SOME BASIC AND BEGINNING ISSUES FOR KHMER ETHNIC COMMUNITY, NOW*

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With the majority of the population working in agriculture, the economy of Khmer people is mainly agricultural. At present, the Khmer ethnic group has a working structure in the ideal age, but the number of young and healthy workers who have not been trained is still high and laborers lack knowledge and skills to do business. Labor productivity is still very low ... Problems in education quality, human resources; the transformation of traditional religion; effects of climate change; Cross-border relations of the people have always been and are of great interest and challenges to the development of the Khmer ethnic community. Identifying fundamental and urgent issues, forecasting the socio-economic trends in areas with large numbers of Khmer people living in the future will be the basis for the theory and practice for us to have. Solutions in the development and implementation of policies for Khmer compatriots suitable and effective.

Key words: Ethnic Khmer community; basic and urgent issues; the area where Io Khmer people live; solutions in the development and implementation of policies for Khmer compatriots.

According to the data of the census of the socio-economic development of the 53 ethnic minority groups, in 2015, the Khmer ethnic group has the fastest poverty reduction rate in the period 2012-2015. The poverty rate in the delta region Cuu Long has fallen from 14.18% at the end of 2001 to 7.32% (according to the poverty line 2006-2010) and continues to fall to 3.54% by the end of 2015. The rate of ethnic minority households 2015 to 13.01%. Only in the period 2011-2015, the rate of poor households in ethnic minority areas decreased from over 33% to 13% (). The educational level of Khmer people has developed remarkably. Up to now, there are 09 provincial boarding schools for ethnic minorities and 25 district schools. boarding schools and most of the schools in the Khmer ethnic area teach Khmer; Khmer ethnic minority health workers are trained and arranged annually; Health policy for the poor is widely implemented. The grassroots political system of the Khmer minority has been strengthened. The membership of the Khmer ethnic group is increasing in terms of quantity and quality and increasingly involved in the political system at all levels from the central to local levels. Security and politics are maintained, social order and safety maintain stability, unity between ethnic groups and religions are promoted, creating a good environment for the people to feel secure labor, study, build life. The provinces of Tra Vinh, Vinh Long, Can Tho, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Hau Giang, Kien Giang have established the Association of patriotic monks at all levels from province to grassroots.

In addition to the great achievements, the lives of Khmer people are still very difficult. The rate of poor households, the rate of illiterate people is still high. Cultural enjoyment, information in the language and Khmer language is limited. The number of Party members, cadres, civil servants and ethnic minority people has increased gradually in recent years, but still low compared to the ethnic minority and the proportion of the ethnic Khmer population.

Through research, we realize that some basic and urgent issues for the Khmer ethnic group are:

Firstly, the economy of the household and
economy of the area where Khmer people live nowadays is slow to develop compared with the potential and not stable, economic structure and labor structure shifted slowly. This fact is rooted in the habits and labor habits of the majority of people in the region are small farmers, small production, limited scientific knowledge, labor productivity is very low. Production creates low commodity value; Slowly adapt to the market economy.

Second: The gap between the economic life of ethnic Khmer and ethnic majority in the region is increasing. Currently, the Khmer are still the poorest in the Mekong Delta. Specifically, the rate of poor households in the Mekong Delta in 2016 is 7.97%, but the rate of poor Khmer people accounts for 21.13% of total Khmer households. The difference in living standards, social services, public services among Khmer people compared to the average of provinces and regions are increasing.

Third: political inequality in practice has been increasing and increasing. The number of Khmer cadres in the political system (including in elected bodies) at all levels and sectors has been decreasing, not commensurate with the proportion of ethnic groups in the localities. In the Mekong Delta, the People’s Councils term 2015-2020 and National Assembly members for the term of 2016-2021 are the Khmer less compared with the previous term. The Khmer leadership is involved in the positions and positions of leaders of all branches, units, especially the armed forces (the police, the army), the less senior. The Khmer people continue to have fewer opportunities than the Kinh people when recruited into the Party and State agencies in all sectors, from central to local levels. When planning, arranging, using and appointing leaders and managers for Khmer cadres, they usually concentrate on such industries as the Front, Promising People, socio-political organizations. , The People’s Council, the Peasants’ Association, the Women’s Union, the Ethnic Minorities and Religions, etc. In many places, the consultation of the local people’s voices, thoughts and aspirations is only formal.

Fourth: over the past years, climate change, floods, droughts, sea level rise, salt intrusion; environmental issues in rural areas; water for production and living; the situation of coastal erosion, river bank erosion; forest degradation; salty; Salinity has been very complex and tends to increase in scope and scale. The problems that have negative impacts on the socio-economic development of the Mekong Delta in general and the Khmer ethnic minority in particular have been a great challenge for the people and peoples of different ethnic groups. in the area. Particularly, river bank and coastline erosion have directly affected residential areas, public works, essential infrastructures, causing serious impacts on the ecological environment.

Fifth, the working structure of the Khmer people is currently experiencing a serious imbalance: According to the results of the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the working age structure of the Khmer ethnic group is billions. The labor force in the total population is relatively large and the young labor force is plentiful, namely: aged 15-59: 66.9% nationally, 67.4% Khmer; Age above 60: Nationwide 8.9%, Khmer 7.0%. However, these resources concentrated in rural areas to 85.6% and only 14.4% lived in urban areas. Educational structure of Khmer people is still low compared to the general level of the country. In addition, the whole area has 674.6 thousand people over 5 years migrating freely to other localities, this number has a great impact on the local labor force.

The structure of the population is gold, but most of the labor is labor in rural areas, only simple labor, low level of labor and many workers have not yet received vocational training, resulting in low labor value. This is a great challenge for the Mekong Delta in general and for the Khmer minority in particular to implement socio-economic development policies.

The habitat of the Khmer ethnic group is usually saline, alum, coastal; deep-lying, border, mountainous areas, far from major traffic routes, production conditions, and many difficulties. On the other hand, the access to science and technology of the people is very limited; slow to adapt to the business environment; the capital is small ... Khmer people in the present and future need guidance from the economic structure, structure of production to production organizations; It is necessary to have mechanisms...
and policies to support the development of production and consumption of products associated with the comprehensive, synchronous and long-term socio-economic development programs of each locality.

Sixth: the implementation of policies supporting housing land, production land, conversion of trades for the Khmer ethnic minority in fact have many inadequacies: Localities with large areas of Khmer ethnic minority are deployed Implement policies to support residential land, productive land and create jobs for poor ethnic minority people living in the Mekong Delta in accordance with Decision No. 29/2013 / QD-TTg dated 20/05/2013 with demand The initial ethnic minority people in the region are 7,291 households in need of residential land; 4,219 households in need of productive land; 18,609 households have demand for loans to create jobs and develop production; 11,694 laborers have demand for vocational training and 65 laborers have demand for labor export. By 2015, the State allocated a total of VND 642.55 billion to localities to support land for 3,053 households (728,711 hectares), to redeem the land for 1,042 households (102 hectares), for loans for job creation and production development were 3,591 households, 1,523 laborers were provided with vocational training and 03 labor export. Thus, up to now, localities have been able to solve 48.42% of demand for residential land and 29.49% of households have demand for land. In the five years (2010-2015), the South West region had only 12.9% of trained workers under the 1956 scheme. As analyzed above in terms of labor structure and economic structure, the labor in agriculture in the South West region is very high but the rate of trained labor is very low, such as: “Year 2010 is 49.50% and by 2014 it is 46% of the labor force in agriculture. However, the number of trained workers is only 2.40% in 2010 and 3.60% in 2014. “ The resolution for families who wish to enjoy the policy under Decision No. 29/2013/ QD-TTg is still too low, such as: 18,609 households have demand for loans to create jobs, so far new 2,605 households (accounting for 14%). The current reality shows that the land fund used to support the land, production land for the Khmer in the Mekong Delta almost no, the redemption of land is difficult because of the low level of assistance to the people. Moreover, many poor Khmer households do not want to work in agriculture either to work as hired laborers or to work in factories in the city. At present and in the future, this is still a great obstacle to the eradication of hunger and poverty for the people.

Seventh: some forms of traditional culture and art of ethnic minority people are at risk of falling apart, the cultural enjoyment of people is low, the quality of human resources is low, the problem of health care The people are still limited. This requires a policy of supporting teachers, including monks and other people who teach ethnic minority language and writing. The implementation of the policy of recruiting students into universities, colleges, and intermediate levels in the national education system should consider the expansion of the area and the enrollment subjects, not to narrow down. At present, it is difficult to develop human resources in Khmer ethnic minority areas. In vocational training for ethnic minority people, it is necessary to survey the need for training with the type of training associated with job creation, so that the vocational training is effective, avoiding waste.

Eighth: Unusual development of morality in Khmer people is still occurring. Therefore, it is necessary to well implement policies, beliefs and religions. Improve the quality of activities of the Solidarity Patriotic Union at all levels, while promoting the Association’s core role in mobilizing monks and compatriots to well implement the Party’s guidelines, policies and laws. and the State; Promoting the role of the pagoda in the cultural and spiritual life of the Khmer in the South.

Ninth: Political security, social order and safety in the region, especially in border areas with Cambodia, are still unstable. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the quality of advocacy work. Strengthening the propaganda and dissemination of guidelines, policies and laws of the Party and the State among the Khmer people and monks, especially the ethnic minority policy. In advocacy, advocacy should focus on renewing the content, form and building the core; At the same time, education to raise awareness of the peaceful evolution of hostile forces; Continue to
promote propaganda about the history of South Vietnam. Promoting the role of the masses protecting national security, especially the role of prominent people, prestige among ethnic minority people, dignitaries in Khmer Theravada Buddhism; To consolidate the contingent of police force and grassroots militia and self-defense force as the core in preserving the political security and social order and safety in the localities of the Khmer of Southern Vietnam.

Fundamental and urgent issues in the Khmer-inhabited area have been set up to deal with the future, with many subjective and subjective factors that have a multifaceted impact on the environment. The socio-economic development of the whole region. These multi-dimensional factors are as follows:

First of all, in the coming years, areas with large Khmer ethnic minority groups will still be one of the poorest in the country. The poverty of the Khmer people is very apparent, with the number of poor households still high, and the number of poor households emerging every year is quite high. “By the end of 2015, the poor Khmer households are 13.01% for the period 2016-2020 increased to 23.4%. This poverty is also predicted by the imbalance in the structure and characteristics of the whole region. In addition, the structure of the Khmer ethnic group is mainly agriculture, rice, cash crops, low value products, industrial and handicraft industries. They lack land for production, residential land, production capital; low educational level and quality, slow access to science and technology and new business. The change in the awareness of employment and vocational training associated with poverty alleviation is still limited. Most of the people living in remote areas, especially in difficult DBKK, while the quality of staff is still inadequate. These are factors that greatly influence the socio-economic development of the people both now and in the future.

Secondly, the Khmer-inhabited area has been and still will be a low-lying area for education. In the 2014-2015 school year, there are 43 universities (colleges), colleges (colleges). There are 17 universities, 26 colleges; There are 6 public universities. In five years (2011 - 2015), six schools (four universities and two colleges) have been established. There are 130,896 students (of which 86,230 and 44,666 respectively), an increase of 9% over the 2011-2012 school year. Difficulties and limitations of higher education in the Mekong Delta are the status imbalance in the structure of qualifications and training disciplines. The percentage of students in the humanities and social sciences is high, accounting for over 70% of the total scale; The size of the economic sector is over 30% of the total number of training students. For education in the Mekong Delta, the biggest constraint is the high drop-out rate, of which 0.45% in the primary level (0.16% in the whole country, 0.1% in the North West, the West 0.3%); junior high school graduates 3.26% (1.37% in the whole country, 1.04% in the North West, 1.3% in the Central Highlands); 3.94% in the whole country (1.79% in the whole country, 1.99% in the North West, 1.32% in the Central Highlands). Pre-primary education for children 5 years old has not reached 100%; The rate of children under 36 months old has been lowered below 10%; High school enrollment rate in the region is low, below 50% (60% nationally). The rate of trained workers in the region is estimated to reach 35.2% by 2015. increased from 2010 (23.5%) but still lower than the national average (40.6%). It is expected that in the coming years, if the number of active measures is not positive, the proportion of Khmer children dropping out of school is expected to increase and illiteracy rates in adults will increase. In the long run, the inadequacies in education of the Khmer ethnic group compared to other ethnic groups in the region and the country is high. If there are no positive measures in education and training, the region will be the laggard in the quality of human resources in the future.

Third, religion in Khmer-inhabited areas has been changing dramatically. The cult has many values, is the culture of bold humanity for every Khmer youth. However, this custom is gradually becoming self-limiting for many reasons. The children go to cultivate grandparents, parents are still, but in many places, young people no longer salty. In addition, many Khmer families do not want to allow their children to become monks, because they become virtuous, but still poor in material, while there are many attractive
jobs and higher income. These reasons led to a dramatic decrease in the number of Khmer Buddhist monks. This has been, will and will cause many consequences, bad effects on living in the Khmer area. Over the years, in the religious life of the Khmer people, this place, there have also appeared a number of religious, Catholic...try to propagate the Buddhist Khmer followers. This also has a great impact on the national psychology and the preservation of traditional Khmer cultural identity. At present there is a group of young monks (Khmer Nam Khmer Buddhists) in Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and Bac Lieu provinces being involved in organizations belonging to the “Khmer Sangha Association of Tra Vinh Province”. Buddhist monks and Khmer culture in Tra Cu district, “’Khmer Wreath Association “,”Patriotic Teachers Association of New Siam Xocai Pagoda “receive funding from outside and join hands with extremists disseminating documents, distorting propaganda on the history of the Southern region, slandering the Vietnamese government to abolish the customs, beliefs and beliefs of the Khmer of the South also affect and hinder the implementation Policies and policies towards ethnic minorities in the coming time.

Fourthly, in the immediate and long term, the Khmer people are suffering from climate change. The Mekong Delta is one of the three delta areas in the world that are most vulnerable to natural disasters. According to the latest sea level rise scenarios, if the sea level rises from 73cm to 100cm by 2100 (the end of the 21st century), 39% of the flooded area will be affected, 35% of the population will be affected. bad weather due to complicated, more extreme, not conventional law. At present, landslides in the two rivers of Vinh Long, Soc Trang, Ca Mau and salt water penetrate deep into the mainland in Tien Giang, Hau Giang, Can Tho has caused much damage to life and production, especially national food security is seriously threatened. In response to climate change, in the future, the Mekong Delta should strengthen the planning of irrigation system in the provinces in order to reasonable to save fresh water. Research on the application of salt tolerant rice varieties and develop new production models so that people can quickly adapt to climate change.

In the recent time, the Mekong Delta is heavily impacted by climate change. Sea level rise, salinity intrusion and drought have adversely affected agricultural production, aquaculture and people’s livelihoods. Farmers do not go down to cultivate rice and vegetables in accordance with the seasonal calendar, not be active in production due to lack of fresh water. Some companies lack the raw materials that affect the employment of workers; Some poor, near poor households do not have land for production but do not have suitable jobs in the locality. Many households have to leave their hometown to go to work far away, most of them come to do business in localities with industrial parks and export processing zones such as Binh Duong, Dong Nai and Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh City, Ba Ria - Vung Tau to earn more income in the family. At the same time, there are also a few households, wealthy people are still working far away because of the desire to earn higher incomes, not satisfied with low income in the locality.

The people working away from home contributed a part of the labor demand of the localities, and contributed to reducing the unemployment in the locality, raising the incomes and improving the lives of the members in the family. At the same time, farmers also have some new jobs, with some types of rural services being formed and developed. However, the situation of people working away from home has also greatly affected the local labor situation. In addition, the majority of households working far away are poor households, large families, poor households with no stable occupation, causing a difficult part for the localities in the management. Maintaining the environment and protecting security and order.

Fifth, the security of rural areas and religious areas have and will continue to be adversely affected. Due to the particular nature of the geographical complex, it has an important geographic location, borders both on land and sea, is a key area of ethnicity, diversity of beliefs, religions. Therefore, the security situation in the Mekong Delta will be influenced by many factors. Outside, in the context of world political and regional security situation is very complex, hostile forces continue to promote the plot “peaceful evolution”, “color revolution”, riots,
to overthrow the leadership of the Party and the socialist regime in Vietnam; Together with complicated and sensitive issues in the nation, religion is being considered as a trigger to promote the trend of “separatism, self-determination” of the nation, causing political instability in the Khmer minority. Meanwhile, the Mekong Delta is still a region where many conflicts, social conflicts continue to arise, survival has not been satisfactorily resolved, especially the problem of land claims tend to be complex. Remarkably, there are still a small minority of Khmer people with extreme nationalist ideologies, misconceptions about the country, ethnicity, getting the direction of the “Khmer Krom” extremists outside, anti Against the policy of the Party Committee, local authorities in resolving cases related to the people, the Khmer. If we lack precautionary measures, fighting fiercely can occur complex situations threatening security and order, especially when the political mutation in Cambodia will affect the Khmer South Ministry.

In the current trend of international and regional integration, the issue of ethnicity, ethnic Khmer ethnicity with Khmer ethnic minority on the other side, the problem of cross-border marriage has been increasing. It is of great importance to formulate policies on socio-economic development for the whole region, especially in the border areas, in order to well deal with the relationship between ethnic minorities and ensure security and defense, regional and national. In the coming time, due to the political and multi-party nature of Cambodia, in the face of political instability, opposition parties intensify the activities of falsely accusing, combating, threatening Overseas Vietnamese households, including the Khmer Nam Bo people, are worried that they will be returning to their homeland, causing difficulties for localities in the southwestern region, especially in the provinces bordering on Cambodia. To carry out policies and policies on ethnic minorities.

In general, the South West is the focus of agricultural production in the country. This area is considered to be rich but not yet exploited, promoting strengths. With the majority of the population working in agriculture, the economy of the Khmer people is mainly agricultural, with the proportion of agriculture accounting for the majority of the economy. The structure of labor is still low; unqualified human resources; The labor force is lacking in knowledge and skills to do business so the labor productivity is low. Khmer people are in the period of an ideal labor structure, with a young, healthy, abundant labor force, experienced in the long-standing agricultural production. This is a great potential to help ethnic minorities can develop the commodity economy if exploited scientifically and rationally. Issues in education quality, human resources; the transformation of traditional religion; effects of climate change; Cross-border relations of the people have always been and are of great interest and challenges to the development of the Khmer ethnic community. Identifying fundamental and urgent issues, forecasting the socio-economic trends in areas with large numbers of Khmer people living in the future will be the basis for the theory and practice for us to have. Solutions in developing and implementing policies for Khmer compatriots suitable and effective. Attention should be paid to orienting the development of policies for the people, with two main contents: 1. Continue to support and invest in socio-economic development in Khmer ethnic areas, especially focusing on fields such as socio-economic infrastructure, hunger eradication, poverty reduction, vocational training and job creation. 2. Enhance the cultural and spiritual life of the Khmer people, especially focus on supporting and creating conditions for the Khmer people to effectively promote the Khmer ethnic identity.

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Tóm tắt: Với đa số dân cư làm nông nghiệp nên kinh tế của đồng bào Khmer chủ yếu là kinh tế nông nghiệp. Hiện nay, cộng đồng dân tộc Khmer có cơ cấu lao động trong độ tuổi lý tưởng, nhưng số lượng lao động trẻ, khỏe này chưa được đào tạo và còn thiếu kiến thức, kỹ năng làm kinh tế nên năng suất lao động còn rất thấp... Những vấn đề về chất lượng giáo dục, nguồn nhân lực; sự biến đổi về tôn giáo truyền thống; ảnh hưởng của biến đổi khí hậu; mối quan hệ xuyên biên giới của đồng bào đã và sẽ luôn là những điều đáng quan tâm, là những thách thức đối với sự phát triển của cộng đồng dân tộc Khmer. Nhận định những vấn đề cơ bản và cấp bách, dự báo các xu hướng vận động của kinh tế- xã hội vùng có đông dân đồng bào Khmer sinh sống trong thời gian tới sẽ là cơ sở lý luận và thực tiễn để chúng ta có hệ thống giải pháp trong xây dựng và thực hiện chính sách đối đồng bào Khmer phù hợp, hiệu quả.

Từ khóa: Cộng đồng dân tộc Khmer; Những vấn đề cơ bản và cấp bách; Vùng có đông dân đồng bào Khmer sinh sống; Giải pháp trong xây dựng và thực hiện chính sách đối đồng bào Khmer.