



## Economic Development with Strengthening Defense and Security Potential in the Northern Midlands and Mountains in a New Situation

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### Abstract

Combining economic development with strengthening the potential of National Defense and security is a common normative issue for all class-stricken societies and class struggles, while plotting to annex one nation to another. For Vietnam in general, the Northern midlands and mountains in particular, combining economic development with strengthening the potential of National Defense and security, this is an issue of special importance; is the establishment of an organic relationship between two contents, two forces, and create a premise for each other to develop to contribute to firmly protecting the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. The article focuses on clarifying the issue of combining economic development with strengthening defense and security potential in the Northern midlands and mountains, thereby proposing a number of solutions to well implement this issue.

**Keywords:** Economic Development, Defence and Security, Midlands and Mountainous Regions of The North

### Introduction

Combining economic development with strengthening defense and security potential are active and proactive activities of subjects under the Party's leadership in closely linking economic development with increasing potential in politics, culture, society, science and technology and the military, etc contributing to strengthening the combined strength of the country, each region, and each locality to successfully carry out the task of building and firmly protecting the socialist Fatherland of Vietnam. Combining economic development with strengthening the defence and security potential in Viet Nam today is not just about bringing together the economic and defence and security sectors in a process of unity, complementarity and mutual promotion of development but also to create and promote the country's combined resources to promote industrialization and modernization, ensuring national sovereignty, political regime, and national interests are always in a state of self-protection and firmly protected. At the same time, combining economic development with strengthening defense and security potential is not only a combination in the existing economic and defense and security potential but also a close combination right in the process of forming economic potential and the country's defense and security potential.

### 1. Some results combine economic development with the consolidation of defence and security potential in the midlands and mountainous regions of the North

As an area with a particularly important strategic location in terms of socio-economics, defense, security and foreign affairs of the country, the Northern Midlands and Mountains are considered "pheon", "lung" of the Fatherland; is the safe zone, "cradle" of the Vietnamese revolution. Therefore, our Party soon had a policy of developing the Region to exploit and maximize the potential and advantages of the region and localities in the region to serve socio-economic development, ensure national defense, security and improve the material and spiritual life of the people. During that process, combining economic development with strengthening defense and security potential is always paid attention to and achieved a number of results:

*First, the combination has allowed to exploit the potential advantages well, harmoniously resolve economic interests and defense and security interests, create motivation to promote socio-economic development and national defense, The security of the Region is increasingly being firmly consolidated.* It is a large area, with 14 provinces directly located in the Region and 21 districts and 1 town in the West of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces, the Northern midlands and mountains are the western and northern gateways of the country, with the northern border bordering China, the western border with Upper Laos, and the eastern border with the Red River Delta the South borders the North Central region, the total area of the entire Region is about 116,898 km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for 35% of the country's natural area <sup>[1]</sup>. The specificities of the terrain and natural geography, interconnected transport and other difficulties do not necessarily prevent economic development. From another perspective, it is also the driving force to create unique differences in development resources that transform into exploitation advantages, promoting in a suitable, dynamic and creative way in harmony with cultural capital and social capital. Unlimited invaluable social capital has created a highlight for economic development, strengthening national defense and security add new resilience to the Region. In addition, the Region also has many potentials and advantages in agriculture, forestry, and hydropower; has many of the rarest resources and minerals in the country, with strengths for industrial development and mineral processing; has a large area of hills and forests, the highest forest cover rate in the country (53.4%), accounting for nearly 40% the forest area of the country, is "the lungs" of the nation with majestic and beautiful natural landscape; there are many unique cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. These are the unique advantages of the Region to develop tourism, border gate economy, border trade economy, and convenient trade connections with China and ASEAN. Recognizing those potentials, localities in the region have proactively exploited, thereby promoting socio-economic development harmonious settlement of the relationship of economic interests and defence and security interests in the midlands and mountainous regions of the North. At the same time, it helps increase economic and defense and security potential; Facilities, techniques and human resources are developed, thereby contributing to improving the competitiveness and potential of the economy, creating important material resources for investment and strengthening defense and security potential in the Region. Reality shows that economic development associated with the technical level of production technology of industries, fields, and businesses in the area is increasingly innovating, creating a fundamental basis for mobilizing and supporting production for defense industrial factories stationed in the area. On the other hand, it is also the basis for attracting and improving the quality of labor resources, especially workers with skilled skills and the ability to use and operate modern technological machinery. This is an important human resource for building an on-site defense force, creating quality additional resources for local militia and self-defense forces in the area.

*Second, combining economic development with strengthening the defense and security potential of the Northern midlands and mountains has contributed to firmly strengthening the popular position, increasing the political and spiritual potential of the region. defense area in the area.* As a region with a rich history and a glorious revolutionary tradition, the people in the region are united, industrious and rich in patriotic traditions. However, there are still many potential risks of instability in the area; Hostile and reactionary forces at home and abroad still do not give up plotting to sabotage and entice ethnic minorities to cause national disunity. Therefore, building a popular position in the area is even more important. It is "binder" glue, which serves as orientation and as a base for building and promoting other potentials in the defensive area. Therefore, at the party committee level, local governments in the Region have always focused on closely combining economic development with strengthening national defense and security potential, creating a basis and conditions for 14.7 million people in the Region (including more than 30 ethnic groups in the Vietnamese ethnic community living with the proportion of ethnic minorities accounting for 56.2%.) have access to opportunities, have jobs, increase income, gradually eliminate the difference in living standards between people in mountainous areas and the plains, gradually improve and enhance the material and spiritual life of the people. Thereby, it has contributed to strengthening the great unity of the entire people; the people's feelings, beliefs, consensus and responsibility for the task of combining economic development with strengthening national defense and security potential have been raised; the spirit of patriotism and revolutionary traditions uniting peoples have been aroused and promoted motivate ethnic people to actively work for production and economic development, while always maintaining vigilance and fighting to defeat all plots to sabotage the revolution and destroy the great national unity bloc of hostile forces, contributing to its implementation: "economy must be strong, defense must be strong, etc strength must be strong, people's hearts must be at peace, politics and society are stable, the whole nation is a unified bloc" <sup>[2]</sup>.

*Thirdly, the harmonious combination of economic development with the strengthening of the defence and security potential has created favourable conditions for investment and improved training and combat readiness of the armed forces in the midlands and mountainous areas of the North.* In recent times, party committees and local governments in the Region have effectively exploited the potential and strengths of each locality; mobilize and effectively allocate resources for both economic development purposes and strengthen national defense and security potential, thereby promoting economic development create a large source of budget revenue and increase local budget accumulation, thereby providing conditions to invest in national defense and security.

In the period 2005-2020, the Region's GRDP growth rate always reached the highest level in the country, averaging about 9.3%; GRDP scale reached 688.9 trillion VND; GRDP

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.qdnd.vn/chinh-tri/tin-tuc/> <https://www.qdnd.vn/chinh-tri/tin-tuc/> Full text of General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's speech at the Conference on the Development and Implementation of Resolution 11 of the Politburo.

<sup>2</sup> Communist Party of Vietnam, Documents of the Eighth Conference of the 11th Central Committee, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2013, p. 169.

per capita reached 54.1 million VND. In the period 2021-2023, the growth rate reached 7.65% per year (while the country's growth rate was 5.19%). GRDP per capita also increased significantly, in 2023, reaching 64.8 million VND/person, up from 52.8 million VND/person in 2020 <sup>[3]</sup>, the infrastructure invested in and built and gradually completed has positively changed the appearance of the region... This is an important resource to reinvest in economic development and increase investment resources for national defense, security, and the armed forces have more conditions to purchase pages and equipment training facilities, strengthening combat bases, training grounds, training grounds... Thanks to that, it has contributed to improving training effectiveness, combat readiness, and building a solid local defense area.

*Fourth, combining economic development with strengthening the defense and security potential of the Northern midlands and mountains has created a proactive stance to protect the defense area and protect the area early and from afar.* With the development of the economy, defense and security potential has been comprehensively strengthened in both spiritual and political aspects, economic, cultural, social, scientific and technological aspects, and military potential, that has helped localities proactively create and prepare plans and ability to mobilize, allocate, and use the necessary potential for defense, creating the ability to transform economic potential into military power in the form of meeting wartime needs. Thanks to that, it creates the ability to quickly mobilize human, material and financial resources of localities in all fields of industry, agriculture, science - technology, and transportation to meet national defense requirements, security. The combination also allowed the economy to flexibly translate into wartime conditions, while maintaining mobility and vitality in war-separated conditions. Clearly, by proactively developing a full plan and plan to prepare human, material and financial needs right in the process of socio-economic development, it has created a proactive position to protect the area. defense and protection of the area early and remotely.

## **2. Orient solutions to combine economic development with strengthening defense and security potential in the Northern midlands and mountains in the new situation**

To combine economic development with strengthening defense and security potential in the Northern midlands and mountains, in the coming time, it is necessary to do well on some of the following issues:

*First*, continue to propagate and educate to create high unity in awareness at all levels, sectors, business communities and people, compatriots of the Northern midlands and mountainous regions about the meaning and importance of combining socio-economic development associated with strengthening national defense potential security, building a national defense posture, a people's security posture. Focus on propagating and mobilizing the people and ethnic people to actively participate in implementing socio-economic development programs combined with strengthening national defense and security, including focusing on propaganda and thoroughgoing the task of protecting the homeland according to the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress, Economic and

Social Development Strategy 2021 - 2030, etc vision to 2045, Resolution No. 11-NQ/TW dated February 10, 2022 of the Politburo on directions for economic and social development, ensuring defense and security of the Northern Midlands and Mountains to 2030, vision to 2045. Continue to promote defense and security education for subjects, diversify content and forms appropriate to the characteristics of the area and population, thereby raising awareness and responsibility of the whole system. politics and the entire people for combined socio-economic development associated with strengthening national defense potential security. Resolutely overcome ideology "mere economics", "defense, dual closed security". *Second*, promote the construction of a strong and effective political system, especially in communes in remote areas, border areas, and ethnic and religious areas. Party committees and governments at all levels need to continue to take care of building a clean and strong party organization, associated with building a comprehensively strong unit; Promote the synergy of the political system, organizations, and forces and people of ethnic groups in the Northern midlands and mountainous regions in implementing combined economic development with strengthening defense and security potential with policies and solutions appropriate to the characteristics, functions, tasks, and capabilities of the industry, field, and locality. Promote the roles and responsibilities of local agencies, departments, branches, socio-political organizations and staff and party members in implementing policies, mechanisms, and measures to build and mobilize resources for implementation combining economic development with strengthening national defense and security potential. Local military agencies at all levels need to play a core role, advising at the party and government levels on measures that combine economics with national defense; Build defense areas, coordinate the implementation of plans and targets to mobilize forces, vehicles, and facilities in all sectors; measures to combine building potential with force and posture in overall building a national defense system for the entire people and firmly protecting the area. *Third*, focus on innovating the growth model associated with promoting economic restructuring of the Region towards a green economy and circular economy; develop industries and fields with the strengths and potential of the Region. Promote the development of socio-economic infrastructure systems, especially transportation infrastructure and information technology infrastructure that is synchronous, modern and smart, associated with the development of economic corridors in the direction of dual use. Invest in the construction of border patrol roads and connecting traffic routes from border communes to border posts, roads from border posts and stations to national border markers and border patrol roads; Continue to invest and deploy the arrangement and arrangement of residents on the border route. Improving the quality of human resources, especially those for ethnic minorities. Continue to innovate and improve the method of combining the two socio-economic development tasks associated with national defense and security in a proactive way to connect the two tasks. *Fourth*, strengthen the great national unity bloc, improve the quality of life for ethnic people in the Region to firmly strengthen the popular position of the people. To do so, it is

<sup>3</sup> <https://nhandan.vn/dua-vung-trung-du-va-mien-nui-bac-bo-thanh-hinh-mau-phat-trien-xanh-ben-vung>

necessary to continue to institutionalize and concretize the Party's views, guidelines and policies on great national unity. Review, amend, supplement, complete and promulgate legal documents, ethnic and religious mechanisms and policies, and social policies to continuously improve material and spiritual life. spirit for ethnic people, encourage, motivate, and promote the strength of great national unity in the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. Organize and effectively implement ethnic programs, projects, and policies implemented in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; The focus is on implementing 03 National Target Programs: Socio-economic development of ethnic minority and mountainous areas; Sustainable poverty reduction; Building new rural areas to continue to improve and improve the quality of life for people in general and ethnic minorities in particular. Focus on cultural and social development, environmental protection, and improving the material and spiritual life of the people. Arouse and highly promote the values of cultural traditions, history, and heroic revolutions. In particular, it is necessary to raise awareness, regularly identify and resolutely and effectively fight plots and tricks to divide the great national unity bloc of hostile and reactionary forces.

*Fifth*, strengthen and consolidate national defense, security, firmly protect independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; maintain border security; ensure political security, social order and safety; proactively prevent and fight, prevent and neutralize all plots "peaceful developments", subversive riots, provocation of provinces, etc "separatist, autonomous" of hostile, reactionary forces, not to be passive, surprised about security and defense. Resolutely handle according to the law the leaders, core, and extremist opponents; Do not let subjects have the conditions to operate; Do not let external subjects have the conditions to intervene. Promote the role of reputable people in ethnic minorities and religious dignitaries in solving complex and arising problems. Closely combine building the entire people's national defense with the people's security posture. Building a strong defence area for national security and defence and a line of economic cooperation and development. Continue to invest and effectively build economic and defense zones. Mobilizing the resources and strength of enterprises and military units entrusted with the task of participating in economic, cultural and social development in the building of defence potential; absolutely not for purely economic purposes, but ignoring defence purposes, the contributing to the successful implementation of two strategic tasks of building and protecting the Fatherland.

*In short*, combining economic development with strengthening national defense and security potential is the basic viewpoint and consistent strategic policy of our Party, and has great significance in promoting its strengths and potential, creating breakthroughs in sustainable socio-economic development, associated with ensuring national defense, security, and fortify place "top", "rooster" and "lung" for the country of the Northern midlands and mountains. Therefore, proper awareness and effective implementation are extremely important tasks, in order to contribute to the successful implementation of two strategic tasks of building socialism and firmly protecting the Fatherland of Vietnam. socialist in the new situation.

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