

**HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS**

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**GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC  
MINORITY GROUPS IN LAM DONG PROVINCE IN  
THE CURRENT PERIOD**

**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS**

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## INTRODUCTION

### **1. The urgency of the theme**

Social welfare constitutes a component of national income that is allocated to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of members of society. It is primarily redistributed through mechanisms other than distribution based on labor.

Ensuring social welfare for the people has always been a priority of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese State. The Documents of the Tenth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam clearly state: “To combine economic objectives with social objectives nationwide, in each sector and locality; to implement social progress and social justice in every stage and every development policy; to ensure that economic growth goes hand in hand with cultural, healthcare, and educational development... to effectively address social issues for the goal of human development. To implement a distribution system mainly based on labor results and economic efficiency, while also taking into account capital contributions and other resources, and through social welfare.” The Documents of the Twelfth National Congress of the Party further affirm: “To closely integrate economic policy with social policy; to link economic development with the improvement of the people’s quality of life; to ensure that the people increasingly enjoy the achievements of the renovation process, national construction, and development. All citizens shall have opportunities and conditions for comprehensive development.” The Thirteenth National Congress of the Party emphasized the necessity to “properly address the shortcomings of the market mechanism, ensure social welfare and social security...”

Thus, ensuring social welfare for the people constitutes a major guideline of the Party and the State, serving simultaneously as an urgent task and a long-term strategic objective, particularly for ethnic minority groups. At the same time, the Party has continuously refined its theoretical awareness and adopted new approaches to this especially important issue, aiming to redistribute social income, promote social equity and progress, and firmly maintain the socialist orientation throughout the process of renovation.

Lam Dong Province, as it exists today, was officially established on July 1, 2025, through the administrative merger of three former provinces: Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and the former Lam Dong. The province has a population of 3,872,999 people, with 49 out of Vietnam’s 54 ethnic groups residing in the area. Among

them, 692,391 people belong to ethnic minority groups, accounting for 17.6% of the total provincial population.

In recent years, particularly since the implementation of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Provincial Party Congress of former Binh Thuan Province, the Twelfth Provincial Party Congress of former Dak Nong Province, and the Eleventh Provincial Party Congress of former Lam Dong Province for the 2020-2025 term, the provinces have adopted specific programs and action plans aimed at improving the material and spiritual life of ethnic minority communities. The provinces have identified socio-economic development, the consolidation and strengthening of national defense and security, and the improvement of living standards for ethnic minority people as strategic priorities, viewing investment in ethnic minority areas as a foundation for sustainable and comprehensive development closely linked to sustainable poverty reduction. Accordingly, efforts have been made to fully exploit local potentials and comparative advantages, promote innovation, accelerate economic development, and attract investment resources in a focused and targeted manner to ethnic minority areas. These measures aim to create favorable conditions for ethnic minority communities to mobilize their internal strengths, enhance self-reliance, improve living standards, achieve sustainable poverty reduction, and gradually narrow gaps in income and living standards. At the same time, priority has been given to the comprehensive development of culture, education, healthcare, and human resources in ethnic minority regions; improving educational attainment; and training human resources, particularly cadres, civil servants, public employees, and workers from ethnic minority backgrounds.

However, as of the end of 2022, the proportion of poor households among ethnic minority communities in the province remained relatively high. Specifically, in former Binh Thuan Province, there were 3,373 poor ethnic minority households, accounting for 13% of ethnic minority households; in former Dak Nong Province, 9,589 households, accounting for 20.11%; and in former Lam Dong Province, 4,549 households, accounting for 5.65%. The implementation of social welfare programs and policies has revealed numerous shortcomings, including fragmented and dispersed policy design, multiple implementing agencies, insufficient resources, limited effectiveness of certain programs, as well as losses and waste. The mobilization of socialized resources for social welfare has not been effective. As a result, poverty reduction among many ethnic minority

households lacks sustainability, with a high risk of falling back into poverty. The average income of ethnic minority households in many localities is currently only 40-50% of the provincial average. Participation rates in social insurance and unemployment insurance among ethnic minority workers remain very low and unstable; although health insurance coverage has increased rapidly, it lacks sustainability. While the quality of education, healthcare, and cultural services has improved, it remains below the overall provincial average, and access to basic social services continues to face significant difficulties. School dropout rates remain high; the proportion of ethnic minority students attending boarding schools for ethnic minorities is lower than actual demand; medical equipment in some ethnic minority areas is inadequate to meet healthcare needs; and the level of cultural participation among ethnic minority communities remains limited, with many valuable traditional cultural values at risk of erosion. Meanwhile, the endogenous capacity of ethnic minority communities in the province remains limited, particularly in terms of productive capacity to improve income and living standards. Therefore, in order to achieve the goals of sustainable poverty reduction, enhance productive capacity, and improve the material and spiritual life of ethnic minority people, it is an urgent requirement to effectively ensure social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.

Based on the above-mentioned realities, together with the viewpoints and objectives set forth by the Resolution of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the selection of the topic *"Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Groups in Lam Dong Province in the Current Period"* as a doctoral dissertation in Scientific Socialism is of both theoretical and practical significance.

## **2. Research Objectives and Tasks**

### ***2.1. Research Objectives***

Based on analyzing the theoretical and practical issues of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province across four fundamental areas - namely sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and social preferential policies - the dissertation proposes several solutions aimed at ensuring social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in the current period.

## ***2.2. Research Tasks***

- To review several domestic and international research works related to social welfare and the guarantee of social welfare for ethnic minority groups.
- To clarify the theoretical and practical foundations of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province at present.
- To analyze the current situation of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province (including the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, as well as present-day Lam Dong Province) and to identify the issues arising therefrom.
- To identify the new context and propose viewpoints and solutions for guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in the current period.

## **3. Research Subjects and Scope**

### ***3.1. Research Subject***

The guarantee of social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in the current period.

### ***3.2. Research Scope***

*In terms of content:* The thesis focuses on the study of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in the following fundamental areas: sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; social assistance, social relief, and social preferential policies.

*In terms of time:* The thesis concentrates on the period from 2015 to 2025.

*In terms of space:* The research is conducted among ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province, including the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, as well as present-day Lam Dong Province.

## **4. Theoretical and Practical Foundations and Research Methods**

### ***4.1. Theoretical Foundations***

The dissertation is grounded in the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the lines, viewpoints, and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State concerning ethnic affairs and social policies in general, and social welfare policies for ethnic minority groups in particular.

## ***4.2. Practical Foundations***

The thesis is conducted based on studying and assessing the process of leadership, direction, and organization of implementation by the Party Committees and local authorities of the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, as well as present-day Lam Dong Province, in the implementation of social welfare policies for ethnic minority groups within the province. The research focuses on key areas, including sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and social preferential policies.

## ***4.3. Research Methods***

*Research methodology:* The thesis is carried out on the basis of the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism.

*Specific research methods:* The thesis employs specific research methods such as the logical-historical approach, analysis and synthesis, comparison, statistical analysis, and sociological surveys.

## **5. Theoretical and Practical Significance**

- The research findings of the dissertation contribute to further enriching both theoretical and practical aspects of social welfare policies for ethnic minority groups.

- The thesis may serve as a reference for scientific research, teaching, and learning in the fields of politics, social studies, and state management of ethnic affairs.

- The thesis may also be used as a reference for policy formulation and for leadership, direction, and administration in the implementation of social policies in general, and social welfare policies for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in particular.

## **6. Structure of the Thesis**

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 12 sections.

## **Chapter 1**

### **OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS**

#### **1.1. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS**

The thesis reviews 45 representative research works related to social welfare in general and social welfare for ethnic minority groups in particular. These works are authored by scholars and institutions such as: Bui The Cuong, Allan Moscovitch, Di Dong Duong, Neil Gilbert and Paul Terrell, Tran Huu Quang, Reza Hasmath, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Trieu Huan, Nguyen Van Chieu, Ha Hung, Hoang Xuan Luong, Pham Xuan Nam, Phan Van Hung, Nguyen Thi Nhung, Tran Van Thach, Nguyen Trong Dam, Nguyen Quynh Hoa, Doan Minh Huan, Nguyen Duy Thuy, Dang Thi Anh Tuyet, Le Tan Dung, Bui Thi Ngoc Lan, Wang Kun, Do Thi Hai Ha, Pham Thi Thu Lan, Nguyen Thi Nga, Mac Van Tien, Dao Thi Tung, Dao Quang Vinh, Nguyen Duc Chien, Nguyen Tuyet Hanh, Vu Thuy Linh, Dau Tuan Nam - Vu Hai Van - Truong Bao Thanh, Dao Nguyen Phuc, Nguyen Thi Thu Thanh, Truong Tat Thinh, Tran Thi Thu Trang, Dang Quang Trung, Bui Sy Loi, Pham Thi Hoang Ha - Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen, Bui Ngoc Quy, Nguyen Lam Thanh, Hoang Ba Thinh, and Julia Kagan.

#### **1.2. RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS IN LAM DONG PROVINCE**

The dissertation reviews 18 representative research works related to the implementation of social welfare policies for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province (including the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, as well as present-day Lam Dong Province). These works are authored by: Ha Thi Hanh, Dao Huu Hoa, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Nguyen Dinh Tien, Vuong Hoang, Do Van Nhan - Nguyen Thi Kim Doan, Do Cong Tien, Thanh Huyen, Le Hieu, Bao Ngoc, Thanh Nhan, Thuy Diem, Ho Nhuy, My Van, Hong Loan, Minh Hung, Nguyen Dinh Phong - Nguyen Thi Cam Trang, and Diep Quynh.

#### **1.3. VALUES OF THE REVIEWED RESEARCH WORKS AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER STUDY**

##### **1.3.1. Values of the Reviewed Research Works**

*First*, the reviewed studies address a number of general theoretical issues concerning social welfare, including its theoretical foundations, concepts, subjects, beneficiaries, contents, implementation methods, models, and the role of social welfare in socio-economic development.

*Second*, these studies summarize achievements and limitations in the implementation of social welfare policies in Vietnam in general, in certain localities, and specifically for ethnic minority groups in the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, Lam Dong, as well as in present-day Lam Dong Province.

*Third*, the reviewed works outline systems of viewpoints, objectives, and solutions aimed at improving the effectiveness of certain policies related to social welfare for the population, including ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province.

### **1.3.2. Issues Requiring Further Research by the Dissertation**

*First*, to clarify the theoretical and practical foundations of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province, with a focus on key areas including sustainable poverty reduction, social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and preferential social policies.

*Second*, to analyze and assess both achievements and limitations in guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, Lam Dong, and in present-day Lam Dong Province, across four key areas: sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and preferential social policies.

*Third*, based on the viewpoints and guidelines of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the policies and laws of the State, the socio-economic development strategies and plans of the province, the new contextual conditions, and the characteristics of ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province, the dissertation proposes a system of solutions aimed at further guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority groups in Lam Dong Province in the coming period.

## **Chapter 2**

### **GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT - SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES**

#### **2.1. CONCEPTUALIZATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE**

##### **2.1.1. Conceptualization of Social Welfare**

*At present, there exist various conceptions of social welfare worldwide.*

*In the book Understanding Terminology in the Documents of the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the authors Phung Huu Phu, Nguyen Van Dang, and Nguyen Viet Thong point out that: “Social welfare is*

a component of a society's national income used to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of members of society; it is primarily subsidized in nature and distributed outside income based on labor.”

Building upon existing conceptions, the author proposes the following understanding of social welfare: “*Social welfare is a portion of national income redistributed by the State and society, apart from income derived from labor and capital contributions, to meet essential needs of a segment of the population or to improve overall living standards across society.*”

*Actors in the provision of social welfare:* The most important actor in the implementation of social welfare is the State. In addition to the State, other actors - including agencies within the political system, non-governmental organizations, enterprises, citizens, and other social organizations - also participate in the provision of social welfare.

*Beneficiaries of social welfare:* First, social welfare targets vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and children without caregivers, persons with disabilities, individuals living in areas with particularly difficult conditions, those who have lost or have reduced working capacity, the poor, and people suffering from illness with no or low income. Second, social welfare also targets all members of society, with the aim of improving living standards in all aspects.

*Objectives of social welfare:* The most fundamental objectives of social welfare are social equity and social progress, ensuring that all people benefit from the outcomes of socio-economic development; reducing the gap between rich and poor; and building an increasingly better quality of life for the population.

*Resources for social welfare provision:* These consist of financial resources, material resources, and basic social services that the State and society can mobilize to implement social welfare for the people.

*Content of social welfare:* Depending on each country's level of development at different stages, the content of social welfare may be adjusted accordingly. In contemporary Vietnam, based on the viewpoints of the Communist Party and the State's policies and laws, social welfare comprises the following components:

First, the social insurance system (including social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance).

Second, the system of social preferential policies (welfare benefit regimes).

Third, the social assistance system (social support policies).

Fourth, policies on sustainable poverty reduction.

*Forms of social welfare:* First, beneficiaries may receive benefits in the form of cash or in-kind transfers (either one-time or every month). Second,

beneficiaries may have access to basic and essential services such as education, culture, healthcare, information, and infrastructure, either free of charge or with partial payment.

*Regarding the social welfare model:* At present, Vietnam applies a mixed social welfare model to effectively perform the function of income redistribution and optimally mobilize social resources (from the State, citizens, and enterprises) to ensure social welfare for the population, while supporting people in benefiting from the achievements of the development process. The implementation of this mixed social welfare model also reflects the essence of Vietnam's socialist system, which is of the People, by the People, and for the People.

### **2.1.2. Conceptualization of Guaranteeing Social Welfare and Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

Guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province refers to the application and institutionalization of the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought on realizing social equity and social progress in the distribution of social income. Specifically, it is understood as follows: *“Party committees, local authorities, and society utilize the state budget and social resources to redistribute income, to meet essential needs, reduce disparities in living standards, and promote conditions for the comprehensive development of ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.”*

### **2.1.3. Actors, Beneficiaries, Content, and Modes of Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

#### **2.1.3.1. Actors Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

At present, the actors involved in guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province include: Party committees; state authorities; the Vietnam Fatherland Front from the central level to the provincial and commune levels; and society as a whole.

#### **2.1.3.2. Beneficiaries of Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

The beneficiaries of social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province are ethnic minority people currently residing within the province.

#### **2.1.3.3. Content of Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, guaranteeing sustainable poverty reduction.

Second, guaranteeing entitlement to social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance regimes.

Third, guaranteeing social welfare entitlements in education and training.

Fourth, guaranteeing access to social preferential policies, social assistance, and social relief schemes.

#### ***2.1.3.4. Modes of Implementing the Guaranteeing of Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province***

First, formulating the Party's guidelines and orientations, and developing policies and laws of the authorities to guarantee social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

Second, disseminating and popularizing the Party's guidelines, orientations, policies, and laws on guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

Third, organizing the implementation of social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities.

Fourth, utilizing social welfare funds to guarantee social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

Fifth, inspecting and evaluating activities related to guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

### **2.2. THE IMPORTANCE OF GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE**

First, social welfare plays a positive role in achieving the objective of sustainable poverty reduction, narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, and limiting social inequality.

Second, social welfare gradually contributes to ensuring equity in distribution, remedying the shortcomings of the market economy, and complementing the limitations of distribution based solely on labor outcomes and capital contributions.

Third, guaranteeing social welfare plays an important role in the effective implementation of social policies, thereby strengthening the people's trust in and attachment to the Party, the State, and the socialist regime; ensuring socio-political stability; and reinforcing the great national unity bloc for national development.

Fourth, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities contributes to strengthening national defense and security, and proactively combating and thwarting all subversive activities of hostile forces.

### **2.3. FACTORS AFFECTING THE GUARANTEEING OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

First, the Party's lines and orientations, as well as the State's policies and laws related to guaranteeing social welfare.

Second, the natural, socio-economic characteristics of Lam Dong Province.

Third, the current characteristics of ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.

Fourth, the contingent of cadres, civil servants, and public employees involved in the implementation of social policies in general and social welfare in particular.

Fifth, the subversive activities of hostile forces that exploit ethnic and religious issues and disparities in living standards among ethnic groups continue to occur in an intense and complex manner.

Sixth, the central state budget remains the fundamental and most important resource for guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.

### **Chapter 3**

## **GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT - CURRENT SITUATION AND EMERGING ISSUES**

### **3.1. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CAUSES OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE**

#### **3.1.1. Achievements in Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province at Present**

##### ***3.1.1.1. Achievements in Sustainable Poverty Reduction for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province***

Thanks to the synchronous and effective implementation of various sustainable poverty reduction policies - such as support for production land, agricultural inputs, seedlings and breeding stock, preferential credit, and vocational transformation - the rates of poor and near-poor households among ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province have declined sharply. In the former Binh Thuan Province, by the end of 2024, the number of poor ethnic minority households was 1,446, accounting for 5.56%, while near-poor ethnic minority households totaled 2,202, accounting for 8.47%. In the former Dak Nong Province, by the end of 2024, the total number of poor ethnic minority households was 3,738, accounting for 7.54%; among them, poor indigenous ethnic minority households numbered 1,703, accounting for 10.27%. In the former Lam Dong Province, by the end of 2024, the number of poor ethnic minority households was 1,571, accounting for 1.91%, while near-poor households numbered 2,921, accounting for 3.56%. The number of multidimensionally poor ethnic minority households was 4,492, accounting for 5.47%.

**3.1.1.2. Achievements in the Implementation of Social Insurance, Health Insurance, and Unemployment Insurance Policies for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

The former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, as well as Lam Dong Province at present, have implemented various support policies and intensified communication and dissemination regarding social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance. As a result, certain achievements have been attained, particularly in health insurance coverage, which has recorded very high outcomes. Specifically:

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Compulsory Social Insurance in the Former Binh Thuan Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Compulsory Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	94.327	3.814	4,04
2020	92.050	4.296	4,66
2023	102.265	5.713	5,58

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Compulsory Social Insurance in the Former Dak Nong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Compulsory Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	34.828	1.720	4,93
2020	42.622	1.813	4,25
2023	49.726	2.180	4,38

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Compulsory Social Insurance in the Former Lam Dong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Compulsory Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	96.035	4.149	4,32
2020	105.134	5.522	5,25
2023	109.648	6.747	6,15

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Voluntary Social Insurance in the Former Binh Thuan Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Voluntary Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	1.254	87	6,93
2020	12.225	832	6,80
2023	14.778	1.397	9,45

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Voluntary Social Insurance in the Former Dak Nong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Voluntary Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	2.135	342	15,99
2020	10.350	949	9,17
2023	14.850	1.392	9,37

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Voluntary Social Insurance in the Former Lam Dong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Voluntary Social Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	16.476	1.621	9,83
2020	16.024	1.795	11,2
2023	18.460	2.261	12,24

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Unemployment Insurance in the Former Binh Thuan Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Unemployment Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	82.202	3.427	4,16
2020	83.264	3.835	4,60
2023	96.579	5.401	5,59

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Unemployment Insurance in the Former Dak Nong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Unemployment Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	25.684	1.522	5,90
2020	26.706	1.617	6,05
2023	30.820	1.928	6,25

Summary of Ethnic Minority Workers Participating in Unemployment Insurance in the Former Lam Dong Province

Year	Total Number of Participants in Unemployment Insurance	Of which: Ethnic Minority Workers	
		Number	Percentage (%)
2018	75.009	3.609	4,80
2020	84.206	5.012	5,95
2023	88.720	5.946	6,70

Health insurance coverage for ethnic minority communities has achieved very high results. In 2024, the coverage rate in the former Binh Thuan Province reached 95.0%; in the former Dak Nong Province, it reached 93.75%; and in the former Lam Dong Province, it reached 92.5%.

***3.1.1.3. Achievements in the Implementation of Social Welfare Policies in Education and Training for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province***

Based on policies promulgated by the central authorities, the former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong, and currently the newly established Lam Dong Province, have concretized and issued various education and training policies aimed at improving intellectual standards and developing human resources among ethnic minority communities, thereby contributing to the process of guaranteeing social welfare.

*First, the system of ethnic boarding schools* has been strengthened and expanded. The former Binh Thuan Province had five ethnic boarding schools, including four district-level ethnic boarding schools (formerly) and one provincial-level ethnic upper secondary boarding school; additionally, 49 schools with ethnic minority students received enhanced Vietnamese language instruction. The former Dak Nong Province had eight ethnic boarding schools, comprising seven district-level ethnic boarding lower and upper secondary schools across seven districts

(formerly) and one provincial-level ethnic upper secondary boarding school. The former Lam Dong Province had eight ethnic boarding schools, including two combined lower and upper secondary schools and six lower secondary schools.

*Second, policies on tuition fee exemptions and reductions, as well as support for study-related expenses for ethnic minority pupils and students, have been effectively implemented.* In the former Binh Thuan Province, in 2021, financial support for learning expenses was provided to 8,741 ethnic minority pupils from preschool to lower secondary education, with a total budget of VND 7,496,922,800. The former Dak Nong Province implemented support for ethnic minority pupils and students from the academic year 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, benefiting 8,822 pupils and students with a total budget of VND 8,654,000,000; during the 2017-2021 period, the total expenditure for this policy reached VND 76,230,933,800. In the former Lam Dong Province, tuition fee exemptions and reductions were implemented for 100% of ethnic minority pupils in accordance with Government regulations; during the 2021-2025 period, 42,928 pupil and student cases received support.

*Third, preferential credit policies for ethnic minority pupils and students have been implemented.* In the former Binh Thuan Province, as of 31 December 2024, a total of 1,272 students had accessed preferential loans, with a total loan amount of VND 80,487 million. In the former Dak Nong Province, as of June 2024, preferential loans had been provided to 1,245 households, benefiting 1,421 ethnic minority pupils and students, with a total loan value of VND 23,485 million. In the former Lam Dong Province, as of 31 December 2024, a total of VND 417.031 billion had been disbursed in preferential loans to pupils and students.

*Fourth, policies on literacy eradication, prevention of relapse into illiteracy, and universalization of education for ethnic minority communities have achieved significant results.*

In the former Binh Thuan Province, by the end of 2024, school attendance rates reached 99.97% for five-year-old preschool children, 97.27% at the primary level, 95.52% at the lower secondary level, and 62.25% at the upper secondary level; the proportion of people aged 15 and above who were fluent in reading and writing the national language reached 96.24%. In the former Dak Nong Province, by the end of 2024, the enrollment rate of ethnic minority children of appropriate age at the five-year-old preschool level reached 99.7%, and at the primary level 98.70%; the proportion of ethnic minority people completing primary education reached 98.86%; and the literacy rate among ethnic minority people aged 15 and above reached 95.01%. In the former Lam Dong Province, by the end of 2024,

attendance rates reached 99.87% for five-year-old preschool children, 99% for primary school-age children, 99.97% for lower secondary school-age children, and 82.08% for upper secondary school-age children; the proportion of people aged 15 and above who were fluent in reading and writing reached 90.3%.

#### ***3.1.1.4. Achievements in the Implementation of Social Assistance, Social Relief, and Social Preferential Policies for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province***

*In the implementation of social assistance policies*, the former Binh Thuan Province recorded 43,840 individuals receiving regular monthly social allowances in 2023; in 2024, the number of monthly beneficiaries in Dak Nong Province reached 5,358 persons; and in the former Lam Dong Province, 37,110 individuals received regular social assistance in 2023, including 5,213 ethnic minority beneficiaries. These results reflect tangible progress in guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

*Regarding social relief policies*, assistance has been provided promptly in emergency situations, natural disasters, and unforeseen hardships, ensuring that no individual is left without essential subsistence and that minimum living standards for ethnic minority communities are maintained.

*With respect to the implementation of social preferential policies*, notable effectiveness has been achieved across key areas such as housing, access to clean water, and rural environmental sanitation, as well as cultural and information services, thereby contributing to the improvement of living conditions and the comprehensive process of guaranteeing social welfare.

#### **3.1.2. Causes of the Achievements in Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, the Party, the State, and the local political system have consistently attached importance to the implementation of ethnic policies and social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities.

Second, the achievements of the renovation process, together with socio-economic development and the maintenance of national defense and security at both the national and provincial levels in recent years, have created favorable conditions for implementing policies aimed at guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

Third, the proactive efforts and self-improvement of ethnic minority communities themselves, along with the active accompaniment and support of society as a whole, have played an important role in realizing social welfare objectives.

## **3.2. LIMITATIONS AND THEIR CAUSES IN GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

### **3.2.1. Limitations in Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

#### ***3.2.1.1. Limitations in the Implementation of Sustainable Poverty Reduction Policies***

Although poverty reduction has been achieved at a relatively rapid pace, it has lacked sustainability. Several ethnic minority households remain without land or lack productive land; vocational transition and job creation have been ineffective; production capacity remains limited; and the low quality of human resources has significantly affected the sustainability of poverty reduction.

#### ***3.2.1.2. Limitations in the Implementation of Social Insurance, Health Insurance, and Unemployment Insurance Policies***

First, the participation of ethnic minority laborers in compulsory social insurance, voluntary social insurance, and unemployment insurance remains very low, with slow and unstable growth.

Second, although participation in health insurance among ethnic minority communities has increased rapidly and has nearly achieved universal coverage, it remains unstable. There is a risk that the rate of non-participation in health insurance may rise again after 2025 when central and local support policies are reduced or terminated, thereby posing challenges to sustainably guaranteeing social welfare.

#### ***3.2.1.3. Limitations in the Implementation of Social Welfare Policies in Education and Training***

First, illiteracy rates remain relatively high. As of 1 July 2024, the proportion of ethnic minority people aged 15 and above who were able to read and write the national language reached only 83.9% in the former Binh Thuan Province, 82.8% in the former Dak Nong Province, and 83.7% in the former Lam Dong Province.

Second, the proportion of ethnic minority students enrolled at the upper secondary level remains low, accounting for 50% in the former Binh Thuan Province, only 44.4% in the former Dak Nong Province, and 44.7% in the former Lam Dong Province.

Third, the quality of education, particularly vocational education and training, remains limited, and the proportion of laborers who have received professional and technical vocational training is very low.

#### ***3.2.1.4. Limitations in the Implementation of Social Assistance, Social Relief, and Social Preferential Policies***

Social assistance and social relief policies are mainly implemented on special occasions such as festivals, holidays, or in response to natural disasters and epidemics. As a result, their implementation lacks regularity and, in some cases, has contributed to a mindset of dependency among a segment of ethnic minority communities.

Social preferential policies also reveal certain limitations in their implementation, particularly in areas related to housing, culture, access to clean water, and environmental sanitation.

#### **3.2.2. Causes of the Limitations in Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, the natural conditions and the socio-economic circumstances of ethnic minority areas in the province remain extremely difficult, creating substantial barriers to the effective implementation of policies aimed at guaranteeing social welfare.

Second, the subversive activities of hostile forces, both domestic and international, targeting ethnic minority areas in Lam Dong Province continue to be complex and multifaceted, exerting negative impacts on social stability and on the process of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities.

Third, although a number of programs and policies have been promulgated, their implementation has been slow and, in some cases, insufficiently adapted to local conditions and the specific characteristics of ethnic minority communities. In addition, the capacity of a segment of cadres, civil servants, and public employees engaged in ethnic affairs remains limited, thereby constraining the effectiveness of social welfare policies.

Fourth, a portion of ethnic minority people still lacks the determination to strive for self-improvement, while resources mobilized through socialization for guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities remain scarce and face numerous difficulties.

### **3.3. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION OF GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE**

First, the demand for guaranteeing social welfare among ethnic minority communities in the province is substantial, whereas social welfare policies targeting ethnic minority communities remain overlapping and duplicated. This has led to the fragmentation of implementation resources, limited effectiveness, and a lack of sustainability.

Second, the demand for guaranteeing social welfare among ethnic minority communities in the province is considerable, while the State's resources allocated to this work remain limited.

Third, the demand for guaranteeing social welfare among ethnic minority communities in the province is high, whereas the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening in socio-economic development among a segment of ethnic minority communities remains insufficient.

Fourth, the demand for guaranteeing social welfare among ethnic minority communities in the province is substantial, while resources mobilized through socialization for this work remain inadequate.

Fifth, there is an urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities, yet the capacity for public service performance among a portion of cadres, civil servants, and public employees has not fully met the requirements in the context of guaranteeing social welfare.

## **Chapter 4**

### **PERSPECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS FOR GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

#### **4.1. THE NEW CONTEXT AFFECTING THE GUARANTEEING OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

First, poverty reduction has been rapid but remains insufficiently sustainable; labor productivity and income levels among ethnic minority communities are still low.

Second, the merger and consolidation of the three former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong to establish the new Lam Dong Province has generated the requirement to unify ethnic policies in general and social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities in particular. Consequently, certain policies will inevitably undergo adjustments.

Third, the provincial economy continues to record relatively strong growth. The reorganization of provincial-level administrative units, the abolition of the district level, the consolidation and enhancement of authority at the commune level, together with increased investment resources from the Central Government and a higher rate of local budget retention, will create more favorable conditions for the implementation of social welfare programs throughout the province.

Fourth, adjustments to the Law on Social Insurance and the Law on Health Insurance will exert more positive impacts on the participation of ethnic minority communities in social insurance and health insurance schemes within the province.

Fifth, the impacts of globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution on all spheres of social life directly affect both the implementation of and access to social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities.

#### **4.2. PERSPECTIVES ON GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

First, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province must be comprehensive in nature, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Second, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities must be closely linked with socio-economic development, the assurance of national defense and security, and the effective implementation of Resolution No. 23-NQ/TW dated October 6, 2022, of the 13th Politburo on orientations for socio-economic development and the assurance of national defense and security in the Central Highlands region up to 2030, with a vision to 2045, as well as the Resolution of the First Provincial Party Congress of Lam Dong Province for the 2025-2030 term.

Third, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities must be associated with improving educational attainment and the quality of human resources, promoting occupational transformation, increasing labor productivity, and raising the living standards of the people.

Fourth, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province must be appropriate to the characteristics of each ethnic minority group and to the specific residential areas of ethnic minority communities.

Fifth, it is necessary to effectively mobilize and utilize all resources from the State and society for the purpose of guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.

Sixth, social welfare policies must not be disrupted following the provincial merger, the consolidation of commune-level units, or the dissolution of district-level administrative units. Instead, policies aimed at guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities should be implemented in a synchronized manner to ensure sustainability.

### **4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR GUARANTEEING SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN LAM DONG PROVINCE AT PRESENT**

#### **4.3.1. Strengthening the Leadership of the Party, the Management Role of the State, and Enhancing the Capacity of Stakeholders in Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, with regard to the Party and the State, it is necessary to adjust and supplement policies, establish appropriate mechanisms for localities, increase investment capital, and strengthen inspection, examination, and supervision.

Second, about Party committees and authorities at all levels within the province, as well as the contingent of cadres, civil servants, public employees, and the armed forces, policies should be concretized in a manner appropriate to local conditions; resources should be mobilized; and social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities should be organized and implemented effectively.

Third, with regard to the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and other relevant organizations, it is necessary to strengthen supervisory activities while mobilizing funding and support resources so as to work in coordination with the authorities in guaranteeing social welfare for the people.

Fourth, with regard to the people, they should both actively support one another and participate proactively in supervising the implementation of social welfare programs in their localities.

Fifth, with regard to enterprises, they should not only engage in effective production and business activities but also participate in supporting localities through specific and practical programs for ethnic minority communities.

#### **4.3.2. Improving and Effectively Implementing Policies and Laws on Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, priority should be given to investment in the development of socio-economic infrastructure in ethnic minority and mountainous areas of the province.

Second, efforts should be focused on the effective implementation of policies on sustainable poverty reduction.

Third, social welfare policies in the field of healthcare should be effectively implemented.

Fourth, educational and training welfare for ethnic minority communities should be adequately addressed.

Fifth, social insurance coverage among ethnic minority communities should be further expanded and strengthened.

Sixth, effective social assistance should be enhanced, along with the proper implementation of preferential policies for people with meritorious services.

### **4.3.3. Effectively Mobilizing Social Resources for Guaranteeing Social Welfare for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

Efforts should focus on information and communication work to mobilize contributions from the entire community, alongside the establishment of mechanisms to attract socialized resources for sustainable welfare sectors such as poverty reduction, education and training, and public healthcare.

### **4.3.4. Promoting the Spirit of Self-Reliance and Self-Strengthening among Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, priority should be given to eradicating illiteracy, improving educational attainment, and enhancing the quality of human resources among ethnic minority communities.

Second, healthcare welfare should be further strengthened in order to improve physical condition and overall health for ethnic minority communities.

Third, the positive cultural values and identities of ethnic minority groups should be promoted and preserved.

Fourth, the spirit of solidarity, mutual support, and mutual assistance among ethnic groups within the province should be further fostered.

### **4.3.5. Effectively Carrying Out Inspection, Examination, and Supervision of the Implementation of Social Welfare Programs for Ethnic Minority Communities in Lam Dong Province**

First, the authority and responsibilities of agencies responsible for inspection, examination, and supervision should be clearly defined.

Second, plans for inspection, examination, and supervision should be formulated and implemented effectively.

Third, timely adjustments should be made, and recommendations should be proposed for the adjustment of social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Social welfare constitutes a portion of national income distributed outside income based on labor, primarily subsidized to meet essential needs for a segment of the population or to improve overall living standards across society. Guaranteeing social welfare refers to the use of the state budget and social resources to redistribute income in order to meet essential needs, narrow disparities in living standards among certain population groups, or improve the comprehensive quality of life of society as a whole, thereby contributing to the goals of socio-economic stability and development.

2. Guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province is the process by which Party committees, local authorities, and society utilize the state budget and social resources to redistribute income - predominantly in a subsidized manner - to meet essential needs, reduce disparities in living standards, and promote conditions for the comprehensive development of ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province.

3. In recent years, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province has achieved significant accomplishments across four fundamental domains: sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and social preferential policies. The province has established a relatively comprehensive and coherent system of policies and laws on guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities that is closely aligned with local practical conditions. Communication, dissemination, and implementation of social welfare policies have been synchronously and effectively carried out by Party committees, authorities, mass organizations, and the political system at all levels. Inspection, review, and evaluation of social welfare implementation have been conducted fairly effectively, making an important contribution to policy success and bringing about fundamental and positive changes in the living conditions and productive activities of ethnic minority communities across Lam Dong Province.

4. Alongside the achievements attained, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities across the four core domains - sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance; education and training; and social assistance, social relief, and social preferential policies - has revealed numerous limitations. These shortcomings are evident throughout the policy cycle, from policy formulation and promulgation to task assignment and coordination during implementation, communication and dissemination of policies, allocation and utilization of the state budget, mobilization of socialized resources, and inspection, supervision, and evaluation. Poverty reduction among a segment of ethnic minority communities remains insufficiently sustainable; the implementation of social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance policies has not met established requirements; education and training policies have not effectively enhanced the quality of human resources among ethnic minority communities; and social assistance and preferential policies still exhibit various shortcomings and

inadequacies. The disparity in living standards between ethnic minority communities and the provincial and national averages remains substantial. These limitations stem from both objective and subjective causes, with subjective factors playing a predominant role. This reality necessitates continued research and the synchronous implementation of social welfare policies to enable ethnic minority communities in the province to achieve sustainable poverty reduction, improve their livelihoods, and keep pace with the country's overall development.

5. In the coming period, guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities in Lam Dong Province will be influenced by several fundamental factors: rapid poverty reduction that remains insufficiently sustainable, alongside low labor productivity and income levels among ethnic minority communities; the merger and consolidation of the three former provinces of Binh Thuan, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong into the new Lam Dong Province, which requires the unification of ethnic policies in general and social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities in particular, thereby necessitating certain policy adjustments; continued robust economic growth in the province, together with the merger of provincial-level administrative units and increased investment from the central government, which will create more favorable conditions for implementing social welfare programs; amendments to the Law on Social Insurance and the Law on Health Insurance, which are expected to exert more positive impacts on participation in social and health insurance among ethnic minority communities; and the influence of globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution across all areas of social life, directly affecting both the implementation of and access to social welfare policies for ethnic minority communities.

6. In order to guarantee social welfare for ethnic minority communities, create motivation for them to escape poverty, fully enjoy development achievements, and integrate into the country's overall development process, it is necessary to implement a set of comprehensive and coordinated solutions. These include strengthening the leadership of the Party, enhancing the management role of the State, and improving the capacity of stakeholders in guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities; improving and effectively implementing policies and laws on guaranteeing social welfare for ethnic minority communities; effectively mobilizing social resources for guaranteeing social welfare; promoting the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening among ethnic minority communities; and enhancing inspection, examination, and supervision of the implementation of social welfare programs for ethnic minority communities.

## **LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE THESIS**

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