

Content and Methods of Building the Communist Party of Vietnam on Ethics

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Abstract: *During 93 years of its construction, growth and development, the Communist Party of Vietnam has led our people to gain great historic achievements. The current international and domestic context which intertwines among opportunities, advantages, difficulties and challenges requires continuing to build a clean and strong Party in terms of politics, ideology, morality, organization and staff. “Building the Party on ethics” is considered a new highlighted point.*

Keywords: *Building the Communist Party of Vietnam on ethics, building and rectifying the Party, contents and methods.*

Building the Party on ethics constitutes a very important content in building the Communist Party of Vietnam, which is the theoretical inheritance and development of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the new situation. Thoroughly grasping President Ho Chi Minh’s views on building revolutionary ethics, during the leadership process, the Party has always attached importance to Party building, especially the issue of training revolutionary ethics of cadres and Party members. Entering a new stage of development of the country, facing the need to build and rectify the Party, improve the Party’s leadership capacity and combativeness, especially in the situation of “A part of cadres and Party members are not taking their pioneering, exemplary role; The deterioration in political ideology, ethics, and lifestyle, manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” internally are still complicated”⁽¹⁾, the issue of education and training Revolutionary ethics for cadres and Party members further concerns the Party. Especially, the 12th National Congress affirmed the goal: “*Building a clean and strong Party in politics, ideology, organization and ethics*”⁽²⁾. Documents of the 12th Party Congress mention the word “ethics” more than 40 times, but never once mention the content of building the Party

on ethics. This shows that building the Party on ethics is a new content, only recently emerged. At the 13th National Congress, the Party continued to emphasize: “In the coming years, we must pay special attention to and further promote comprehensive Party building and rectification in terms of politics, ideology, and ethics, organization and cadres”⁽³⁾. At the same time, the Party determined to: “Focus on building the Party on *ethics*, actively fighting against bureaucracy, corruption, waste, and negativity; effectively prevent and repel the deterioration of political ideology, ethics, lifestyle, and manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” internally while promoting learning and following Ho Chi Minh’s thought, ethics, and style. The responsibility of setting an example for cadres and Party members according to the motto that *the higher the position, the more exemplary he/she must be*”⁽⁴⁾ also needs to be promoted. Clearly defining the content and methods of building the Party on ethics is very necessary, contributing to clarifying an important content of Party building, supplementing and developing the theory of internal Party building.

1. Content of building the Party on ethics

Building the Party in terms of ethics comes from objective requirements and urgent demands from the reality of more than 93 years of building, fighting and growing up of the Party. Before the 12th National Congress, the Party itself and society often only discussed the issue of education and training in revolutionary ethics for cadres and Party members, focusing on studying and following Ho Chi Minh’s thought, ethics and style into a regularly and widely organized movement. The 12th Party Congress created a new turning point in the awareness, theoretical thinking and actions of the entire Party, raising the issue of building the Party on ethics. Thus, when talking about building the Party in terms of ethics, it is imperative to approach it from two perspectives: the ethics of the Party, the party organization and the ethics of cadres and Party members.

*** Content of building the Party’s ethics**

Firstly, developing correct guidelines, policies and regimes for the people and country; organizing serious, effective and practical implementation; not introducing guidelines and policies that damage the people, hinder development, for the sake of a group of interests.

Secondly, building a scientific, compact, economical and effective party apparatus organization; overcoming the situation of a cumbersome organization and overlapping functions and tasks to both improve leadership effectiveness and efficiency while not causing waste. Focusing on successfully implementing the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee on a number of issues on continued innovation and organizational arrangement of the streamlined and political system, and tasks and solutions of the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress on this issue, because the Party's streamlined and effective organizational apparatus is the focal point and center to gather and unify activities of organizations in the political system.

Thirdly, building a team of clean and strong cadres and Party members without bureaucracy, corruption, or waste to become truly loyal "servants" of the People, trusted, loved and respected by the People. Continuing to implement the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee on strengthening Party building and rectification. Preventing and repelling the deterioration of political ideology, ethics, lifestyle, and manifestations of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" internally; Implementing Resolution of the 7th Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee on focusing on building a team of cadres at all levels, especially at the strategic level, with sufficient qualities, capacity and prestige, on par with their tasks. Carrying out tasks and solutions of the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress focusing on building a team of cadres at all levels and the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 13th Party Central Committee on strengthening and building the Party's grassroots organization and improving quality of Party members in the new period.

Fourthly, following a scientific leadership method that not only ensures the leadership of the Party, but also strongly promotes the role of the State and organizations in the political system, ensuring the true mastery of the People. The Party does not make excuses, does not improperly assume others' assigned task; does not work with superficial democracy.

Fifthly, controlling power and clarifying responsibility. Merits and sins are clear, fair, and public. Disciplining strictly and promptly, with no "non-touched zones" for violations.

Sixthly, ensuring democracy, unity and solidarity within the Party, practice self-criticism and criticism seriously, without any regard or covering for each other's shortcomings. Openly admitting mistakes and shortcomings shows the diligence and fighting spirit of a true revolutionary party.

Seventhly, closely attaching to the People, respecting and listening to the People. This is the root of the Party's strength, and one of the prerequisites for the Party to maintain its leadership role in the face of attacks and distortions from hostile and reactionary forces.

Eighthly, strictly implementing the Party's principles of operating within the framework of the Constitution and the law. Party committees at all levels need to concretize this principle, develop implementation regulations and strictly enforce the regulations, maintaining order; Strengthening inspection and supervision and strictly discipline violating organizations, cadres and Party members. There are no "non-touched areas", group interests, privileges, favor or nepotism; create favorable conditions for socio-political organizations and the People to supervise implementation.

**** Content of building the ethics of cadres and Party members***

Firstly, loyalty to the Party, to the Country, and to the People. According to Ho Chi Minh, loyalty to the country, the Party, revolutionary ideals and piety to the people are the basic contents of the revolutionary ethics of Party members. Revolutionary ethics requires that first of all, cadres and Party members must have passionate patriotism, absolute loyalty to the Fatherland, to the class, and to revolutionary ideals. They must be determined to strive for the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation, placing the interests of the Party, the class, and the nation above personal interests. Only by being enlightened about communist ideals, by being loyal and determined to strive for the revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation during our lives will we have the courage to sacrifice ourselves for the great cause and train ourselves to follow the noble way of life and revolutionary ethics that Uncle Ho taught: "being loyal to the country, pious to the people, every task will be completed, every difficulty will be overcome, and every enemy will be defeated"⁽⁵⁾. That vast and noble loyalty and piety are manifested in the will and lifelong action for the

country to be completely independent, the people to be truly the masters, everyone to have food to eat, clothes to wear, and everyone to be educated, to ensure the motto of rich people, strong country, democratic, equitable and civilized society. Therefore, each cadre and Party member needs to be deeply aware and clearly recognize their responsibility in building the Party on ethics, always remaining steadfast in the face of all difficulties and challenges, promoting revolutionary moral qualities, loyal to the country, pious to the people, to put the interests of the nation and the people first; Strictly implement the rules on what Party members are not allowed to do according to Regulation No. 37-QD/TW dated October 25, 2021 of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Secondly, truly being pioneers and exemplary models of diligence, frugality, integrity, righteousness, public-spiritedness and selflessness; talk the talk, walk the walk; without corruption or waste. Courageously protecting what is right, fighting against what is wrong. To reach the goal of rich people and a strong country, creative labor must be accompanied with diligence, frugality, integrity, righteousness, public-spiritedness and selflessness, first of all for Party members with high positions and power. If a person has a high position and power, he/she may easily take advantage of position to embezzle, waste, and violate the people's right to mastery. The irresponsible, passive, parasitic attitude, only concerning about personal enrichment, only concerning about personal favor and prosperity, disregarding public opinion and the law, corruption - a "national scale evil" – are the enemies of revolutionary morality, causing many harms to the cause of building and defending the Fatherland, damaging the reputation of the Party and the reputation of Party members. These actions need to be thoroughly condemned and fought against to eliminate, cleaning up the contingent of cadres and Party members.

Thirdly, having a high sense of responsibility for work and completing assigned tasks well. The human value scale in society is not evaluated by high or low position, lots of money, lots of wealth, but by useful contributions to the Party and the People through specific assigned tasks, creative working and tireless dedication to noble beliefs and principles of life, to the Fatherland, to the people, to workplace and working units.

Cadres and Party members, no matter what position they are holding, need to be exemplary in their work, bringing all their enthusiasm and intelligence to make their own and collective working more and more productive and effective in all areas of social life, helping the country escape the risk of falling behind economically, striving to soon become a modern socialist, rich, strong, prosperous, happy, democratic, equitable, civilized Vietnam country.

Fourthly, strictly complying with the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's policies and laws, and well performing civic responsibilities. Cadres and Party members work and have activities in the Party organization, following the Party's organizational, living and operating principles: principles of democratic centralism, solidarity and unity, self-criticism and criticism. The Party operates within the framework of the Constitution and the law, the Party is closely attached to the People, and especially, it must always preserve unity within the Party like preserving the pupils of its eyes as President Ho Chi Minh taught. In the conditions of the ruling Party, revolutionary ethics requires that cadres and Party members not only have a sense of discipline within the Party but also respect the discipline of the State and people's organizations and workplace. It is necessary to strengthen relations with the People, actively help the People in their places of residence according to Regulation No. 213-QD/TW dated January 2, 2020 of the Politburo on the responsibilities of Party members on regularly maintaining contact with Party organizations and people in the place of residence.

Fifthly, taking care of and being close to the masses. Cadres and Party members must be truly pioneering and have a sense of responsibility before the People. Taking the freedom, prosperity, and happiness of the People as the ideal and motto of action. Being heartfelt to the miseries of the People; being truly close to the people, living in the hearts of the people, "mingling with the masses into one block, having a trust in the masses, understanding the masses, listening to the opinions of the masses"⁽⁶⁾.

2. Methods of building the Party on ethics

Firstly, by popularizing and educating revolutionary ethics for the entire Party. Popularizing and educating revolutionary ethics for the entire

Party is the process of making each cadre, Party member, and each Party organization fully and deeply aware of the meaning of revolutionary ethics, making the system of standard values of society, the standards and norms of Party members penetrate deeply into the hearts and minds of every cadre and Party member. That is the process of forming exemplary personality qualities of Party members. It is imperative to fight against, overcome, and eliminate bad habits; fight against and criticize manifestations contrary to revolutionary ethics.

Secondly, by the self-improvement, training, and exemplariness of each cadre and Party member. At the 13th Congress, the Party emphasized: “Raising awareness of self-improving, training and practicing revolutionary ethics”⁽⁷⁾. To have revolutionary ethics, each cadre and Party member must regularly practice, study, and improve themselves to raise their political bravery, ethics, and lifestyle with the motto of lifelong service and tireless devotion to the Party, the Fatherland and the People. Self-improvement and moral training of cadres and Party members is carried out at all times, in all places, in all practical activities, in all relationships with organizations and individuals, and in private life as well as in community activities.

Thirdly, by managing cadres and Party members. Through mechanisms, rules and regulations, responsible agencies and organizations can adjust each person’s behavior, attitude, style and lifestyle, to grasp and evaluate performance results and moral qualities of each cadre and Party member. In the management of the Party’s cadres and Party members, there have been many strict management regulations and rules, including contents that contribute to building and preserving ethics and lifestyle for cadres and Party members, such as: stipulating standards and qualifications for Party members, stipulating that Party members must strictly comply with the law, stipulating the responsibilities of the leader, stipulating things that Party members are not allowed to do.

Fourthly, by well implementing Party building in terms of politics, ideology, organization and personnel. These are two sides of an issue, closely linked to each other. The content of building the Party on ethics such as: building correct guidelines, policies, for the people, for the country

and organizing successful implementation; building a scientific, compact, economical, and effective Party apparatus organization without causing costs or waste; Building a team of clean and strong cadres and Party members must be done and achieved through building the Party in terms of politics, ideology, organization and personnel. Current practice shows that the cause of all political, ideological, organizational and personnel weaknesses comes from ethical weaknesses, and at the same time, weak organization, personnel, weak politics and ideology are the opportunity for those with poor ethics to infiltrate the Party's ranks and a segment of degenerate cadres and Party members who have not been detected and eliminated is one of the causes of moral degradation.

Fifthly, by building the State and the organizations of the political system to be clean, strong, and operated effectively and efficiently. Reality shows that it is impossible to build a clean and strong Party in the conditions of a bureaucratic, undemocratic State, a contingent of corrupt civil servants, and a weak union system... Therefore, building the Party on ethics must be done through building the State and the organizations of the political system that are clean, strong, and operated effectively and efficiently. The role of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in building the Party on ethics is manifested through supervising the self-improvement, moral and lifestyle training by cadres and Party members. The purity of the public apparatus and the organizations in the political system is the environment and condition for the Party organization, each cadre and Party member to self-improve, strive for, and preserve moral and ethical qualities, and a shining example for the masses to follow.

Sixthly, by creating a healthy environment in the Party and society. Each Party member operates in the Party organization, so the political environment, ideology, organization, and personnel in the Party have a great influence on the moral qualities of Party members. On the other hand, the Party is a part of society, each cadre and Party member lives and operates in a social environment. Therefore, to build the Party on ethics in a sustainable way, it is necessary to build healthy social relationships; resolutely fight to eliminate from the Party organization and State agencies manifestations of heartlessness, bureaucracy, authoritativeness, arrogance

and acts of corruption, opportunism, pragmatism and abuse of power to pursue personal interests, group interests...

Seventhly, by the Party's inspection, supervision and discipline work. The Party's inspection, supervision, and disciplinary work has the effect of educating, warning, deterring, and encouraging Party members to practice revolutionary ethics. Through the Party's inspection, supervision and disciplinary work, typical examples of ethics and lifestyle of cadres, Party members and Party organizations are discovered to replicate and set examples. It is necessary to promptly detect signs of deterioration in ethics, lifestyle, and loopholes in the Party's guidelines and policies to promptly adjust, supplement, and perfect accordingly.

In summary, building the Party on ethics is an important content in building the Communist Party of Vietnam, along with building the Party on politics, ideology, organization and personnel, ensuring a clean and stable Party, with high leadership capacity and fighting power, deserving to be the vanguard of the working class, working people and the entire nation, deserving the trust, love, choice and support from all Vietnamese people./.

(1), (3), (4), (7) Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th National Party Congress*, Truth National Political Publishing House, Volume 2, pp. 223, 180, 41, 184.

(2) Communist Party of Vietnam (2016), *Documents of the 12th National Party Congress*, Party Central Committee Office, H., p.202.

(5), (6) Ho Chi Minh (2011), *Complete works*, National Political Publishing House, Volume 14, pp. 619, 609.