

**HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS**

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**THE LEADERSHIP OF BEN TRE PROVINCIAL  
PARTY COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES  
FROM 2010 TO 2020**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS  
MAJOR: HISTORY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF  
VIETNAM**

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## INTRODUCTION

### **1. The necessity of the thesis topic**

Social security is an important task for the stability of each country and regime, acting as a driving force and condition for human development, and achieving social progress and justice. Ensuring social security not only maintains social stability and improves people's lives, but also helps the economy grow faster and more sustainably. This is the most beautiful goal clearly demonstrating the superiority of the socialist regime in Vietnam. In the process of innovation, the Communist Party of Vietnam always affirms that economic development must go hand in hand with the implementation of social progress and justice. The Party has constantly supplemented and developed policies on social security, suitable to the conditions of each stage, contributing to preventing, limiting, and overcoming risks affecting human life, keeping a favorable social environment for economic development. Therefore, researching the process of the provincial-level Party Committee leading the implementation of the Party Central Committee's resolutions into the actual conditions of the locality is an urgent requirement to summarize practical experiences, creating a basis for the Party to complete the theory of social security.

Ben Tre is a province of islet, surrounded by rivers on all four sides, frequently heavily affected by climate change (prolonged saltwater intrusion) and is a revolutionary base area with a very large number of policy targets and people with meritorious services to the revolution. This places heavy pressure on the province's social security system. The 2010-2020 period witnessed a strong transformation of Ben Tre with the "New Dong Khoi" movement, the Provincial Party Committee flexibly and actively concretized the Party's guidelines on social security policies in accordance with the province's specifics, issuing many important decisions to resolve employment and reduce poverty; implement social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment, contributing to "Effectively implementing social security policies". The Provincial Party Committee constantly supplemented and developed specific guidelines and policies on social security, always considering "ensuring social security is a regular, important task of all levels, sectors, the entire political system, and the whole society" towards the political goals of social security by 2015 and 2020. Through the drastic and comprehensive direction of the Provincial Party Committee, the synchronous coordination of levels, sectors, the Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations, along with the consensus of the entire people, social security policies achieved many

important achievements. However, the leadership in implementing social security policies of the Provincial Party Committee still had some limitations. Therefore, summarizing and evaluating the reality of implementing social security policies in the province comprehensively, multi-dimensionally, and deeply is an important and urgent requirement.

Up to now, there has been no scientific work comprehensively and deeply researching the pillars of social security policies in Ben Tre such as: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment. In particular, there is no research work mentioning comprehensively and systematically the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies in the 2010-2020 period under the perspective of the History of the Party. Therefore, researching the 10 years of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies from 2010 to 2020 is extremely necessary, helping objectively evaluate the achievements and limitations, existing problems in the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies, contributing to providing data and experiences for the local Party Committee to continue implementing social security policies with higher results in the country's innovation process.

Based on the reasons above, the author selected the topic "*The leadership of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on social security policies from 2010 to 2020*" as the topic for the doctoral thesis, majoring in History of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

## **2. Objectives and research tasks of the thesis**

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

Clarify the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies in the 2010-2020 period; summarize several experiences of reference value for the process of implementing social security policies with higher efficiency in the locality currently.

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

*First*, present an overview of the research situation related to the thesis topic, thereby outlining the content that the thesis inherits and needs to continue researching.

*Second*, analyze and clarify the factors affecting the leadership and direction process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on social security policies from 2010 to 2020.

*Third*, systematize the guidelines and direction process of implementing social security policies of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee from 2010 to 2020, through two

stages: 2010-2015 and 2015-2020.

*Fourth*, evaluate the advantages, limitations, and causes of the advantages and limitations in the process of leading the implementation of social security policies from 2010 to 2020; summarize several main experiences of reference value for the process of leading the implementation of social security policies of the local Party Committee currently.

### **3. Objects and scope of research**

#### ***3.1. Objects of research***

The object of research of the thesis is the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies (from 2010 to 2020).

#### ***3.2. Scope of research***

*Regarding time*: The thesis focuses on researching from 2010 to 2020 with 2 terms of the 9th Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee Congress (2010-2015) and the 10th Congress (2015-2020).

*Regarding space*: In the thesis researching the 2010-2020 period, a time before the provincial merger, the spatial scope of the thesis research is Ben Tre province with 9 administrative units (8 districts (Ba Tri, Binh Dai, Chau Thanh, Cho Lach, Giong Trom, Mo Cay Bac, Mo Cay Nam, Thanh Phu) and Ben Tre city).

*Regarding research content*: The connotation of the social security system is very broad, within the scope of the thesis topic and stemming from the reality of Ben Tre province, to clarify the correct and creative leadership and direction process of the Provincial Party Committee, the thesis focuses on researching the guidelines and direction process of implementing social security policies of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee from 2010 to 2020 on main issues: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment.

### **4. Theoretical basis and research methods**

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

The thesis is conducted based on the theoretical basis of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on social security.

#### ***4.2. Sources of materials***

Party Congress documents, directives, and resolutions of the Party and State on social security; Provincial Party Congress documents, directives, resolutions, and programs of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on social security; statistical data from

the Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Ben Tre province and several departments and sectors of Ben Tre province; published works, topics, projects, articles, journals, theses, and dissertations related to the thesis topic.

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

To complete the research objectives and tasks, the thesis uses a combination of main methods, namely the historical method and the logical method.

The historical method is mainly used to clarify the research situation related to the thesis topic; the process of formulating guidelines and direction of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee in implementing social security policies from 2010 to 2020.

The logical method is mainly used to generalize the results of overviewed works; the advantages, limitations, causes, and summarize experiences of reference value for the leadership process of implementing social security policies of the local Party Committee currently.

In addition, the thesis also uses other methods such as: analysis, comparison, synthesis... to resolve the tasks set out by the thesis.

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

*Firstly*, the thesis has systematically reproduced the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading, directing, and organizing the implementation of social security policies in the 2010–2020 period. This was a period with many socio-economic fluctuations, posing new requirements for social security assurance work. Thereby, clarifying the correctness and creativity of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee in leading the implementation of social security policies.

*Secondly*, the thesis clarifies the content, characteristics, and leadership methods of the Provincial Party Committee towards each specific field of social security policy, while pointing out the achievements, limitations, and causes of limitations. On that basis, initially summarizing several experiences of reference value for leading the implementation of social security policies in the locality in the subsequent period, as well as for provinces with similar conditions.

*Thirdly*, the research results of the thesis can be used as reference materials in communication, research, and teaching of the History of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the history of the local Party Committee.

## **6. Scientific and practical significance of the thesis topic**

### ***6.1. Scientific significance***

The thesis contributes to clarifying the process of concreteizing the Party's guidelines and lines on social security policies in Ben Tre province - a locality with

specific socio-economic characteristics and natural conditions of the Mekong Delta region. Through analyzing the guidelines, direction, and results of implementing social security policies of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee, the thesis supplements valuable scientific resource materials for researching the History of the local Party Committee, while contributing to enriching the theoretical awareness of the Party's leadership role in the field of social security at the provincial level.

### ***6.2. Practical significance***

The research results provide reliable scientific arguments, serving the work of summarizing practice, formulating guidelines, and organizing the implementation of social security policies in the locality currently. Several experiences have reference value for leading the implementation of social security policies of the local Party Committee in the subsequent period, as well as for provinces with similar conditions.

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

In addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, List of reference materials, and Appendix, the content of the thesis consists of 4 chapters.

## **Chapter 1**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC**

#### **1.1. SCIENTIFIC WORKS, TOPICS RELATED TO THE THESIS**

##### **1.1.1. Group of research works on social security in the world**

Research on social security in the world has received the attention of many domestic and foreign scholars. Typified by: William Hsiao, R.Paul Shaw (Washington D.C); Dinh Cong Tuan; Tran Thi Nhung; William Reichenstein, William Meyer; Dinh Cong Hoang; Le Quoc Ly; Nguyen Duy Dung; Nguyen Hai Huu ... The authors provide an overview of the differences between social security models in countries around the world, having reference value in many different dimensions and aspects for Vietnam in implementing social security.

##### **1.1.2. Group of domestic research works on social security**

###### ***1.1.2.1. Group of general research works on social security***

Research on social security in Vietnam is typified by scientists such as: Trinh Duy Luan; Bui The Cuong; Mac Van Tien; Mai Ngoc Cuong; Mai Ngoc Anh; Le Duy Dong; Bui Sy Loi; Vu Van Phuc; Le Quoc Ly; Nguyen Van Chieu; Pham Tat Dong; Nguyen Thị Kim Hoa; Nguyen Thi Thanh; Nguyen Thi Thu Ha... The works approach from many different perspectives, but all state the reality, solutions, or experiences in implementing social security. Many works state the Party's system of viewpoints, clarifying the pillars of social

security in Vietnam. The works are materials with firm theoretical and practical value helping the PhD student continue to explore deeply in the thesis.

### ***1.1.2.2. Group of research works on social security in several localities of Vietnam***

Research on social security in several localities of Vietnam includes authors such as: Pham Van Sang; Ngo Quang Minh; Bui Van Huyen; Nguyen Anh Dung; Nguyen Van Nhuong; Nguyen Thanh Do; Le Quoc Ly ; Duong Quang Dien; Nguyen Dinh Hoa... The works research many different angles about social security in a few localities of Vietnam: Dong Nai, Bac Ninh, Southwest region, Khanh Hoa, Central Highlands ... The works all mention the reality, measures, or experiences in implementing social security policies. Some research works approach a pillar of the social security system such as: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; people with meritorious services... or specific targets like ethnic minorities; religion... but all provide suggestions for the thesis.

### ***1.1.2.3. Group of research works on social security of Ben Tre***

Research on social security in Ben Tre province is very limited and only approaches one or a few pillars of social security policy: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; resolving employment; health insurance; policies for people with meritorious services... of a certain period. Typified by: Executive Committee of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee; Union of Science and Technology Associations of Ben Tre Province; Thach Phuong; Doan Tu; Nguyen Truc Hanh; Phan Van Thuan; Nguyen Ton Phuong Du... but this is a very valuable source of materials for the PhD student in the process of writing the thesis.

## **1.2. RESEARCH RESULTS OF MENTIONED SCIENTIFIC WORKS AND ISSUES THAT THE THESIS FOCUSES ON RESEARCHING**

### **1.2.1. Research results of works related to the thesis**

*First*, regarding approach and research method: Social security is currently an urgent issue for many countries in the world in general and Vietnam in particular, especially Ben Tre province under conditions of innovation and integration; the province is heavily affected by economic recession, natural disasters, prolonged drought and salinity, diseases... therefore, implementing social security is an urgent requirement. Through research works from many different historical and sociological angles, they have provided scientific research methods: historical method, logical method, analysis, comparison helping the PhD student favorably research the topic.

*Second*, regarding content: The research works mentioned some basic contents such as: concept, role, structure of pillars forming social security policies; experiences in

implementing social security of countries in the world are valuable lessons for Vietnam and Ben Tre province; social security policies are researched under a narrow scope within the province and a few pillars of social security policy such as: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction, resolving employment, policies for people with meritorious services or health insurance in Ben Tre.

*Third*, regarding materials: Scientific works are a rich, diverse source of materials on social security, helping the PhD student clarify the necessity as well as the pillars of social security policies.

### **1.2.2. Issues that the thesis focuses on researching**

*Firstly*, analyze and evaluate factors affecting the process of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies from 2010 to 2020.

*Secondly*, systematize the guidelines and lines of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on implementing social security policies from 2010 to 2020.

*Thirdly*, analyze to clarify the direction process of implementing social security policies of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee from 2010 to 2020.

*Fourthly*, evaluate the advantages and limitations in the process of the Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies. Thereby, drawing experiences of reference value for the leadership process of implementing social security policies of the local Party Committee currently to achieve high results.

### **Summary conclusion of Chapter 1**

Ensured social security is the main driving force bringing economic development; from the role of social security, many domestic and foreign scholars, scientists research to find models, solutions to complete social security policies. Research works on world, Vietnamese or Ben Tre social security mentioning some pillars of social security clarified initially viewpoints, nature, role, layout, and components of social security along with the relationship between components of social security or stated achievements, limitations; at the same time, recommending some directions and solutions to contribute to implementing social security policies. The results of the works have value for the PhD student in the process of writing the thesis.

## **Chapter 2**

### **BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FROM 2010 TO 2015**

#### **2.1. AFFECTING FACTORS AND GUIDELINES OF BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

## POLICIES FROM 2010 TO 2015

### **2.1.1. Factors affecting the guidelines of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on the implementation of social security policies**

#### ***2.1.1.1. The concept of social security, social security policy***

##### ***\* Social security***

At the 9th National Congress of the Party (2001), the term social security was mentioned for the first time, according to which, the Party advocated "urgently expanding the system of social insurance and social security". Accordingly, social security: Progressing towards applying the insurance regime to all workers, all classes of people. Combining State assistance with the development of charity funds, social funds, and gratitude funds, to effectively help beneficiaries of social policies, war victims, natural disasters, children in particularly difficult circumstances, disabled people, and helpless elderly people.

##### ***\* Social security policy***

Through researching the viewpoints of authors Le Quoc Ly; Nguyen Van Chieu; Dang Anh Dung, Huynh Thanh Quang, social security policy is the core content of social policy, contributing to sharing and reducing risks for humans before risks in life. Thus, social security policy is the line of action of the Party and State with a system of viewpoints, guidelines, mechanisms, policies, and measures aimed at a specific goal within a certain space and time to help all members in society cope with socio-economic risks and shocks that cause them to reduce or lose income due to illness, maternity, accidents, occupational diseases, old age without working capacity, or due to other objective reasons falling into poverty, pauperization, and providing health care services to the community... through nets of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance, social assistance, and social preferential treatment.

##### ***\* Structure of social security policy***

The connotation of social security is very broad, within the scope of the thesis on Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies in the 2010-2020 period, the PhD student approaches the viewpoints, goals, and measures that Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee concretized the Party's guidelines into practice, to resolve basic and urgent issues, contributing to improving people's lives. Therefore, the thesis focuses on main issues: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction (vocational training, job creation, poverty reduction, social services for the poor); social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance, social preferential

treatment.

Social security policy plays several roles: ensuring basic rights and human development; being both a goal and a driving force promoting economic growth and sustainable development; aiming at implementing social justice, creating social consensus; focusing on resolving urgent social issues in developmental periods; meeting international integration needs.

### **2.1.1.2. World, domestic situations and natural, socio-economic characteristics of Ben Tre province affecting the leadership in implementing social security policies of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee in the 2010-2015 period**

#### ***\* World situation***

In the 2010-2015 period, the world situation had many advantages, but also not fewer difficulties and challenges. Advantages: Peace, cooperation, and development remained the major trend; globalization and the scientific-technological revolution developed strongly, promoting the formation process of the information society and knowledge economy... creating favorable conditions for implementing social security policies. Besides, the world was constantly changing, containing potential risks affecting the implementation of social security policies.

#### ***\* Domestic situation***

The economy overcame many difficulties and challenges, with scale and potential enhanced. Culture, society, national defense, and security achieved many positive results, creating favorable conditions to implement social security policies. However, the country still faced great challenges. Besides the limitations and weaknesses of the economy, the country was affected by natural disasters, epidemics, climate change... creating pressure and limitations in implementing social security policies.

#### ***\* Natural characteristics and socio-economic situation***

Ben Tre has a total natural area of 2,315.01 km<sup>2</sup>. The province includes Ben Tre city (provincial center) and 8 districts (Ba Tri, Giong Trom, Binh Dai, Chau Thanh, Cho Lach, Mo Cay Bac, Mo Cay Nam, and Thanh Phu), 157 commune-level administrative units (including 142 communes, 8 wards, and 7 townships). The province has an intertwined system of canals and arroyos, a long coastline, and a sub-equatorial tropical monsoon climate very favorable for agricultural production and specialized cultivation of fruit-tree areas, contributing to promoting economic development and improving people's lives. Besides advantages in natural conditions, Ben Tre also faced difficulties due to hot and humid weather easily causing pests, diseases, and mold, along with drought and salinity in the dry season reducing productivity and output of crops and livestock,

affecting income sources, directly influencing people's daily lives and activities. The dense system of rivers is a major obstacle to road traffic and regional connectivity in mobilizing resources to implement social security.

Regarding the economy of Ben Tre province in the 2005-2010 period, the growth rate reached 9.42%/year (an increase of 0.33% compared to the 2000-2005 period). GDP per capita by 2010 reached 866 USD (equivalent to 16.55 million VND), up 75.6% compared to 2005. The economic structure continued to shift towards industrialization and modernization.

Stepping into the 2010-2015 period, the province's economy maintained fairly stable development, with an average economic growth rate of 7.3% in the 2010-2015 period. GDP per capita was 34.7 million VND, a 1.66-fold increase compared to 2010. The economic structure and labor structure shifted, gradually decreasing in the agricultural sector. Infrastructure made much progress, with many key projects built, creating favorable conditions to promote agricultural development, stabilize production, and enhance people's income and living standards.

Ben Tre province has 27 ethnic groups and 9 religions; an abundant labor force resource; people rich in cultural and revolutionary traditions... This is an important condition for the Provincial Party Committee to promote internal strength to create general synergy in implementing social security policies in the 2010-2015 period.

### ***2.1.1.3. Reality of implementing social security work in Ben Tre province before 2010***

The 8th Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee Congress (November 2005) for the first time emphasized the term "Social Security" through building a social security net. The Congress set goals and implementation solutions for social security policies on pillars such as: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment. Deploying social security policies, the Provincial Party Standing Committee issued: Directive No. 23-CT/TU *on strengthening direction for poverty reduction work*; Directive No. 27-CT/TU *on continuing to implement the "New Dong Khoi" emulation movement, accelerating industrialization, modernization, pushing back poverty and backwardness, and organizing celebrations for major historical days in 2010* to deploy the implementation of social security policies.

Under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, social security policies achieved many results, however, there were still some limitations such as: the poverty rate remained high; the rate of labor participating in social insurance was low, with only 328

people participating in voluntary social insurance; there were still many targets needing social assistance. This created great pressure on social security policies.

#### ***2.1.1.4. Guidelines and policies of the Party and State on social security from 2010 to 2015***

The 11th National Congress of the Party (2011) put forward the guideline "Effectively implementing social progress and justice, ensuring social security in each step and each developmental policy", setting goals and several tasks, solutions to implement social security policies up to 2015. Concreteizing the spirit of the 11th Party Congress, the 5th Conference of the Party Central Committee (11th tenure) issued Resolution No. 15-NQ/TW dated June 1, 2012 *on several issues regarding social policies for the 2012-2020 period*; Resolution No. 21-NQ/TW dated November 22, 2012 of the Politburo on *strengthening the Party's leadership over social insurance and health insurance work for the 2012-2020 period*, contributing to supplementing and completing social security policies, and improving people's lives.

Besides the Party's guidelines, the State issued many legal documents in the form of Laws, Constitution... The Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs proposed the *Vietnam Social Security Strategy for the 2011-2020 period*... to deploy the implementation of social security policies.

#### **2.1.2. Guidelines of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on social security policies from 2010 to 2015**

The 9th Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee Congress with the determination to "effectively implement social security policies" aimed to "build Ben Tre to develop rapidly and sustainably, on par with provinces in the region and the whole country". The Congress set goals and solutions on pillars of the social security system: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction; social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment. Deploying the guidelines of the Provincial Party Committee on social security, the Provincial Party Committee issued resolutions: Resolution No. 03-NQ/TU on "*Building new countryside in the 2011-2015 period and orientation to 2020*"; Resolution No. 04-NQ/TU dated October 20, 2011 on *improving the quality of human resources in Ben Tre province in the 2011-2015 period and orientation to 2020*.

## **2.2. DIRECTION PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES OF BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE FROM 2010 TO 2015**

### **2.2.1. Directing communication work to raise awareness in implementing social security policies**

The Provincial Party Committee directed party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations to use many forms and methods of communicating social security policies: Oral communication; visual communication; practical activities. With these measures, communication work on social security policies was step by step raised in depth and scope of influence, deeply soaking and spreading widely among all classes of People. Thereby, creating positive changes in awareness and action of party committees, authorities, sectors, and mass organizations at all levels and the entire people, promoting the effective implementation of social security policies.

### **2.2.2. Directing the implementation of hunger eradication and poverty reduction policies**

#### ***2.2.2.1. Implementing vocational training, job creation, and promoting labor export***

Deploying the work of vocational training and job creation, the Provincial Party Standing Committee issued Action Program No. 08-CTr/TU dated December 12, 2011 implementing Conclusion No. 10-KL/TW of the 3rd Conference of the 11th Party Central Committee, while directing local party committees and authorities to step up state management over labor and employment; develop infrastructure, consolidate and improve the quality of vocational training centers; mobilize resources from economic sectors, organizations, and individuals to invest in the province... In order for idle labor in rural areas to have trades and jobs, increase income, and stabilize life, the Provincial Party Committee directed local party committees to deploy synchronously many measures: developing industry - cottage industry; stepping up the development of garden economy, aquaculture, and coastal economy; encouraging economic sectors and businesses to invest in building raw material areas for rice, coconut, sugarcane, aquaculture... developing and expanding production linkage forms.

In addition, to use local potential into economic development, the Provincial Party Standing Committee issued Directive No. 09-CT/TU dated January 18, 2012 *on tourism development in Ben Tre province in the 2012-2015 period*, to develop the tourism industry, build traditional craft villages; restructure the orchard economic model towards experiential tourism services, contributing to economic development, job creation, and poverty reduction.

Regarding sending workers to work abroad: developing and diversifying the labor receiving market; focusing on removing difficulties and obstacles in labor export work; strengthening communication and counseling in the community to raise the quality of labor export work; building a labor market information database as a basis for vocational

assistance, training, and labor export. Thanks to that, labor and employment work achieved many results, however, there were still some limitations, counseling and consultation on methods, and supporting job market information in some localities were not paid attention to; vocational training in some sectors was not linked with market demand, thus failing to create jobs.

***2.2.2.2. Supporting enterprises to develop production, creating livelihoods for poor households***

The Provincial Party Committee directed party committees and authorities to build plans and issue documents directing and operating poverty reduction work; step up coordination with departments, sectors, and mass organizations to implement poverty reduction work in localities. To create favorable conditions for businesses to operate, promote economic development, and create jobs, the Provincial Party Committee directed localities to reform administrative procedures, reducing documents causing trouble in business registration; develop and diversify types of credit institutions and banking services; implement preferential policies on land, tax, credit, and market support.

Regarding livelihood activities for the poor, they were stepped up in many forms: trade transmission; capital support, plants, and animal breeds; technical transfer... Parallely, the province created favorable conditions for the poor to access preferential loan sources, National Fund for Job Support capital, capital from mobilization sources of mass organizations, non-governmental organizations, through agricultural extension services, industrial extension, and transferring techniques, technology into production.

***2.2.2.3. Investing in infrastructure, especially in coastal communes to develop socio-economy***

In Action Program No. 04-CTr/TU dated May 17, 2011 *implementing Conclusion No. 02-KL/TW of the Politburo on the socio-economic situation in 2011*; Action Program No. 16-CTr/TU dated August 14, 2012 *implementing the Resolution of the 5th Conference of the 11th Party Central Committee "Several issues regarding social policies for the 2012-2020 period"*; Directive No. 16-CT/TU on *launching the "New Dong Khoi" emulation movement on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of Ben Tre Dong Khoi Day* concreteized the direction of the Provincial Party Committee on infrastructure investment and socio-economic development. In order to have more resources, the Provincial Party Committee directed party committees and authorities to focus on mobilizing investment capital; directed the allocation and effective use of capital sources to complete key projects, infrastructure, and rural transport serving daily life and travel for people, especially poor communes of 3 coastal districts in Binh Dai, Ba Tri, and Thanh Phu.

### **2.2.3. Directing the implementation of social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance policies**

Deploying the guidelines of the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial Party Standing Committee issued Action Program No. 25-CTr/TU dated March 7, 2013 *implementing Resolution No. 21-NQ/TW of the Politburo on strengthening the Party's leadership over social insurance and health insurance work for the 2012-2020 period*. The Provincial Party Committee directed party committees and authorities to increase communication, dissemination, and deployment of policies on social insurance and health insurance. At the same time, doing well the coordination work in deployment and inspection, examination, supervision of implementing social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance policies.

Directing the Social Insurance sector to strengthen communication; consolidate and perfect the organizational apparatus; raise policy administration capacity of social insurance and health insurance. Directing the Health sector to step up communication, coordinate with the social insurance agency, doing well the payment of medical examination and treatment costs with health insurance for people; organizing well drug bidding activities, prescribing, managing patients; overcoming the phenomenon of export refusal due to administrative procedure errors; consolidating, completing, and raising the quality of the grassroots health network; strengthening military-civilian medical combination in epidemic prevention and control, and free medical examination and treatment for the poor and policy families...

### **2.2.4. Directing the implementation of social assistance policies for vulnerable people**

#### ***2.2.4.1. Deploying social assistance policies for social protection targets***

Deploying social assistance policies, the Provincial Party Committee issued Action Program No. 24-CTr/TU dated February 7, 2013 *implementing Directive No. 20-CT/TW dated November 5, 2012 of the Politburo (9th tenure) on strengthening the Party's leadership over care, education, and protection of children in the new situation* and adjusting social allowance levels; directing full, timely payment of policy regimes for social protection targets; sectors, local authorities, the Fatherland Front, and political-social organizations to well implement coordination in assisting vulnerable people. Thereby, Ben Tre established many models of caring for people in special circumstances; models of assisting children in special circumstances based on the community; models of social prevention and relief...

#### ***2.2.4.2. Stepping up assistance measures regarding education, healthcare, and***

### *housing for vulnerable targets*

The Provincial Party Committee directed the education sector to continue investing in infrastructure, school equipment towards solidification and standardization (paying attention to difficult communes in deep and remote areas); calling for socialization in the field of education; exempting, reducing tuition fees, and supporting learning tools for poor students...

In the medical field, mobilizing resources to invest in public hospitals, preventive medicine centers at provincial and district levels, and the grassroots medical network; implementing health education communication contributing to raising people's understanding of care and health protection work; supporting difficult targets, women, and near-poor households with health insurance cards; examining and distributing medicine for the poor...

Regarding housing, deploying the Project on supporting housing improvement for the poor, workers, low-income earners, pupils, students, cadres, civil servants, and other targets under the Government's Housing Development Program; encouraging economic sectors to participate in investing in the field of housing, contributing to ensuring social security.

Regarding clean water, implementing the National Target Program on clean water and rural environmental sanitation in the 2011-2015 period, prioritizing areas affected by salinity, points of new rural communes with many support measures (credit incentives; supporting water storage tools...) Calling on economic sectors, organizations, and individuals to participate in implementing the National Strategy on rural water supply and sanitation.

Regarding information, the Provincial Party Committee deployed the National Target Program to bring information to the grassroots and integrated with the National Target Program to respond to climate change; invested in infrastructure, developed the information and communication network; raised information and communication capacity for the team of cadres at all levels.

### **2.2.5. Directing the implementation of social preferential treatment policies for people with meritorious services to the revolution**

By many positive measures: communication, education, raising awareness and responsibility of the entire Party and entire people in implementing the tradition "When drinking water, remember its source", caring for families of people with meritorious services to the revolution; conducting a comprehensive review Program of preferential policies for people with meritorious services to the revolution; completely resolving

outstanding cases of one-time and monthly allowances according to regulations; mobilizing resources to care for the lives of families of people with merit; strengthening examination and inspection to timely detect and strictly handle legal violations in implementing policies for people with meritorious services.

### **Summary conclusion of Chapter 2**

In summary, in the 2010 - 2015 period, Ben Tre province faced the impacts of the financial crisis, global economic recession, along with natural disasters and epidemics. Under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, it concretized the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam into the province's actual situation to implement social security. Through the drastic and comprehensive direction of the Provincial Party Committee, the synchronous coordination of levels, sectors, and the consensus among the entire people, the implementation of social security policies in the province achieved many positive results. Besides, the implementation of social security policies of the Provincial Party Committee in the 2010-2015 period still had some limitations, requiring flexibility, sensitivity, and creativity of the Provincial Party Committee in putting forward new guidelines suitable to the province's specific conditions, to implement social security in the subsequent period with higher results.

## **Chapter 3**

### **BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP ON STEPPING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FROM 2015 TO 2020**

**3.1. NEW AFFECTING FACTORS AND GUIDELINES OF BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FROM 2015 TO 2020**

**3.1.1. New factors affecting the leadership of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee on stepping up the implementation of social security policies**

#### ***3.1.1.1. World and domestic situations***

Stepping into the 2015-2020 period, the world and regional context had favorable factors, but also faced no fewer intertwined difficulties, which were more complex than predicted, affecting the country's development. Domestically, the economic and social situation achieved many results, contributing to raising the efficiency of implementing social security policies. However, besides advantages, adverse impacts like trade competition, climate change... strongly affected our country.

#### ***3.1.1.2. Socio-economic situation***

In the 2015-2020 period, the province's economy maintained a good growth rate;

agriculture was invested in and developed comprehensively; industry - construction grew well; infrastructure in industrial zones and clusters was invested synchronously and developed more than in the 2010-2015 period. With socio-economic development, it was a favorable condition for the Provincial Party Committee to step up the implementation of social security policies. However, besides advantages, in the 2015-2020 period, the province's economic restructuring pace was still slow, the industry and service sectors had not developed strongly, so they did not create many jobs for workers in the province, while people's income and living standards remained low compared to provinces in the region. The province continued to suffer from many adverse impacts of climate change, drought and salinity, diseases on livestock, poultry, and humans, which affected people's lives.

### ***3.1.1.3. Guidelines and policies of the Party and State on social security***

The 12th National Congress of the Party (2016) advocated: "Closely linking economic policies with social policies, economic development with raising the quality of people's lives, ensuring that people enjoy better and better achievements of the cause of innovation, building, and developing the country". The 12th Congress proposed goals, directions, and tasks to "complete social security policies suitable with the socio-economic development process". Thoroughly grasping the guidelines of the 12th National Congress of the Party, the 6th Conference of the 12th Party Central Committee issued Resolution No. 20-NQ/TW dated October 25, 2017 *on strengthening the protection, care, and enhancement of people's health in the new situation*; Resolution No. 28-NQ/TW dated May 23, 2018 of the 12th Party Central Committee *on social insurance policy reform*; Directive No. 39-CT/TW dated November 1, 2019 of the Secretariat *on strengthening the Party's leadership over work for people with disabilities*; Directive No. 42-CT/TW dated March 24, 2020 of the Secretariat *on strengthening the Party's leadership over work of preventing, responding to, and overcoming natural disaster consequences*; Conclusion No. 77-KL/TW dated June 5, 2020 of the Politburo *on the guideline to overcome the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to restore and develop the country's economy*; Conclusion No. 92-KL/TW dated November 5, 2020 of the Politburo *on continuing to implement the Resolution of the 5th Central Conference (11th tenure) on several social policy issues for the 2012-2020 period*. Besides the Party's guidelines, the State issued many social security policies on pillars such as employment, sustainable poverty reduction; social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance, social assistance, and social preferential treatment.

### **3.1.2. Guidelines of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee stepping up social security policies from 2015 to 2020**

Thoroughly grasping the guidelines of the Communist Party of Vietnam on social security policies, the 10th Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee Congress (October 2015) (2015-2020 term) advocated: "developing the economy associated with cultural development and human construction, environmental protection; ensuring social security, raising the material and spiritual life of the people". The guideline reflected the innovation in the awareness of the Provincial Party Committee on the pillars of social security policies, thereby overcoming the inadequacies in the leadership process of implementing social security policies of the Provincial Party Committee in the previous stage, expanding the scope of enjoyment and the impact of the social security net to the entire people. Thereby, establishing safe protection mechanisms for vulnerable, easily damaged classes or people who unfortunately face risks due to natural disasters, diseases, old age... helping them overcome and stabilize their lives, ensuring social security. The following is Resolution No. 03-NQ/TU dated August 5, 2016 *on building and completing the value chain of key agricultural products in Ben Tre province in the 2016-2020 period and orientation to 2025*; Resolution No. 06-NQ/TU dated December 7, 2018 of Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee *on directions and tasks for 2019*, which stepped up the implementation of social security policies.

### 3.2. BEN TRE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE DIRECTING TO STEP UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FROM 2015 TO 2020

#### **3.2.1. Directing to step up communication to implement social security policies**

The Provincial Party Committee directed party committees and authorities to raise the efficiency of communication work, implementing diversity in forms and rich, easy-to-access content, while building a coordinated communication plan to implement social security policies. Thereby, creating a change in awareness and action within the entire Party and the entire people to unite in mind and strength with the Provincial Party Committee and authorities, promoting high internal strength to implement social security policies.

#### **3.2.2. Directing to step up sustainable poverty reduction work**

*First*, step up measures to support production development, build a sustainable agricultural sector and poverty reduction models.

*Second*, raise the quality of vocational training, job creation, and labor export.

*Third*, step up the mobilization of resources to support the poor to access basic social services.

Thanks to that, by the end of 2020, the poor were ensured basic social services and their lives were increasingly enhanced. The living standards of poor and near-poor

households in coastal communes increased from 23 million VND/person (2015) to 26 million VND/person (2020), contributing to ensuring social security.

### **3.2.3. Directing the implementation of social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance policies**

*First*, directing the coordinated implementation of legal policies on social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance synchronously. Thereby, targets participating in social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance increasingly developed and expanded in agencies, units, businesses, and all classes of people.

*Second*, raising the quality of people's health care services.

### **3.2.4. Directing the implementation of social assistance policies for vulnerable people**

*First*, strengthening the good implementation of social assistance policies for vulnerable people.

*Second*, implementing assistance measures for vulnerable targets, people in particularly difficult circumstances regarding education, healthcare, and housing.

### **3.2.5. Directing the implementation of social preferential treatment policies for people with meritorious services to the revolution**

*First*, implementing regimes and policies for people with meritorious services to the revolution.

*Second*, continuing to perform well the work of gathering martyrs' remains, repairing and upgrading martyrs' cemeteries.

## **Summary conclusion of Chapter 3**

From 2015 to 2020, in the context of many complex developments in the world and regional situation, Ben Tre province faced many adverse impacts of the financial crisis and global economic recession. Natural disasters, epidemics, climate change, deep and prolonged saltwater intrusion posed many challenges and increased pressure on leading the implementation of social security policies of the local Party Committee. However, under those difficult conditions, the Provincial Party Committee promoted its active and creative role, timely grasping the Party's guidelines on social security policies, adjusting policies suitable with the practice of Ben Tre province. Under the drastic and comprehensive direction of the Provincial Party Committee, the synchronous and effective coordination of the political system and the active participation of all classes of people, social security policies were stepped up in deployment, achieving many practical results on basic pillars: Hunger eradication and poverty reduction, social insurance,

unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment. Thereby, not only contributing to improving the material and spiritual life of the people, but also affirming the correctness in the Party's line, as well as the leading core role of the local Party Committee in ensuring social security and promoting social progress.

## **Chapter 4**

### **COMMENTS AND EXPERIENCES**

#### **4.1. COMMENTS**

##### **4.1.1. Strong points and causes**

###### ***4.1.1.1. Strong points***

*First of all*, Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee deeply grasped the viewpoints and lines of the Party, timely putting forward guidelines to implement social security suitable to the conditions of the province.

Over 10 years (from 2010 to 2020), based on the practical situation of the locality, the Provincial Party Committee adjusted the goals and tasks of each pillar of the social security system to suit each period, contributing to helping people reduce risks caused by natural disasters, epidemics, and ensuring social security. Thereby, showing the development in awareness and theoretical thinking of the Provincial Party Committee on social security policies.

*Secondly*, in the direction process, the Provincial Party Committee put forward many suitable solutions, creating a positive shift in implementing social security policies in the province such as: Strengthening communication and mobilization work, considering ensuring social security as the common responsibility of the entire political system and all classes of people; the Provincial Party Committee directed levels and sectors to concretize guidelines to implement social security into policies suitable for each target; stepping up the socialization of implementing social security policies, mobilizing all economic sectors to participate; regularly attached importance to inspection, examination, and supervision work, timely correcting deviations arising in implementing social security policies.

*Thirdly*, social security policies achieved many results on several contents of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance; social assistance; social preferential treatment, contributing to raising the material and spiritual life of the people. Hunger eradication and poverty reduction, job creation were performed well; social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance policies contributed to minimizing risks due to old age, sickness, occupational

accidents, and maternity. The efficiency of implementing social insurance, unemployment insurance, and health insurance policies was step by step enhanced. Especially, the rate of people participating in health insurance increased to 92.38% (by the end of 2020); social protection targets throughout the province were assisted timely. Performing well regular monthly social allowances, sudden assistance, burial fee support, support of wheelchairs, moving chairs, prosthetics, and rehabilitation tools for disabled people, fresh water storage tools... Social preferential treatment was paid attention to and performed well. Preferential allowance regimes for people with meritorious services to the revolution were adjusted to suit the socio-economic conditions of the province. The work of gratitude, caring for policy families, and Vietnamese Heroic Mothers was well performed.

#### **4.1.1.2. Causes of strong points**

The Provincial Party Committee applied flexibly the policies of the Central Government, timely putting forward correct guidelines suitable to the conditions in Ben Tre, which was the main cause contributing to ensuring social security.

The Provincial Party Committee demonstrated a comprehensive, close, and drastic directing role in implementing social security policies.

The synchronous coordination of the entire political system and the unanimity of the entire people contributed to creating great achievements in implementing social security policies.

#### **4.1.2. Limitations and causes**

##### **4.1.2.1. Limitations**

*Firstly*, some party committees had not highly promoted their role and responsibility in the process of leading the implementation of social security policies.

Some grassroots party committees showed signs of loosening responsibility, lacking unified direction; party committees in a few localities had not done well their role in checking and supervising the implementation of social security policies.

*Secondly*, in the process of the Provincial Party Committee directing the implementation of social security policies, there remained several existing limitations.

Coordination work and community responsibility among sectors and levels in some localities were not synchronous; some cadres were still limited in qualifications and working capacity, affecting the process of implementing social security policies; examination and supervision work was still lacking regularity in some localities, so detecting and handling arising issues was not timely.

*Thirdly*, the results of implementing social security policies in Ben Tre province from 2010 to 2020 had some limitations: The poverty rate decreased rapidly, but lacked

sustainability; vocational training, job resolution, labor export, and policies on social insurance, unemployment insurance, health insurance, and social preferential treatment policies still had some existing limitations.

#### ***4.1.2.2. Causes of limitations***

Objective causes: due to the impact of the world situation, especially economic recession affecting the domestic economy; effects of climate change, diseases; limitations in socio-economy and the slow completion of the social security policy system.

Subjective causes: Due to low awareness of the role and responsibility of some cadres, especially party committees, heads in some localities; due to limitations from the beneficiaries of social security policies themselves.

### **4.2. SEVERAL EXPERIENCES**

**4.2.1. Deeply grasping and creatively applying the guidelines and policies of the Party and State on social security into specific conditions of the locality**

**4.2.2. Placing the implementation of social security policies on par with economic policies, combining economic development with social security in areas heavily affected by climate change**

**4.2.3. Promoting the role of the community and local media, the spirit of solidarity, mutual love, and affection in implementing social security policies**

**4.2.4. Improving the quality of cadres and party members working in the field of social security to meet the requirements and tasks of the new era**

#### **Summary conclusion of Chapter 4**

Through 10 years (from 2010 to 2020) of the Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security, thanks to the drastic and comprehensive direction of the Provincial Party Committee and the synchronous coordination of levels, departments, sectors, authorities, and mass organizations, social security policies in Ben Tre province achieved many positive results. However, there were still a few limitations, from which, several experiences summarized have reference value for the leadership process of implementing social security policies of the local Party Committee in the subsequent stage to achieve high efficiency.

## CONCLUSION

Social security contributes importantly to the development of the country. This is a driving force and condition creating a stable environment, bringing economic development and international integration. Ensuring social security will maintain social stability, promote economic growth and development, raise the material and spiritual life of the people, building an increasingly civilized and modern society. Thoroughly grasping the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on social security policies, Ben Tre Provincial Party Committee always highly appreciates the role of social security and considers it one of the core tasks that must be regularly implemented in the province's economic, cultural, and social development programs. From 2010 to 2020, the Provincial Party Committee advocated attaching economic growth to cultural development and social security to create many resources to build a harmonious society, develop sustainably, and raise people's lives. Through the achieved results and experiences summarized in the process of the Provincial Party Committee leading the implementation of social security policies from 2010 to 2020, it is an important theoretical and practical foundation, having reference value for leading the implementation of social security policies of the local Party Committee in the subsequent stage, as well as for provinces with similar conditions. Under the province's current new conditions, with expanded space creating many opportunities, potential helps the local Party Committee build a multi-tiered, comprehensive, modern social security system, flexibly adapting to the situation, bringing the locality to develop increasingly.

**LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO  
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