HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

LE THI HUE

BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT AT PRESENT

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS
MAJOR: HO CHI MINH STUDIES
Code: 9310204

HANOI - 2026

The dissertation was completed at
Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

Chairman of the Council



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at 1:00 p.m. on October 16, 2026.

The dissertation is available at:: the National Library and the Library of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

President Ho Chi Minh has been honored worldwide as a Hero of National Liberation and an Outstanding Man of Culture. He left the Vietnamese nation an immensely valuable ideological legacy, in which his thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups holds a particularly important position. This is not only a fundamental component of Ho Chi Minh Thought in general and Ho Chi Minh Thought on great national unity in particular, but also an issue of strategic and enduring significance throughout the Vietnamese revolutionary cause.

Inheriting the Vietnamese nation's longstanding tradition of solidarity and drawing upon the quintessence of human thought, Ho Chi Minh developed a profound system of views on building unity among ethnic groups on the basis of equality, respect, solidarity, and mutual assistance for common development. He affirmed: "The Kinh or Tho, Muong or Man, Gia Rai or E De, Xe Dang or Ba Na, and other ethnic minorities are all descendants of Vietnam, all brothers and sisters of one family. We live and die together, share happiness and hardship, and help one another in times of abundance and hunger." The practice of the Vietnamese revolution has demonstrated that, throughout all historical periods, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, as an integral part of the strategy of great national unity, has always constituted a tremendous endogenous resource contributing to the victories of the cause of national liberation, national construction, and national defense throughout the country.

After 40 years of Doi Moi (Renovation), the application and creative development of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups continue to affirm its profound theoretical and practical value, yielding substantive and effective results. By promoting the strength of great national unity, the country has overcome numerous difficulties and challenges, maintained socio-political stability, promoted economic development, and enhanced its international standing. Nevertheless, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, in general, has yet to become truly solid and sustainable, while many aspects of Ho Chi Minh's viewpoints on building this bloc have not been fully grasped and implemented, particularly in provinces with large ethnic minority populations. The material and spiritual lives of ethnic minority people remain difficult, and the development gap between ethnic minorities and the majority population remains considerable. These constitute obstacles to the cause of building a Vietnam with a prosperous people, a strong nation, democracy, equity, and civilization.

As Vietnam enters a new era-the era of the nation's rise and development-the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam continues to emphasize the need to vigorously promote the strength of great national unity, arouse the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening, and foster the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country. In this context, building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought continues to provide an important foundation for strengthening social trust, enhancing cohesion among ethnic communities, and generating momentum for the rapid and sustainable development of the country as well as each locality.

Pursuant to Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15 of the National Assembly dated June 12, 2025, the new Lao Cai Province was established on July 1, 2025 through the merger of Lao Cai Province and Yen Bai Province, creating a new development space with a larger and more diverse socio-economic scale, population, and local governance structure. As a border province occupying an important strategic position in the Northwest region, Lao Cai is home to numerous ethnic groups, with ethnic minorities accounting for a high proportion of its population. Each ethnic group has its own distinctive historical, cultural, linguistic, customary, and socio-economic characteristics. Such diversity constitutes both potential and strength while also presenting challenges that require greater efforts to consolidate the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, strengthen social consensus, and ensure sustainable development under the new conditions.

In recent years, both Lao Cai and Yen Bai (prior to the merger) achieved significant results in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, thereby contributing to strengthening close relations among ethnic communities, maintaining socio-political stability, promoting economic development, and preserving and promoting traditional cultural values. However, the process of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province has also revealed certain limitations and raised issues that need to be further addressed. The awareness of a segment of cadres, Party members, and the people regarding the position and role of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups remains insufficient; the organization and implementation of measures to build the bloc remain inconsistent and have not achieved the desired effectiveness. Disparities in development levels, income, and access to the benefits of development among regions, between central areas and remote and isolated areas, and among ethnic communities remain considerable. Poverty reduction in certain localities is not yet truly sustainable, with persistent risks of households falling back into poverty. The population is

dispersed over a vast geographical area, while transportation remains difficult, affecting communication and awareness-raising activities concerning ethnic affairs as well as the preservation of ethnic cultures. In some localities, the effectiveness of grassroots political systems in implementing policies, programs, and socio-economic development projects in ethnic minority areas still has certain limitations. In addition, the awareness, trust, and spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening among ethnic minority people in Lao Cai Province have yet to fully meet current requirements.

In the context of implementing the two-tier local government model and the provincial merger, unless the administrative apparatus is organized and operated scientifically and effectively, with a people-centered approach and maintains close ties with the people, bureaucratic practices and detachment from the people may arise. This may reduce the capacity to promptly and comprehensively understand the people's legitimate thoughts and aspirations, thereby affecting social trust and consensus among ethnic communities. Particularly following the provincial merger, alongside new opportunities and drivers for development, Lao Cai Province also faces a number of issues related to strengthening internal solidarity, harmonizing interests among regions and localities, and ensuring unity in awareness and action among cadres, Party members, and people of all ethnic groups.

Furthermore, hostile forces continue to exploit ethnic, religious, democratic, and human rights issues to carry out acts of sabotage, incite separatist sentiments, divide the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, and cause socio-political instability, particularly in highland and border areas where the living conditions of a segment of ethnic minority people remain difficult. This reality necessitates continued systematic and comprehensive research, both theoretically and practically, into the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province at present in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought, with a view to strengthening internal solidarity, bringing into full play the combined strength of all ethnic groups, and meeting the requirements for the province's rapid and sustainable development in the new period.

Given the urgency and significance of the aforementioned issues, the doctoral candidate has selected ***"Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought at Present"*** as the topic of her doctoral thesis in Ho Chi Minh Studies.

2. Research Aim and Tasks

2.1. Research Aim

The thesis aims to clarify Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups; on that basis, it analyzes and evaluates the current situation and proposes key orientations and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in the coming period.

2.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the above aim, the thesis focuses on the following tasks:

To review existing research related to the thesis topic, thereby assessing the current state of research and identifying gaps that require further investigation.

To clarify several fundamental concepts related to the thesis topic.

To interpret, analyze, and clarify the core tenets of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

To examine and evaluate the current situation of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought from 2015 to the present, distinguishing between the periods before and after the provincial merger; to identify achievements, limitations, their causes, and the issues arising in the process of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province.

To forecast the factors affecting the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups and propose orientations and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

3. Object and Scope of the Study

3.1. Object of the Study

The building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province at present in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

3.2. Scope of the Study

- In terms of content: The thesis focuses on studying the contents of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, including the purposes, contents, forces, principles, and methods of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The thesis analyzes the current situation of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province; forecasts the factors affecting the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups; and proposes orientations and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

- In terms of geographical scope: The thesis examines the application of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the present-day territory of Lao Cai Province. Specifically, for the period from 2015 to June 30, 2025, the study covers the territories of Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces prior to their merger; from July 1, 2025 to the present, it focuses on Lao Cai Province following the merger pursuant to Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15 of the National Assembly.

- In terms of time: The thesis examines the process of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from 2015 to the present, encompassing two periods: from 2015 to June 30, 2025, corresponding to two terms of the Party Congresses of Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces prior to the merger (2015-2020 and 2020-2025); and from July 1, 2025 to the present, associated with the provincial merger and the operation of the two-tier local government model. This period has witnessed significant changes in socio-economic development, ethnic affairs, organizational apparatus, and the building of the local political system, thereby providing a practical basis for the thesis to assess the current situation and propose orientations and solutions through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

4. Theoretical Basis and Research Methodology

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The thesis is grounded in the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, as well as the guidelines and viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the policies and laws of the State concerning the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

4.2. Research Methodology

Based on the methodology of Marxism-Leninism, the thesis adopts an interdisciplinary approach drawing on the social sciences and humanities, with Ho Chi Minh Studies serving as the primary disciplinary approach. The thesis employs the following main research methods: logical and historical methods; textual analysis; inductive and deductive methods; analysis and synthesis; statistical and comparative methods; forecasting methods; information collection methods (sociological surveys using questionnaires and in-depth interviews); and practical research methods.

5. New Contributions of the Thesis

First, the thesis systematizes and elucidates the fundamental contents of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh Studies.

Second, based on empirical surveys conducted in Lao Cai, the thesis analyzes and assesses the current situation of building the great unity bloc of

ethnic groups from 2015 to the present; identifies the achievements, limitations, their causes, and new issues arising in the context of implementing the two-tier local government model and the merger of Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces since July 2025.

Third, the thesis forecasts the factors affecting the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in the new development context of the country and the locality; and proposes fundamental orientations and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought, thereby contributing to consolidating social consensus, strengthening internal solidarity, promoting the role of people of all ethnic groups as active subjects, and bringing into full play the combined strength of the entire province to meet the requirements for rapid and sustainable development through 2030, with a vision to 2045.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Thesis

6.1. Theoretical Significance

The research findings of the thesis contribute to further clarifying the fundamental contents of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from an ethnic-group perspective; at the same time, the thesis supplements the theoretical foundations for studying and applying Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups under current conditions.

6.2. Practical Significance

The research findings of the thesis may provide scientific grounds for the Party committees, authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations of Lao Cai Province in implementing and enhancing the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups following the provincial merger; they may also serve as a reference for other localities with similar conditions.

The thesis may be used as a reference for research and teaching on Ho Chi Minh Thought concerning great unity among ethnic groups, the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, and ethnic affairs within the system of academies, universities and colleges, provincial and centrally governed municipal political schools, and commune-level political centers in the province.

7. Structure of the Thesis

Apart from the Introduction, Conclusion, List of References, and Appendices, the thesis consists of four chapters and ten sections.

Chapter 1
OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1. RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1.1. Studies on Great National Unity and the Building of the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Vietnam

Numerous studies have directly addressed Ho Chi Minh Thought on great national unity and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. Representative authors include Truong My Hoa, Truong Minh Duc, Hoang Chi Bao, Lo Quoc Toan, Nguyen Dinh Tan, Tran Thi Bich Hang, Pham Cong Hoan, Tran Tang Khoi, Pham Van Bua, Nguyen Dinh Minh, Bui Thi Ngoc Lan, Hoang Thi Huong, Nguyen Manh Quang, Nguyen Van Du, Trinh Thi Hoa, Chu Le Chinh, Dao Dinh Hieu, Giang Pao My, Le Hong Anh, Pham Thi Hoang Ha, Bui Van Khanh, Nguyen Van Hung, Tran Hau, Nguyen Huu Dung, Le Mau Nhiem, Nguyen Phu Trong, Le Hai Binh, Pham Minh The, Mach Quang Thang, To Lam, Do Van Chien, among others.

These studies have approached great national unity and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from various perspectives, contributing to the clarification of the theoretical and practical foundations as well as the factors affecting the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the current period. They constitute an important body of literature from which the thesis can draw, while also providing a basis for further research and analysis of the issues arising in the process of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province, thereby enabling the proposal of orientations and solutions appropriate to the province's practical conditions.

1.1.2. Studies on Ho Chi Minh Thought on Great National Unity and the Building of the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Representative studies on Ho Chi Minh Thought concerning great national unity and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups include works by Nguyen Bich Hanh, Nguyen Van Khoan, Le Mau Han, Le Ngoc Thang, Van Thi Thanh Mai, Son Song Son, Phung Huu Phu, Pham Thi Hang, Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Le Ngoc, Pham Ngoc Anh, Nguyen Van Hong, Nguyen Van Quang, Che Dinh Quang, Nguyen Huu Dong, Le Thi Ha, Tran Thi Minh Tuyet, Tran Nham, Quang Vu, Bui Le Quyen, Minh Anh, Nguyen Vu, Quang Minh, Le Van Loi, Nguyen Danh Tien, among others.

These studies have approached Ho Chi Minh Thought on great unity among ethnic groups and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from various perspectives. They have clarified the foundations, contents, principles,

methods, and values of Ho Chi Minh Thought on great unity among ethnic groups; affirmed that great unity among ethnic groups holds a strategic and enduring position throughout the Vietnamese revolutionary cause and constitutes a source of strength and a decisive factor in every victory of the revolution; and analyzed the role of ethnic minority people, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the political system, ethnic policies, and the principles of equality, solidarity, respect, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups. These studies constitute an important source of reference materials for the thesis to inherit and build upon in studying Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups and applying it to the realities of Lao Cai Province.

1.1.3. Studies on the Application of Ho Chi Minh Thought to Building the Great National Unity Bloc and the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Representative studies on the application of Ho Chi Minh Thought to great national unity and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups include works by Nguyen Thi Kim Dung, the Institute of Ho Chi Minh and Party Leaders, Cam Chi Kien, Nguyen Dinh Hoa, Truong Minh Duc, Duong Van Manh, Vu Thi Thuy, Nguyen Thi Trang, Phan Thi Lan, Dao Nhat Kim, Le Thi Huong, Vu Thi Thu Ha, Pham Thi Hang, Nguyen Xuan Trung, Nguyen Nam Hung, Lai Quoc Khanh, Tran Thi Vui, Le Van Loi, Nguyen Thi Luong Uyen, Dang Kim Oanh, Nguyen Ngoc Can, Vo Anh Tuan, Tran Trung, Dang Van Dung, Ha Thi Giang, Bui Thi Minh Hoai, Ngo Thi Hao, among others.

These studies have clarified the process through which the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and localities have applied and developed Ho Chi Minh Thought in building and promoting the strength of the great national unity bloc. They have also analyzed the role of ethnic policies, the political system, socio-economic development, the handling of ethnic and religious issues, and the building of social consensus. Many studies have proposed solutions to strengthen unity, promote endogenous strength, and maintain socio-political stability during the period of Doi Moi and international integration. These works constitute an important source of reference materials for the thesis in studying the current situation and proposing solutions for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FINDINGS RELATED TO THE TOPIC AND ISSUES REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THE THESIS

1.2.1. Overview of Research Findings Related to the Topic

First, existing studies have clarified the theoretical foundations of great national unity, the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, and Ho Chi

Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. They have also affirmed the importance of equality, solidarity, respect, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups, as well as the roles of the political system, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and ethnic minority people in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. However, the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups from an ethnic-group perspective, in association with the specific characteristics of a multi-ethnic locality, has not yet been fully and systematically examined.

Second, existing studies have provided a relatively clear picture of the current situation of building the great national unity bloc and the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Vietnam and in several localities; they have also analyzed achievements, limitations, their causes, and proposed solutions for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. However, no in-depth study has yet examined the current situation of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province following the provincial merger under the two-tier local government model.

Third, existing studies have clarified the application of Ho Chi Minh Thought in the Communist Party of Vietnam's guidelines, the State's policies, and the practice of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, thereby proposing numerous solutions to consolidate the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the new period. However, no study has yet comprehensively examined the application of Ho Chi Minh Thought to building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in the new development context.

1.2.2. Issues Requiring Further Investigation in the Thesis

On the basis of selectively inheriting the findings of previously published studies and proceeding from the practical requirements of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province at present, the thesis needs to further investigate and clarify the following issues:

First, the thesis continues to clarify theoretical issues concerning the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought from an ethnic-group perspective. On this basis, it elucidates the connotations of relevant concepts, principles, subjects, forces, and measures for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, as well as the factors affecting this process within the community of Vietnam's ethnic groups, thereby providing a theoretical foundation for research in a multi-ethnic, mountainous, and border province such as Lao Cai.

Second, the thesis examines, analyzes, and assesses the current situation of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance

with Ho Chi Minh Thought, taking into account the characteristics of a multi-ethnic, mountainous, and border province. It focuses on examining and analyzing the impacts of implementing the two-tier local government model, socio-economic development, digital transformation, ensuring national defense and security, and preserving the cultural identities of ethnic groups on the consolidation of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the province. On this basis, the thesis clarifies the achievements, limitations, their causes, and the issues arising in the current period.

Third, the thesis forecasts domestic, international, and local factors that may affect the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in the coming period; clarifies the new requirements facing the country as it enters a new era of national development, as well as the new tasks facing the province following the merger of Lao Cai and Yen Bai provinces. On that basis, it proposes orientations and a coherent and feasible system of solutions to enhance the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province through 2030, with a vision to 2045, in accordance with the characteristics of a multi-ethnic, mountainous, and border province and the requirements for rapid and sustainable development in the new period.

Chapter 2
THEORETICAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE BUILDING OF THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

2.1. SOME BASIC CONCEPTS

2.1.1. The Concept of 'Dân tộc' (Nation/Ethnic Group)

A nation/ethnic group is a stable community of people formed and developed throughout the course of history, bound together by common characteristics of language, culture, psychology, community consciousness, and shared interests. A nation exists both as a unified national community and as a community composed of distinct ethnic groups with their own identities, living together, maintaining solidarity, and developing within the same country.

2.1.2. The Concept of Great Unity among Ethnic Groups

Unity refers to "the formation of a unified bloc acting toward a common purpose." Great unity, in a broader sense, refers to unity on a larger scale.

From the above approaches, great unity among ethnic groups is the unity of awareness, will, and action among ethnic groups within the Vietnamese national community, based on solidarity, equality, mutual respect, and mutual assistance for shared development, aimed at harnessing the collective strength of Vietnam's ethnic groups in the cause of national construction and defence.

2.1.3. The Concept of Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups is a purposeful, organized, and strategic process undertaken by various forces to establish, consolidate, and foster unity of awareness, will, and action among ethnic groups within the community of Vietnam's ethnic groups, on the basis of equality, mutual respect, solidarity, and mutual assistance for shared development, thereby harnessing the collective strength of Vietnam's ethnic groups in the cause of national construction and defence.

2.1.4. The Concept of Ho Chi Minh Thought on Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups is a comprehensive and profound system of his viewpoints on the purposes, contents, forces, principles, and measures for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups within the community of Vietnam's ethnic groups under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, with a view to fully harnessing the combined strength of the entire nation in the cause of national liberation, construction, and defense.

2.1.5. The Concept of Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought is a purposeful and organized process undertaken by leadership and participating forces, based on the creative application of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to the province's practical conditions, with appropriate objectives, content, principles, and measures. This process aims to strengthen relations of equality, solidarity, mutual respect, mutual support, and mutual assistance for shared development, thereby harnessing the collective strength of the province's ethnic groups and contributing to the sustainable development of Lao Cai Province.

2.2. CONTENTS OF HO CHI MINH THOUGHT ON BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS

2.2.1. Purposes of Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to generate strength for national liberation and the achievement of national independence and reunification.

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to generate strength for building a new society-a socialist society.

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to defeat all divisive schemes of hostile forces.

2.2.2. Contents of Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

First, in the political sphere:

Building unity among ethnic groups regarding political goals and ideals.

Building the political system in ethnic minority areas.

Ensuring equality of rights and obligations among ethnic groups.

Second, in the economic sphere:

Promoting economic development, organizing production, and creating employment for people of all ethnic groups, thereby gradually narrowing development gaps among ethnic groups and regions.

Improving the material living standards of people of all ethnic groups.

Third, in the cultural and social sphere:

Respecting, preserving, and promoting the cultural identities of ethnic groups.

Building a new cultural life for each ethnic group.

Raising educational levels and developing education, healthcare, and the cultural and social life of people of all ethnic groups.

Fourth, in the sphere of national defense and security:

Strengthening national defence and security and maintaining political stability in areas inhabited by ethnic communities.

Building a firm "people's hearts and minds posture" in association with strengthening national defense and security.

Closely integrating economic and socio-cultural development with the strengthening of national defense and security.

2.2.3. Forces Involved in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

The Communist Party of Vietnam - the leading force in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The State - the force responsible for organizing the implementation of the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The National United Front and socio-political organizations - the forces responsible for rallying and mobilizing the people and promoting the strength of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

People of all ethnic groups - the forces directly participating in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

2.2.4. Principles for Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Ensuring unity between national interests and the legitimate interests of each ethnic group.

Building great unity among ethnic groups on a voluntary and organized basis and under leadership.

Trusting the people, relying on the people, and striving to safeguard the rights and interests of people of all ethnic groups.

Ensuring solidarity, equality, mutual support, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups.

2.2.5. Measures for Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

Strengthening communication, education, and mobilization to encourage people of all ethnic groups to participate in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Improving the material and spiritual lives of people of all ethnic groups and narrowing development gaps among ethnic groups and regions.

Building and developing a contingent of ethnic minority cadres and prestigious persons within ethnic communities.

Building a strong political system, harmoniously managing relations among ethnic groups, and strengthening social consensus.

Chapter 3
CURRENT SITUATION AND ISSUES ARISING IN BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

3.1. OVERVIEW OF NATURAL, POLITICAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, DEMOGRAPHIC, ETHNIC, AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE

3.1.1. Geographical Location and Natural Conditions

Following the merger pursuant to Resolution No. 202/2025/QH15, Lao Cai Province has a natural area of 13,256.92 km² and comprises 99 communes and wards. As a mountainous border province in the Northwest region, Lao Cai shares a 182.086-km border with Yunnan Province, China, and occupies a strategic position in terms of politics, economy, national defense and security, and foreign affairs. Its terrain is predominantly mountainous and hilly, while its climate varies according to altitude, creating favorable conditions for the development of agriculture, forestry, tourism, and the border-gate economy. These characteristics both facilitate exchanges and cooperation and promote the tradition of solidarity among ethnic groups, while also requiring strengthened protection of national border sovereignty, the narrowing of development gaps among regions, and the consolidation of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups under the new conditions.

3.1.2. Political and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Lao Cai is a land rich in historical, cultural, and revolutionary traditions, providing an important political and spiritual foundation for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. The political system has been consolidated under the two-tier local government model. The Provincial Party Organization comprises 103 subordinate Party organizations, 1,601 grassroots Party organizations, and 118,931 Party members; 100% of villages and hamlets have Party cells; and ethnic minority cadres, civil servants, and public employees account for 35.97%. Socio-economic development has continued to advance, with GRDP growing at an average annual rate of approximately 8.1% during the 2021-2025 period and average per capita income reaching VND 78 million per year. Digital transformation has been accelerated, contributing to improvements in people's living standards and generating additional resources for ethnic affairs. However, development disparities among regions, the persistently high poverty rate among ethnic minority people, and the need to stabilize the organizational apparatus following the merger continue to pose new tasks for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

3.1.3. Demographic, Ethnic, and Cultural Characteristics

Lao Cai Province has 1,029,896 ethnic minority people, accounting for 57.6% of its population, with 34 ethnic groups living together in the province; the largest among them are the Mong, Tay, Dao, Nung, and Thai ethnic groups. Diversity in ethnicity, language, customs, practices, and cultural identities constitutes an important resource for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups. The process of coexistence, interaction, and socio-economic development has contributed to strengthening cohesion among ethnic groups. At the same time, it requires the effective implementation of ethnic policies, the narrowing of development gaps, the preservation and promotion of ethnic cultural identities, the elimination of outdated customs and practices, and the consolidation of solidarity and unity within the province's multi-ethnic community.

3.2. CURRENT SITUATION OF BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT FROM 2015 TO THE PRESENT: ACHIEVEMENTS, LIMITATIONS, AND CAUSES

3.2.1. The Process of Leadership and Direction in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province from 2015 to the Present

The 2015-2020 period: Focusing on thoroughly grasping and concretizing the Party's guidelines on ethnic affairs, thereby laying the foundation for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The pre-merger period, from 2021 to before July 1, 2025: Strengthening the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in association with sustainable development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

The post-merger period, from July 1, 2025 to the present: Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to meet the development requirements of Lao Cai Province in the new era of national development.

3.2.2. Achievements and Their Causes in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought

3.2.2.1. Achievements

First, the awareness and responsibility of Party committees, authorities, the political system, and people of all ethnic groups regarding the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought have been markedly enhanced.

Second, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups has been consolidated and promoted across the political, economic, socio-cultural, and national defense and security spheres.

In the political sphere, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups has been consolidated through building a strong political system, promoting the people's democratic rights, and strengthening social consensus among ethnic groups.

In the economic sphere, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups has been consolidated and promoted through economic development, sustainable poverty reduction, the narrowing of development gaps among regions and ethnic groups, and improvements in the living standards of people of all ethnic groups.

In the socio-cultural sphere, the preservation and promotion of ethnic cultural identities, improvement of educational levels, and attention to the people's health and spiritual life have contributed to strengthening cohesion and consensus among ethnic communities.

In the sphere of national defense and security, building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups has been closely associated with protecting national border sovereignty, maintaining political stability, and building a firm "people's hearts and minds posture."

Third, the principles of equality, respect, and mutual assistance for common progress among ethnic groups have been ensured.

Fourth, ethnic policies have been implemented in a coordinated and effective manner, contributing to improving the material and spiritual lives of ethnic minority people.

Fifth, methods of communication, mobilization, and mass mobilization work have been renewed, thereby promoting the role of people of all ethnic groups and prestigious persons in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Sixth, the training, professional development, and deployment of cadres, particularly ethnic minority cadres, have been strengthened, contributing to greater effectiveness in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

3.2.2.2. Causes of the Achievements

The sound leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam regarding ethnic affairs and the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The Party Organization and authorities of Lao Cai Province have creatively applied and developed Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The coordinated engagement of the political system and the active participation of people of all ethnic groups in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The system of ethnic policies has been implemented in a coordinated and effective manner appropriate to ethnic characteristics and the practical conditions of the locality.

The longstanding revolutionary tradition, solidarity, and close bonds among ethnic groups in the province have been inherited and promoted under the new conditions.

Due attention has been paid to building the contingent of cadres, particularly ethnic minority cadres, and promoting the role of prestigious persons in ethnic communities.

The positive impacts of integration, digital transformation, and innovation in local governance models have been effectively harnessed.

3.2.3. Limitations and Their Causes in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province

3.2.3.1. Limitations

The awareness and capacity of a segment of cadres, Party members, and people of all ethnic groups to apply Ho Chi Minh Thought on great unity among ethnic groups remain uneven and have not yet fully met practical requirements.

Mass mobilization work, communication and advocacy, as well as the promotion of the roles of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and prestigious persons in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, still show limitations in certain localities.

The effectiveness of implementing certain guidelines, ethnic policies, and socio-economic development programs in ethnic minority areas remains uneven; development gaps among regions and ethnic groups are still considerable.

Investment resources and the quality of the contingent of cadres, particularly ethnic minority cadres at the grassroots level, have yet to meet the requirements of the new period.

Certain social issues persist in ethnic minority areas, affecting the sustainability of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

3.2.3.2. Causes of the Limitations

Difficult natural conditions, dispersed settlement patterns, and specific ethnic characteristics continue to pose significant challenges.

Development requirements in the new period are increasingly demanding, while leadership, direction, management, and implementation in certain fields and localities have not kept pace with practical requirements.

Resources allocated to investment and the implementation of ethnic policies remain insufficient in relation to the province's development requirements and strategic position.

The capacity, responsibility, and initiative of a segment of cadres, Party members, grassroots Party organizations, and the grassroots political system remain limited.

The adverse effects of the market economy, international integration, and social media, together with certain social factors and hostile forces' disruptive activities, have affected the sustainability of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

3.3. ISSUES ARISING IN BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE AT PRESENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT

The need to improve the living standards of people of all ethnic groups, narrow development gaps among regions and ethnic groups, and build the great unity bloc of ethnic groups is becoming increasingly urgent, while available resources and the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation have yet to meet practical requirements.

The requirements for enhancing the awareness and capacity of the actors involved in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to lead, direct, and apply Ho Chi Minh Thought on great unity among ethnic groups are increasingly demanding, while the quality of implementation in certain localities has yet to meet these requirements.

The need to promote the role of people of all ethnic groups as an important force and to bring into full play the strength of great unity within the community is

increasing, while the effectiveness of mass mobilization, communication, and advocacy remains limited in certain localities.

The requirement to build a streamlined grassroots political system operating with greater efficiency and effectiveness under the two-tier local government model is increasingly demanding, while the capacity, responsibility, and adaptability of grassroots cadres have yet to fully meet the requirements and tasks of the new situation.

Chapter 4
ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT THROUGH 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

4.1. FORECAST OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE BUILDING OF THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT THROUGH 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

4.1.1. Impacts of the International Situation

First, peace, cooperation, and development will remain major trends; however, strategic competition among major powers and global fluctuations are forecast to continue intensifying.

Second, science and technology, innovation, and digital transformation will develop rapidly, creating new drivers while simultaneously posing new challenges to the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Third, climate change, non-traditional security challenges, and global issues will continue to evolve in complex ways, exerting increasingly direct impacts on the lives of people of all ethnic groups and the sustainability of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

4.1.2. Impacts of the Domestic and Local Situation

First, the requirements for rapid and sustainable national development, together with the new development space of Lao Cai Province following the merger, will directly affect the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Second, the continued reform of the organizational apparatus of the political system and the implementation of the two-tier local government model will directly affect the effectiveness of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Third, ethnic and cultural diversity, together with changes in social life, will continue to exert profound impacts on cohesion among ethnic communities.

Fourth, the extent to which development gaps among regions and ethnic groups are narrowed and the living standards of people of all ethnic groups are improved will directly affect social consensus and the sustainability of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

4.2. ORIENTATIONS FOR BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT THROUGH 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

Consistently regard the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought as a strategic guideline and a fundamental, long-term task of Lao Cai Province.

Build the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province on the foundation of equality, respect, solidarity, and mutual assistance for common progress, in association with safeguarding the interests and improving the living standards of people of all ethnic groups.

Build the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province by closely linking economic development with maintaining socio-political stability, protecting national border sovereignty, and promoting cultural values.

4.3. SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING THE GREAT UNITY BLOC OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN LAO CAI PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HO CHI MINH THOUGHT THROUGH 2030, WITH A VISION TO 2045

4.3.1. Raising Awareness, Consolidating Trust, and Enhancing the Responsibility of the Forces Involved in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Lao Cai Province in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought

First, raise the awareness and responsibility of Party committees, authorities, cadres, civil servants, public employees, and people of all ethnic groups regarding the position and role of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the new period.

Second, consolidate the trust of people of all ethnic groups in the Party, the State, and the socialist regime; and strengthen social consensus in the context of the provincial merger and implementation of the two-tier local government model.

Third, enhance awareness of equality, solidarity, respect, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups, regarding these principles as the spiritual foundation of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province.

4.3.2. Improving and Effectively Implementing Ethnic Policies in Association with Socio-Economic Development, Ensuring Harmonious Interests among People of All Ethnic Groups, and Strengthening the Institutional Framework for Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

First, continue to improve and enhance the effectiveness of the ethnic policy system in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, appropriate to ethnic and regional characteristics and the development requirements of Lao Cai Province following the merger.

Second, closely link ethnic policies with sustainable socio-economic development, create stable livelihoods, narrow development gaps, and ensure equitable development opportunities for people of all ethnic groups.

Third, enhance the effectiveness of the political system in organizing, coordinating, inspecting, and supervising the implementation of ethnic policies, particularly at the grassroots level.

Fourth, recommend the early improvement of the institutional framework for ethnic affairs, thereby establishing a coordinated and consistent legal foundation for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in the new period.

4.3.3. Promoting Socio-Cultural Development, Education, Information and Communication, and Building a Healthy and Cohesive Environment within Ethnic Communities

First, preserve and promote the fine traditional cultural values of the ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province and develop a shared system of values as the spiritual foundation of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Second, develop education and healthcare and improve the quality of human resources in ethnic minority areas, thereby creating a social foundation for sustainable unity.

Third, promote information and communication, digital transformation, and social education in order to enhance mutual understanding, respect, and consensus among ethnic groups.

Fourth, build a healthy community cultural environment, promote self-governance institutions, and strengthen cohesion among ethnic communities.

Fifth, arouse revolutionary traditions and pride in the cultural identities of ethnic groups, while promoting the spirit of great unity and social responsibility within the community.

4.3.4. Arousing and Promoting the Internal Strength and Role of Ethnic Minority People, Particularly Ethnic Minority Cadres and Party Members and Prestigious Persons, in Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups

First, promote the right to mastery, self-governance, and community responsibility of ethnic minority people.

Second, arouse the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening and promote the endogenous resources of ethnic minority people in socio-economic development.

Third, improve the quality of ethnic minority cadres and Party members, particularly grassroots cadres in ethnic minority and border areas.

Fourth, promote the role of prestigious persons among ethnic minority communities in communication, mobilization, mediation, and the consolidation of community solidarity.

4.3.5. Consolidating and Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Grassroots Political System

First, enhance the leadership capacity of grassroots Party organizations in association with the effectiveness of management and administration by grassroots authorities in building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups, with greater decentralization and delegation of authority and clearly defined responsibilities.

Second, substantively renew mass mobilization work and grassroots communication and mobilization activities, and promote grassroots democracy in order to strengthen social consensus among people of all ethnic groups.

Third, promote the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in rallying, communicating with, and mobilizing people of all ethnic groups; strengthen social supervision and critique, thereby contributing to the consolidation and strengthening of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Fourth, accelerate digital transformation in the activities of the grassroots political system, improve the effectiveness of management and administration, and strengthen connections with people of all ethnic groups, thereby consolidating trust and social consensus.

4.3.6. Strengthening National Defense and Security and Proactively Defeating the Schemes of Hostile Forces

First, build a firm "people's hearts and minds posture," closely associating the building of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups with strengthening national defense and security and protecting national border sovereignty.

Second, promote the role of people of all ethnic groups in building the all-people national defense posture in association with the people's security posture and the all-people border defense posture throughout the province.

Third, enhance the awareness and sense of responsibility of people of all ethnic groups in protecting national border sovereignty, maintaining political security and social order and safety, and responding to non-traditional security challenges.

Fourth, proactively struggle against and defeat schemes and tactics that exploit ethnic, religious, and human rights issues to divide the great unity bloc of ethnic groups and cause socio-political instability.

Fifth, strengthen people-to-people diplomacy and build a border of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development, thereby contributing to a favorable environment for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

CONCLUSION

Building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups is an issue of strategic and enduring significance in Ho Chi Minh Thought and the revolutionary line of the Communist Party of Vietnam. For a country such as Vietnam, which is unified amid ethnic diversity, great unity among ethnic groups is not only a condition for ensuring national independence, unity, stability, and development, but also a tremendous endogenous source of strength in the cause of national construction and defense. Therefore, studying and applying Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups to the realities of a multi-ethnic, mountainous, and border locality such as Lao Cai Province is of profound theoretical and practical significance.

First, from a theoretical perspective, the thesis has systematized and clarified Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups as a comprehensive system of viewpoints encompassing the purposes, contents, subjects, forces, principles, and measures for building unity among ethnic groups within the Vietnamese national community. At the core of this system of viewpoints are ensuring equality among ethnic groups, respecting differences, safeguarding the practical interests of the people, promoting the people's right to mastery, consolidating their trust in the Party and the State, and working toward the goal of enabling all ethnic groups to develop together and share in the achievements of the revolution.

On that basis, the thesis has developed a theoretical framework for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought under current conditions. A key feature of this framework is an approach to building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups across the political, economic, socio-cultural, national defense and security spheres, as well as through the building of the political

system, while taking into account the influence of various objective and subjective factors. This approach contributes to further clarifying the value and applicability of Ho Chi Minh Thought in the country's new development context.

Second, from a practical perspective, the thesis has provided a relatively comprehensive analysis of the current situation of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province from 2015 to the present and identified new issues arising in the current development context. The research findings show that, under the leadership of the Provincial Party Organization, the great unity bloc of ethnic groups has continued to be consolidated and strengthened; the people's trust in the Party and the State has increased; ethnic policies have been implemented in a relatively coordinated manner; the material and spiritual lives of the people have gradually improved; ethnic cultural identities have been preserved and promoted; national defense and security and national border sovereignty have been maintained; and the grassroots political system has been progressively consolidated.

Alongside these achievements, the thesis also identifies limitations in the process of building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province. The awareness and capacity of a segment of cadres, Party members, and people of all ethnic groups to apply Ho Chi Minh Thought are not yet sufficiently profound; communication, mobilization, and mass mobilization work remain limited in certain localities; the implementation effectiveness of some ethnic policies and socio-economic development programs remains uneven; development gaps among regions and ethnic groups are still considerable; the quality of the contingent of cadres, particularly ethnic minority cadres at the grassroots level, has yet to fully meet requirements; and certain social issues in ethnic minority areas continue to affect the sustainability of the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The thesis also clarifies the new requirements for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province following the merger and under the two-tier local government model. The expansion of development space, restructuring of the administrative apparatus, strengthening of regional linkages, acceleration of digital transformation, international integration, and protection of national border sovereignty create new opportunities while simultaneously imposing higher requirements for harmonizing interests, consolidating trust, strengthening social consensus, and promoting the role of people of all ethnic groups.

Third, on the basis of theoretical research and practical review, the thesis identifies orientations and proposes a system of solutions for building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province in accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought through 2030, with a vision to 2045. These solutions focus on raising awareness and consolidating the trust and responsibility of relevant forces; improving and effectively implementing ethnic policies in association with socio-

economic development; promoting socio-cultural development, education, information and communication; arousing and promoting the internal strength and role of ethnic minority people, particularly ethnic minority cadres and Party members and prestigious persons; consolidating the grassroots political system; strengthening national defense and security; and defeating schemes aimed at dividing the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

Based on the research findings, the thesis also initially elucidates the scientific and practical grounds for the continued improvement of the institutional framework for ethnic affairs, which should be founded on Ho Chi Minh Thought concerning equality, solidarity, respect, and mutual assistance for common development among ethnic groups. This also constitutes an important ideological foundation for the Party to apply, develop, and concretize into guidelines and policies on ethnic affairs appropriate to the requirements of the current period. Accordingly, the thesis proposes further research toward the formulation and promulgation of a Law on Ethnic Affairs, with a view to more fully institutionalizing Ho Chi Minh Thought and the Party's viewpoints on ethnic affairs and establishing a unified and coordinated legal framework for implementing ethnic policies and building and consolidating the great unity bloc of ethnic groups.

The research findings affirm that building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups in Lao Cai Province at present is both a strategic, fundamental, and long-term task and an urgent requirement of the development process. Creatively applying Ho Chi Minh Thought to the province's specific conditions not only contributes to consolidating the people's trust, strengthening social consensus, maintaining political stability, ensuring national defense and security, and firmly protecting national border sovereignty, but also arouses development aspirations, promotes the endogenous strength of people of all ethnic groups, and generates important momentum for rapid and sustainable development.

The research findings of the thesis contribute to further supplementing and clarifying the theoretical and practical value of Ho Chi Minh Thought on building the great unity bloc of ethnic groups under new conditions; at the same time, they provide additional scientific grounds for formulating, improving, and implementing guidelines and policies on ethnic affairs in Lao Cai Province as well as in mountainous and border localities with similar conditions. More broadly, the thesis further affirms the enduring vitality of Ho Chi Minh Thought on great unity among ethnic groups and demonstrates that promoting the strength of unity among ethnic groups constitutes an important foundation for developing Lao Cai Province toward becoming green, harmonious, distinctive, and happy, thereby contributing, together with the whole country, to the successful cause of building and defending the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the nation's new era of development.

THE AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

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4. Le Thi Hue (2026), "Building the Great Unity Bloc of Ethnic Groups in Accordance with Ho Chi Minh Thought through the 'Grassroots Communication and Mobilization' Model in Lao Cai Province", *Youth Journal*, No. 106, August 1, 2026.