

# BUILDING AND PROMOTING THE ROLE OF PRESTIGIOUS PEOPLE AMONG ETHNIC MINORITIES LIVING IN THE LAOS - VIETNAM BORDER AREAS IN THE NEW PERIOD

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*Prestigious people in ethnic groups are a special mass force, to be an important support of the authorities at all levels in mobilizing the masses to implement the Party and State's policy lines in the ethnic area to contribute to ensuring security and order, building and developing the economy, culture and society in ethnic minority areas in general and in Laos - Vietnam border areas in particular. Over the past years, the Party and State of the Laos People's Democratic Republic (DPR) have always paid special attention to a team of prestigious people among ethnic minorities, in which special attention to prestigious people among ethnic minorities living in the Laos - Vietnam border area. Therefore, the article mentions the views of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party on promoting the role of prestigious people in the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area in the new period.*

**Keywords:** The role of prestigious people; Ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area; Laos People's Democratic Republic.

## 1. Introduction

Laos People's Democratic Republic is a country with a small population, located in the middle of the Asia Pacific region, bordering with some countries such as the east borders with Vietnam, the north borders with China, the south borders with Cambodia, the west borders with Thailand and the northwest borders with Myanmar. The eastern border alone has a total length of 2,337,459km. In particular, the road border is 2,026,667km, the waterway border is 310,792km and there are 792 border markers as single small landmarks made of granite.

Prestigious people in all ethnic groups are a special mass force, with a particularly important position and role in ensuring security and order and building, developing economy, culture and society in ethnic minority areas in general and in Laos - Vietnam border areas in particular. In the current context, especially in the period of global integration, hostile forces, domestic and foreign reactionaries always find sophisticated and cunning ways to gather anti-sabotage and disturbing forces to destabilize the politics of the country. Therefore, it is very important to evaluate the role and position

of the prestigious people for ethnic affairs and the implementation of ethnic policies in the period of industrialization and modernization to be very important, helping the Party Committees and local authorities increasingly pay attention and direct the better implementation of this work.

With the drastic guidance of the Government of Laos and the Government of Vietnam, the synchronous implementation of ministries and central branches, the attention and guidance of the Party committees and local governments today, certainly, the work for the prestigious people in ethnic minorities will be improved one step further, contributing to the construction of ethnic minority areas in the Laos - Vietnam border areas with increasingly rich, beautiful, socio-economic development, stable security and order, strong national defense.

## 2. Research overview

In recent years, in Laos and Vietnam, there have been many studies on prestigious people among ethnic minorities, including some typical research works such as: Speech of Bun Nhang Vo La Chit at the 3rd National Conference of Prestigious

People in Vientiane Capital, December 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2018; Nguyen Manh Quang (Chairman, 2018), Ministerial-level Project of the Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front, “Situation and solutions for building, fostering and promoting prestigious people in ethnic minority areas in the northern mountainous provinces”; Nguyen Van Thang (Chairman, 2019), Provincial - level Project of Binh Phuoc Province Department of Science and Technology “The role of village elders and prestigious people in ethnic minority areas”; Nguyen Hong Thai (Chairman, 2019), Institute of Security Science (Ministry of Police), Provincial -level Project “The role of prestigious people in ethnic minorities in Gia Lai province, contributing to ensuring security and order”; Hoang Huu Binh (Chairman, 2019), Ministerial-level Project of the Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front, “The role of prestigious people in ethnic minorities”; Institute of Ethnic Minority Affairs (2014), Basic-level project “Researching the situation and proposing solutions to promote the role of village elders, prestigious people in ethnic minority areas in Kon Tum province”;... In general, the research works have proposed a number of solutions to promote the role of prestigious people in ethnic minorities; mobilization, implementation of regimes and policies to encourage, foster, guide and promote the role of prestigious people in ethnic minority groups toward prestigious people. Creating favorable conditions for using and promoting the role of prestigious people with important social, political and humanitarian significance to contribute significantly to the political system in ethnic affairs in localities.

### 3. Research methods

The article uses a number of methods including primary and secondary data collection methods and analytical synthesis methods.

### 4. Research results

#### ***4.1. Basic knowledge about promoting the role of prestigious people of ethnic groups living in the Laos – Vietnam border areas***

In a broad sense, the ethnic is a unified community of people, there is a common state, a territory, an economy, a socio-political regime, a common and unified language and culture. In this sense, mentioning to ethnic is referring to a nation - a nation or an ethnic - a nation. Nation – ethnic is an independent, unified and sovereign nation; the ethnic is not only a community of people or a multi-ethnic community but also an economic, political, social and cultural community associated with the State and certain historical conditions.

In a narrow sense, an ethnic refers to a specific ethnic group. Ethnic-ethnic group is a community with a common name, a language, linked together by the values of cultural activities forming ethnic characteristics, sharing a common sense of self-awareness of ethnic minorities” (Lat, 1993, p. 3).

Prestigious people are someone who has a relationship with the masses, they are trusted, respected, respected by the masses and can bring confidence to everyone; having knowledge about one or more fields, their voices and actions are capable of influencing and controlling a part of the masses to obey to a certain range.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of Prestigious People held in Vientiane Capital on December 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Laos Revolutionary People’s Party had a speech to all the prestigious representatives of all ethnic groups, the content of the speech emphasized “Prestigious people refers to the elderly who have a lot of experience in social activities in all fields and receive the trust, respect and devotion from the community, people at different levels or in other words, the role of prestigious people are born from trust, a very natural trust from the masses, people but not born from any power or duty” (Chit, 2018, p. 11).

Decision No. 271/TWMT of June 12<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, of the Central Committee of the Laos National Construction Front gave the concept of prestige people among ethnic groups, at the same time also defined standards and conditions to become a prestige people as follows:

*Firstly*, prestigious people in ethnic groups “are individuals who have knowledge, professional ability in certain fields and who have a lot of lessons and experiences that can guide, impart knowledge transfer to the sector, community and localities to implement reaching high benefits, who receive the trust and respect of the masses in a certain scope”.

*Secondly*, if considered from the psychological perspective, promoting the role of prestigious people in ethnic groups to be “the collection of all the most valuable lessons, advice in production labor and life of a group and a community” (Xay, 2008, p. 30-31). Therefore, promoting the role of the prestige people among ethnic groups is the collection of all the lessons and useful advice of the prestigious people in the ethnic groups with the highest value in production labor by manual and brain labor and the life of the prestigious people among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area.

#### ***4.2. The importance and necessity of promoting the role of prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos – Vietnam border areas***

Promoting the role of prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border area with importance to the performance of the Party and the State's political missions as follows:

*Firstly*, to make the levels Party's opinions, lines, policies, resolutions and directives turn into real action. This is the necessity of individuals who organize the implementation, if not self-awareness or self-awareness is not high, then it is necessary to work to mobilize ethnic groups to organize the implementation of those problems, but if relying only on cadre to do the advocacy work, it will be impossible, this cannot be spread to every individual and family. Therefore, having to rely on prestigious people in the community of ethnic groups, they will be the ones who mobilize the people themselves to implement the Party and the State's guidelines and policies.

*Secondly*, promoting the role of prestigious people among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area is a necessity in developing education, preserving and promoting the good culture and customs of all ethnic groups, in expanding the health network to the local ethnic groups's base and strengthening the welfare - society will have to rely on the prestigious people who are propagandists and mobilizing relatives, people to organize the implementation of the above work in an effective manner.

*Thirdly*, promoting the role of prestigious people among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area is of importance and the need in strengthening security - defense and preserving order, safety in rural and remote areas where all ethnic groups living.

*Fourthly*, promoting the role of prestigious people among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area is of importance and the need in poverty reduction, environmental protection and preservation, jobs for children of ethnic minorities...

#### ***4.3. The opinions of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party on promoting the role of prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas***

Right from the beginning of the revolution, the Laos Revolutionary People's Party had specified specific opinions for prestigious people. In the political platform of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party in 1955, it was affirmed that "for patriotic and prestigious people, the elders and village chiefs must have appropriate policies" (Han, 1985, p. 6, 135) and in the Resolution of the Second Congress of the Lao Revolutionary People's Party

set out 11 opinions, which emphasizing: "Raising the flag of democratic nationalism, gathering people of all ethnic groups, all strata, all religions, genders, age groups, people with patriotic, prestigious people and widespread progress, forming a solid mass of solidarity". At the same time, the Politburo of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party also issued Resolution No. 03/BCT of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1981 on ethnic minority affairs, which emphasized: "Interesting in education and fostering politics and comply with policies for patriarchs, promoting their role in gathering solidarity among people within the clan, among ethnic groups and mobilizing their descendants to participate in preserving and protecting villages, homeland".

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1992, the Central Committee of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party issued a resolution on ethnic minority affairs in the new period, in which some sections emphasized "Must pay special attention to fostering education. politics and proper implementation of policies for the patriarchs, the elders, the village chiefs, promoting their role in gathering solidarity among people within the clan, among ethnic groups and mobilizing their descendants to participate for preserving and building villages and homeland. At the same time, it is also necessary to review and collect the list of cadres of ethnic minorities in retirement, war invalids and martyrs's families, interesting in well implementing the policies for them". At the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Central Committee of the Laos Revolutionary People's Party, the 8<sup>th</sup> session had a Resolution specialized on ethnic and religious affairs, which clearly stated: "Continue to promote the role of prestigious people, patriarchs, the village elders, chiefs of ethnic minorities so that they can participate more in the education, fostering and solving poverty" (The Communist Party, 2007, p. 6).

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Central Executive Committee of the Laos National Construction Front held in Pac Xe City, Cham Pa Sac province, Bun Nhang Vo Lat Chit, Member of Politburo, The Standing Secretariat of the Central Party Committee, Vice President of the Laos People's Democratic Republic (PDR) had a speech before the Conference: "The Laos National Construction Front Committee must firmly grasp the people mass, and grassroots organizations, fostering them, relationships, close attachment with senior officials, village elders, village chiefs and prestigious people to mobilize them to become a banner to gather solidarity, being a good role model for the younger generation to follow, interested in communicating and delivering lessons about revolutionary practices, contributing to Party building, building

young cadre, fostering revolutionary traditions to the younger generation” (Chit, 2013).

Chum Ma Ly Xay Nhon Son, former General Secretary of the Party Central Committee, President of the Laos People’s Democratic Republic, had a speech at the National Conference of Prestigious people in 2015, in which he emphasized: “The most outstanding feature from the ancient time up to now is that the Laos people consist of many ethnic groups, among which there are elderly people who have a role and prestige in the village, the community or the locality. On the one hand, the history of the birth of the vast and powerful Lan Xang Kingdom, which was unified and built by King Pha Ngum Ma Ha Lat was unified in 1353 and originated from the gathering of small and large Laos lands, where the lords and rulers governed to form a united Lan Xang Kingdom and existed until the founding of Laos today. At the same time, in each generation, each period of existence and development of the nation has always individuals - prestigious people including the elderly who are the pillars of the village, the homeland, the patriarchs, outstanding people, heroes and social activists who have a direct role to society can become the flag, the core of the gathering of the united solidarity of the people in the community, locality and genders”.

In Decision No. 271/TWMT of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 of the Central Committee of the Lao National Construction Front also stipulates conditions and criteria for becoming prestigious people among ethnic people, specifically as follows.

*Firstly*, the criteria to become prestigious people among ethnic groups as follows: (1) Having strong patriotism, strong democracy and loyalty to the organization, believing in the Party’s lines, policies and leadership and being concerned, worried about joy, happiness, suffering as well as the people lives of the Laos ethnic groups. (2) Having broad solidarity, respect and love for the people of the Lao ethnic groups, without distinction, without division of ethnic groups, caste and beliefs, with an ardent spirit towards national development, creation and be sensitive to the Party’s comprehensive and principles of innovation policy, having a spirit of pure sacrifice towards the Party’s ideals, the Fatherland and the people: Exemplary pioneers in implementing resolutions and directives; implementing and respecting laws and regulations of the State; contributing positively to preserving, protecting and building, developing the country, having a career and a healthy lifestyle. (3) Having knowledge in a specific field, having practical experience, understanding of the Party’s

guidelines and policies, the State’s policies, laws and regulations, being capable of instilling and firmly grasping the Party’s lines and undertakings, policies, constitutions, laws and socio-economic development plans of the State to disseminate, propagate, foster and encourage officials, soldier, police, prestigious people, ethnic groups, religious believers and all genders, age groups in their professional fields, fields of charge as well as residence place to promote protecting, building and developing the country in association with the patriotic emulation movement and development.

(4) Persons with roles in fields such as politics, economy, culture - society, science - technology, law, ethnicity, religious believers, security, defense and foreign affairs; to be who receive the trust, respect and trust from the masses, the people, to be who are impartial to contribute, consult, resolve and mediate conflicts in society, community and localities. (5) People of Lao descent living and working abroad are those who are patriotic, love their homeland, support the guidelines and policies of the Laos Revolutionary People’s Party, policies and laws of the State of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, having the role in fostering education, gathering solidarity and mobilizing people of Lao descent living abroad to return to contribute material and spiritual contributions to national construction and development, to be a person with regular cooperation and relations with the Laos Embassy or Consulate General of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in the host country.

*Secondly*, the conditions to become prestigious people among ethnic groups as follows: (1) To be a retired cadre who used to hold positions of State agencies, Party organizations, the Laos National Construction Front, mass organizations, security and defense agencies at Central and local levels. (2) To be a member of the Lao National Construction Front and former the Lao National Construction Front at all levels, the wife of the present Party - State leader and the wife of the former Party - State leader at Central and local level. (3) To be cadres, civil servants, soldiers, police and people of all ethnic groups - branches of ethnic people in all branches and fields such as: National heroes, soldiers, intellectuals, scientists, writers, excellent poets, people’s artists, elite artists, people’s teachers, experts, people’s doctors, businessmen, teachers, senior diplomats, monks, healers, preacher, typical farmers in commodity production, workers are the core or flag of each nation. (4) Laos National Construction Front Commissioner is representative of people of Lao descent living abroad and Laos people living and working abroad, who are the

key flag, elderly people of each ethnic group participating in Conferences of prestigious people at all levels including women and men, which can include many different ethnic groups. (5) To be people with a public opinion, having enthusiasm in activities and participating in the cause of preserving, protecting, building and developing the country ” (The Central Committee of the Laos National Construction Front, 2018, pp. 1-3).

*Thirdly*, selecting people who meet the criteria and conditions to participate in training and retraining in provinces, districts and ethnic minority areas. At the same time, selecting prestigious people among ethnic groups, young and progressive people regularly work with the Laos Embassy and Consulate General in the host country; prestigious people representing the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area attended the district and provincial Party congresses and attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Nationwide Conference of Prestigious People in 1981, 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in 2015 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2018. Not only that, every month, every year, the district, provincial and central leaders come to meet and talk with prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas and through the above activities have made the prestigious people of all ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas more and more aware of the Party’s guidelines and policies, laws, socio-economic development plans of the State, Party Committees and local People’s Committees.

#### ***4.4. Situation of prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border areas***

Prestigious people among ethnic groups in the Laos People’s Democratic Republic currently include the following basic components:

- To be the elderly, retired cadres, politicians, scientists, writers, poets, prestigious people, patriarchs, village elders, village chiefs.

- They are the family heads or patriarchs of a number of ethnic groups living in the Laos – Vietnam border areas, to be individuals in the clan - including many close and responsible families.

- Individuals engaged in professional activities who have received the trust and confidence, such as: healers, fortune tellers, monks, priests have conducted activities to treat the sick people or to help people escape from illness and have become the people to be trusted, worshiped and respected in the village, in their ethnic group and other ethnic groups.

- Individuals with a high level of knowledge, understanding of the Party’s guidelines, the State’s

policies and laws in ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas and receive trust and worship from ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas.

- Individuals who are heads of socio-political organizations,... who play a prestigious role in a trusted and respected social community, that is the Lao National Construction Front’s Commissioners at levels, local officials, public servants and individuals in the military forces, police,... which are straightforward, honest and innocent towards the people, to be trusted, respected their words by the people.

In the life of the ethnic community, prestigious people play a significant role in all matters of social life. In various social institutions, prestigious people have shown different influence level. Prestigious people in the ethnic groups residing and living along the Laos - Vietnam border areas have a solidarity tradition, mutual affection, mutual assistance, at the same time there is both a tradition of mobilizing the people, ethnic groups on both sides of Truong Son mountain range together making a revolution against the common enemy. Especially since having the leading Revolutionary Party up to now, the solidarity and unity between ethnic groups and the movement to fight against foreign invaders along the border between the two countries have close ties with each other and form a battle alliance. Prestigious people among the ethnic groups on both sides of Truong Son mountain range shared their hardships with each other for the cause of liberating the two nations from the foreign invaders. The solidarity of harmony, the unlimited love for each other without limitations because the revolutionary careers of the two countries are vividly expressed through the legendary Ho Chi Minh road, some villages, some communes and one number of districts of Laos has become the revolutionary base of the Vietnam Government of the Democratic Republic in preparation for liberating the South. When the South of Vietnam was also completely liberated and reunited with Vietnam linking a strip on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975, the prestigious people of all ethnic groups of Vietnam living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas continuing to help and educate, nurture Lao people living in the Laos - Vietnam border area to participate in the democratic and national revolution, helping Laos to be liberated and unified on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1975. The immortal relationships between the prestigious people of the ethnic groups as well as the great relationships between the ethnic groups living in the Laos – Vietnam border areas, have become poems, songs, immortal story. In the song Sai Chay Lao - Vietnam (roughly translated

as Friendship of Laos - Vietnam) of the People's Artist Hum Phan Lat Ta Na Vong has an extremely moving description about that relationship: The two countries Laos – Vietnam are likened as the eyes, hands, feet of a human being, Laos - Vietnam united, fighting together in a trench, suffering and sharing together, always have each other's back...

In the 1980s, the People's Artist Bua Ngan Xa Phu Vong composed the song Soong Sa Hai (roughly translated as the two comrades) and the content of this song mentioned the special solidarity relationship and fighting solidarity between the army and people of Laos – Vietnam, to fight together against common enemies. People of all ethnic groups living and residing in the border areas of the two countries have relied on the Truong Son majestic mountain ranges as a fortress to fight against two mighty invading empires and won completely in 1975.

After the liberation of Laos and Vietnam in 1975, the prestigious people of all ethnic groups as well as the peoples of the two sides of the Truong Son mountain range of Laos - Vietnam still continuing to mobilize the people of all ethnic groups of the two sides actively implemented the Party's lines and undertakings, the State's policies, laws and socio-economic development plans and localities of the two countries. Outstanding results in the new period, especially from the 1980s up to now, prestigious people of Vietnam have guided and transferred techniques to Laos experts to guide people in Thuong Pe village, Kham Kot district, Bo Li Kham Xay province and May village, Sa Nam Xay district, At Ta Pu province (Laos) producing paddy rice with productivity of 8-9 tons/ha. At the same time, prestigious people among the ethnic groups of A Luoi district, Thua - Thien Hue province (Vietnam) and Sa Muoi district, Ta Oi district of At Ta Pu province (Laos) have contributed significantly to the construction and protection of the Fatherland of Laos and Vietnam during the past years.

In the recent period, the two Parties and the two States of Laos – Vietnam, have jointly created all favorable conditions for the prestigious people and ethnic groups of both sides of the Truong Son mountain range to participate in protecting border markers and building the border between the two countries to become a border of peace, friendship, at the same time, creating favorable conditions for people of all ethnic groups living in the border area of Laos – Vietnam, continuing to strengthen solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance to be vividly shown.

- Working together to build borders of peace,

friendship, security, order, cooperation and development, both sides respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, cooperating in management and protecting border lines and border markers between the two countries, maintaining social order and safety along the border lines, guarding and promptly settling negative phenomena occurring in the border areas between the two countries.

- Along with socio-economic development, protection of natural resources and making sustainable environment; there are specific jobs on these fields.

The inter-provincial delegation between Bo Li Kham Xay Province (Laos) and Nghe An Province (Vietnam) has conducted field inspection and survey in 2 districts, 25 villages, with 608 households, with 3,577 people, in which women are 1,672 people and agreed to the process as follows:

The Laos Government has recognized and agreed to grant citizenship to Vietnamese people living in a village called Vang Hin, having 31 households with 240 people, of which 112 women. The Laos Government has recognized and agreed to grant citizenship to Vietnamese people living in 4 villages such as Na Vang Khay village, U Dom Xay village, Vieng Thoong district and Nam Thi, Nam Phao villages and Kham Kon district having 82 households with 510 people, including 224 women. The People's Committee of Bi Li Kham Xay province submitted to the Laos Government for consideration and recognition of two more villages, such as Nam Mut and Phon Hom village, Vieng Thoong district, having 36 households, with 143 people, of which 73 women. The provincial inter-sectoral working group has submitted to the Provincial People's Committee to consider 8 villages in Kham Kot district, having 66 households with 386 people, of which 181 women, having 2 households to be ineligible with 16 people, of which 5 women. Inter-sectoral working group of Bo Li Kham Xay province and Inter-sectoral working group of Nghe An province have conducted the survey, inspection, classification and listing in 11 villages of Vieng Thoong district, having 366 households with 2,119 people, including 916 women. At the same time, the Laos Government has considered and recognized citizenship for 6 households with 11 people from Xan Xay and Phu Vong districts, At Ta Pu province (Laos).

- Take turns organizing border fairs every week and every month to exchange goods with each other. Organizing cultural exchanges, especially on the important holidays of the two nations, the two Parties - the two States, branches, fields and

traditional festivals all invite each other to attend and exchange. At the same time, they also exchanged performing arts troupes between villages, districts and provinces.

**5. Discussion: In our opinion, in order to promote the role of the prestigious people of ethnic groups in the Laos - Vietnam border area, it is necessary to understand the practical direction and practical implementation ways**

*\* About the direction*

- Studying and thoroughly grasping the Party's opinions and the State's policies on prestigious people among ethnic groups and ethnic people living in the Laos-Vietnam border area in the new period deeply and extensively.

- Regularly improving the understanding of the Party's lines and the State's policies, laws and regulations for prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas in the new period.

- Promoting the role of organizations in the grassroots political system in implementing supporting policies, creating favorable conditions and promoting the effectiveness and practicality of prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas in the new period.

- Promoting and supporting prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border areas in the new period to suit the practical situation of ethnic groups in the Laos - Vietnam border areas.

- Paying attention to resolving the material and spiritual life of revolutionary elders, pensioners, patriotic and prestigious people, scholars, revolutionary intellectuals, village elders, village heads among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas have been gradually improved.

- Promoting the role of prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border area in educating and fostering descendants of ethnic groups to organize the implementation of the Party's opinions, guidelines and the State's policies, laws, socio-economic development plans, regulatory documents become practical actions and activities in social life.

- Strengthening the unity bloc and national unity under the leadership of the Party is an objective necessity that the Laos people throughout the whole country must join to be a condition for the country's development and peace, happiness of the society, gradually bringing the country out of underdevelopment, international and regional

integration.

- Preserving, protecting and promoting good cultures and customs of the country and peoples associated with raising the level of education and human resource development, especially in rural areas to be an important responsibility of prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border area in the new conditions.

- Addressing negative issues such as: Drugs, smuggling, human trafficking, insecurity in the lives and property of the people, crime issues and other issues occurring more and more are urgent needs of the society and the need for the cooperation of all elements and all forces of society, especially prestigious people.

*\* About the method*

- The Laos National Construction Front must be a forum for discussion and gathering of opinions of prestigious people, receiving feedback on people's life situation. On that basis, closely coordinating with the Provincial People's Council and National Assembly as well as reflecting to the Party Central Committee, Party Committees at all levels, the Government, local Governments to make the activities of all sectors attached to solving real problems of the people. The representatives of prestigious people in the Laos National Construction Front agencies at all levels should actively contribute to the consolidation and improvement of the quality of the organization of the Laos National Construction Front in an increasing manner, meeting the new demands of society.

- The Laos National Construction Front should promote political and ideological work for the prestigious people of ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border area in a new period widely. Must be equipped with knowledgeable and competent knowledge about the Party's opinions, lines, guidelines, resolutions and directives and of the Party's policies, laws, regulations and socio-economic development plans for prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas. At the same time, paying attention to the material and spiritual life, implementing the support for the prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas. The Central-level agency in charge of ethnic minority affairs must coordinate with the agency in charge of ethnic minority affairs at the local level and the relevant units in order to stipulate the criteria and conditions of the prestigious people among the ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas and making a list of prestigious people among

the ethnic groups, at the same time making those provisions into general regulations of the State of the Laos (PDR).

*\* About measures*

- The People's Committee, the Laos National Construction Front and local mass organizations (such as provincial, district and village levels) must make a list of prestigious people in the locality and organize an annual classification of prestigious people among ethnic groups living in the Laos-Vietnam border areas to implement policies suitable to the actual situation, at the same time must create favorable conditions for prestigious people to play their roles.

- Creating favorable conditions and effective use of the status and role of prestigious people in ethnic minority groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas and the implementation of ethnic policies in locality at all levels.

- It is necessary to have a policy of material and spiritual suitability, creating favorable conditions and revering prestigious people in the national ethnic community so that they can truly contribute to promoting their role in public life of ethnic nation and in implementing the Party's opinions and the State's policies on ethnicity.

- Organize training - fostering of knowledge, understanding and communication on society, opinions, guidelines, policies and policies of the Party and the State in socio-economic development and ethnic policies regularly, periodically.

- Promoting the role of the Laos National Construction Front agency and mass organizations in creating favorable conditions for prestigious people in ethnic groups to live in the Laos-Vietnam border area and in the locality contributing to the effective implementation of ethnic minority affairs of the Laos National Construction Front.

- People's Committees at all levels organize annual and periodic summaries, recognizing merit and worship in ethnic minority affairs and implement ethnic policies, drawing experiences for the following years to promote effectively the role of prestigious people in ethnic groups living in the Laos - Vietnam border areas.

- Promoting the role of prestigious people among ethnic groups in Laos (PDR) in the new period is not the work of an agency, an individual or an organization, but a job of the whole Party, the whole people, the whole army and the whole political system of the Laos (PDR).

## 6. Conclusion

Prestigious people in ethnic groups are a special mass force, to be an important support of the authorities at all levels in mobilizing the masses to implement the Party's lines and State's policies in ethnic areas in general; in mobilizing the masses to promote the movement to protect the Homeland security, preserving the security and social order. The work for prestigious people in ethnic minorities must be under the unified direction of the Party committees and authorities at all levels, with the close coordination of functional boards and branches, including Fatherland Front, Police as the core. This is an important work to prevent and fight complicated issues in ethnic areas, to be an important factor contributing to the political stability of ethnic minority areas. The work for the prestigious people in ethnic minorities must be conducted regularly, continuously, both to serve the long-term requirements, at the same time must be associated with the task of solving urgent problems emerging in the locality.

Prestigious people in ethnic minorities play an especially important role in ensuring security and order and building, developing the economy, culture and society in ethnic minority areas. In the current renovation process, especially in the period of industrialization and modernization, hostile forces and reactionaries at home and abroad always seek sophisticated and insidious ways to create a "flag" in ethnic minorities areas, religiousizing ethnic minority areas in order to gather forces to fight against sabotage and cause political instability. Therefore, it is very important to evaluate the role and position of the prestigious people for ethnic minority affairs and the implementation of ethnic policies in the period of industrialization and modernization, local governments are increasingly concerned and directing the better implementation of this work. With the drastic guidance of the Laos Government and the Vietnam Government, the synchronous implementation and organization of central ministries and branches, the attention and direction of the Party Committees and local governments at present, certainly, the work for the prestigious people in ethnic minorities will be improved one step further, contributing to the construction of ethnic minority areas in the border areas of Vietnam and Laos ever more beautiful and rich, with socio-economic development, security and stability order, strong defense, contributing to the cause of national construction and defense.

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## XÂY DỰNG VÀ PHÁT HUY VAI TRÒ CỦA NGƯỜI CÓ UY TÍN TRONG ĐỒNG BÀO CÁC DÂN TỘC SINH SỐNG TẠI KHU VỰC BIÊN GIỚI LÀO - VIỆT NAM TRONG THỜI KỲ MỚI

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**Tóm tắt**

Người có uy tín trong đồng bào các dân tộc là một lực lượng quần chúng đặc biệt, là chỗ dựa quan trọng của chính quyền các cấp trong công tác vận động quần chúng thực hiện đường lối chính sách của Đảng và Nhà nước ở vùng dân tộc góp phần đảm bảo an ninh trật tự và xây dựng và phát triển kinh tế, văn hóa, xã hội ở vùng dân tộc thiểu số nói chung và tại khu biên giới Lào - Việt Nam nói riêng. Trong những năm qua, Đảng và Nhà nước Cộng hòa dân chủ nhân dân Lào luôn dành sự quan tâm đặc biệt đến đội ngũ người có uy tín trong đồng bào các dân tộc, trong đó đặc biệt quan tâm đến người có uy tín trong đồng bào các dân tộc sinh sống tại khu vực biên giới Lào - Việt Nam. Bài viết đề cập đến quan điểm của Đảng Nhân dân cách mạng Lào về việc phát huy vai trò của người có uy tín trong các dân tộc sinh sống tại khu vực biên giới Lào - Việt Nam trong thời kỳ mới.

**Từ khóa**

Vai trò của người có uy tín; Các dân tộc sinh sống tại biên giới Lào - Việt Nam; Cộng hòa Dân chủ Nhân dân Lào.