, Viettel, OceanBank, Viet A and AIC. The trials of major cases were conducted openly, transparently and strictly, while ensuring the principles of the right person, the right crime and the right law. This has contributed to strengthening public trust in the leadership of the Party and the strictness of the law.

Thanks to enhanced inspection, supervision, auditing and strict enforcement, the anti-corruption efforts in 2013–2023 achieved many outstanding results, clearly reflecting the political determination and leadership capacity of the Party. This is also vivid evidence of the principle: "Strict prevention, timely detection and strict punishment" in the fight against corruption and misconduct, thereby contributing to building a cleaner and stronger Party and State.

4.4. Promoting the Role of the People, the Fatherland Front, the Press and Society

One of the most notable features of the Party's anti-corruption efforts in 2013–2023 was the emphasis on promoting the supervisory role of the people, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the press and society at large. Recognizing that corruption is a complex issue that is difficult to detect and handle thoroughly if relying solely on state agencies, the Party repeatedly affirmed the principle of "relying on the people to fight

corruption” and considered the people an important force in detecting, resisting and preventing acts of corruption and misconduct. At the same time, the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations were given enhanced powers and responsibilities in social supervision and criticism, especially in monitoring the moral cultivation and discipline of cadres, Party members and public officials.

During this period, the press, media and social networks became important “eyes and ears” of the people, helping to uncover, reflect and combat negative and corrupt practices in state apparatuses and social life. The Party and the State issued several guidelines and regulations to ensure press freedom and access to information, while requiring the press to operate objectively and honestly, thereby guiding public opinion correctly, promptly praising examples of anti-corruption and exposing misconduct. Notably, many major corruption cases in recent years were either discovered or initially raised through reports from the press and public opinion, later verified and handled by competent authorities.

The Party also directed the strengthening of mechanisms for receiving and handling citizen reports and denunciations, protecting whistleblowers and encouraging people to participate in supervising public authority. Forms of voter contact and direct dialogues between Party and government leaders with the people were valued and regularly maintained, creating opportunities for the public to express concerns and grievances, including signs of corruption and misconduct at the grassroots level. The active participation of the people and society not only contributed to detecting corruption but also generated strong pressure forcing state agencies to act more transparently, openly and accountably.

It can be seen that during 2013–2023, the promotion of the role of the people, the Fatherland Front, the press and society became an important channel of supervision that complemented and closely interacted with inspection and supervision within the Party and state agencies. This laid the foundation for a broad and comprehensive mechanism of social power control, helping to enhance transparency, openness and democracy in state governance, thereby reducing the “space” for corruption and misconduct to exist.

5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRACTICAL IMPACTS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE 2013–2023 PERIOD

During the period 2013–2023, anti-corruption efforts in Vietnam achieved breakthrough results and left a profound imprint in political, legal and social practice. First, the institutional, policy and legal framework on anti-corruption was improved in a more consistent and comprehensive manner, thereby creating a clearer legal basis for detecting and handling violations. The revised Law on Anti-Corruption in 2018 introduced many important provisions on asset and income control, accountability of public officials, as well as expanding its scope to include the non-state sector. This affirmed the political determination to build a transparent and integrity-based environment with preventive measures from the root.

In addition, the detection and handling of corruption saw clear progress, as demonstrated by a series of major and complex cases involving senior officials, including those holding positions in the Politburo, the Party Secretariat, the Government, the National Assembly, the armed forces and the police. These individuals were investigated, prosecuted and tried strictly in accordance with the law. The principle of “no restricted zones and no exceptions” was consistently applied, becoming a guiding principle that strengthened public trust in the Party’s leadership, the strictness of the law and the effectiveness of the state apparatus.

Another highlight was the enhanced role of inspection, supervision, auditing and judicial agencies, which became increasingly professional and transparent. The recovery of corrupt assets, long considered a weakness, showed positive improvement through comprehensive measures ranging from asset seizure and freezing to greater international cooperation. This not only minimized losses to the state but also sent a strong message that corruption would result in both criminal punishment and the loss of economic incentives.

On the social level, anti-corruption efforts helped purify the state apparatus, improved the effectiveness of the political system and fostered public trust, consensus and broad support from citizens. The press, public opinion and socio-political organizations became important channels

for supervision, critique and exerting positive pressure on anti-corruption work. Vietnam was also recognized internationally for progress in improving its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and national competitiveness.

Overall, the period 2013–2023 witnessed comprehensive and synchronized development of anti-corruption efforts in Vietnam. These achievements established an important foundation for further institutional improvement, the building of a socialist rule-of-law state and sustainable development. The outcomes were not only significant in the short term but also had long-term impacts, contributing to the formation of a culture of integrity and moving toward transparent, fair and people-centered governance.

6. SOLUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN THE COMING PERIOD

Between 2013 and 2023, Vietnam's anti-corruption work achieved remarkable progress that demonstrated the strong political will of the Party and the State. However, corruption and misconduct have remained complex and increasingly sophisticated. They have not only persisted in minor, scattered cases but also appeared in certain sectors and at higher levels, causing serious economic and social consequences. As Vietnam accelerates industrialization, modernization and deeper international integration, anti-corruption has become more urgent than ever. Corruption not only causes resource loss and waste but also hinders sustainable development, reduces national competitiveness and damages state credibility. At the same time, deeper integration requires Vietnam to meet higher international standards on transparency, public governance and integrity. This context is both a pressure and a driving force for further reforms and institutional improvements. Therefore, setting directions and solutions for the next stage is of critical importance. These solutions must be comprehensive, feasible and aligned with the requirements of building a socialist rule-of-law state, promoting socio-economic development and mobilizing the strength of the entire political system and the people in the anti-corruption struggle. Only then can this fight achieve sustainable results and contribute to building a fair, transparent, democratic and civilized society.

6.1. Improving Institutions and Laws on Anti-Corruption

A fundamental solution is to continue improving institutions and the legal framework to ensure coherence, transparency and effectiveness in preventing, detecting and handling corruption. It is necessary to review, amend and supplement overlapping or inadequate legal provisions, especially in sensitive sectors such as land, finance and budget, public investment, bidding and state asset management. Clear and specific regulations will help minimize legal loopholes that foster corruption. At the same time, mechanisms for transparency in asset and income declarations of public officials must be strengthened and linked with strict sanctions for dishonest declarations.

6.2. Strengthening the Leadership Role of the Party and the Exemplary Responsibility of Cadres and Party Members

Anti-corruption work can only succeed under the direct and regular leadership of the Party. Therefore, Party committees and organizations must firmly uphold the principle of “no restricted zones and no exceptions” in handling corruption. The exemplary responsibility of leaders must be institutionalized and tied to effective power control mechanisms. Each cadre and Party member, especially those in leadership and managerial positions, must demonstrate integrity and accountability, thereby spreading anti-corruption values throughout society.

6.3. Promoting Administrative Reform and Digital Technology to Prevent Corruption

A breakthrough solution is to combine administrative reform with the application of information technology and digital transformation. Building e-government and providing high-level online public services will reduce direct interactions between citizens, businesses and state agencies, thereby minimizing opportunities for harassment and rent-seeking. National databases, e-invoices and cashless payments will also play a critical role in ensuring transaction transparency, making it easier to trace and control suspicious activities.

6.4. Strengthening Inspection, Supervision, Independent Auditing and Timely Oversight

Supervision is a key tool for detecting and preventing corruption. In the coming period, it is

essential to further improve the effectiveness of inspection, auditing and supervisory agencies, ensuring objectivity, independence and freedom from group interests. Internal oversight within agencies and units must be emphasized, combining regular checks with timely handling of violations. State audit activities must go hand in hand with accountability and public disclosure of audit results, creating social pressure to address misconduct.

6.5. Promoting the Role of Citizens, the Press and Social Organizations

Anti-corruption is the responsibility of the entire society. Mechanisms to receive, process and protect whistleblowers must be expanded, while citizen oversight and participation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations must be encouraged. The press should be guaranteed independence and objectivity, given favorable conditions to operate and also held accountable for accurate reporting. Professional associations and civil society organizations can also contribute to raising awareness and generating social pressure against corruption.

6.6. Strengthening International Cooperation in Anti-Corruption

In the era of globalization, corruption is no longer confined within national borders but often involves cross-border elements. Vietnam must therefore expand international cooperation and fully participate in international treaties and conventions on anti-corruption. Information sharing, judicial cooperation and asset recovery abroad should be prioritized. Learning from the experiences of countries with effective anti-corruption systems will also help Vietnam improve its domestic mechanisms and policies.

6.7. Building a Culture of Integrity and Raising Social Awareness

The most sustainable solution is to foster a culture of integrity across society. Ethical and civic education should be strengthened in the school system to cultivate respect for the law and intolerance toward corruption among the younger generation. Public communication and legal dissemination campaigns should be conducted regularly and in diverse forms to create wide-reaching influence. When society embraces the norm that corruption is unacceptable and

condemnable, prevention will be far more effective in the long term.

7. CONCLUSION

During 2013–2023, Vietnam's anti-corruption efforts achieved major, groundbreaking results that left a strong mark on political and social life. Corruption has long been a complex and persistent challenge linked to socio-economic development and the functioning of power structures. However, with strong political determination from the Party, concerted efforts by the entire political system and broad support from the people, anti-corruption work has deepened, evolved into a movement and become an irreversible trend. The outstanding achievements not only included the strict handling of major cases and the restoration of public trust in the Party and the State but also contributed to strengthening national governance, improving institutions, increasing transparency and enhancing the investment and business environment. These outcomes laid the groundwork for sustainable economic development, social justice and Vietnam's rising international standing and credibility. Nevertheless, challenges remain. Institutional loopholes still exist, petty corruption continues to be complex and some officials are not exemplary, while corrupt practices are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Therefore, the next stage requires persistence, determination, synchronization and innovation, both to consolidate past achievements and to further improve prevention, detection and handling. It can be affirmed that anti-corruption efforts in Vietnam in recent years represent not only a political and legal success but also clear evidence of the strength of a nation that relies on its people and harnesses the role of the press, society and socio-political organizations to build a true rule-of-law state "of the people, by the people and for the people." This is the foundation for Vietnam to enter a new stage of development with aspirations for prosperity, where integrity, transparency and fairness become the core values of national governance.

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