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The Role of the Provincial-Level Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Mekong Delta Region in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Digital Era

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Abstract

In the context of operating the two-tier local government model and robust digital transformation in the digital era, the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation poses urgent requirements for consolidating social consensus and political trust. Based on inheriting theoretical and practical foundations from the Mekong Delta region, the article analyzes the core role of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in gathering the masses, promoting the

great national unity bloc, conducting social supervision and criticism, and disseminating positive information in cyberspace. The study points out achieved results, existing limitations in the digital environment, and proposes synchronized groups of solutions to enhance the effectiveness of protecting the Party's ideological foundation from the grassroots level in the new development stage.

Keywords: Vietnam Fatherland Front, Local Government, Mekong Delta, Protection, The Party's Ideological Foundation

1. Introduction

In the course of the Vietnamese revolution, the ideological foundation of the Party has always served as the guiding compass for its platform and a firm spiritual pillar to consolidate the great national unity bloc. Under the profound impacts of globalization, the explosion of digital technology, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace, the task of protecting the Party's ideological foundation faces numerous new challenges, demanding a more comprehensive, proactive, and substantive implementation approach. Politburo Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW has identified this as a central task of the entire political system. Particularly in the Mekong Delta region - an area with diverse ethnic groups and religions that is heavily affected by administrative reorganization under the two-tier local government model - the requirement to consolidate the "people's hearts posture" from the grassroots level becomes even more urgent. The Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels acts as the political base of the people's government, representing the legitimate rights and interests of the People, and playing a key subject role in forging social consensus. By combining the methods of analysis and synthesis of practical documents from the regional context, this article focuses on clarifying the role, current status, and proposing solutions to promote the mission of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front in protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the digital era.

2. Theoretical and Practical Foundations on the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

2.1 Nature and Content of the Task of Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

Protecting the ideological foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam is never a closed, formalistic activity limited to the narrow scope of specialized agencies working in theory, propaganda, or journalism. On the contrary, this is a comprehensive, strategic, and vital socio-political process for the cause of national construction and defense. The profound nature of this task lies in the organic, synchronous, and dialectical connection between building a comprehensively strong Party in terms of politics, ideology, ethics, organization, and cadres, and the process of perfecting the socialist rule-of-law State of the People, by the People, and for the People, while continuously promoting the genuine mastery of the People in all spheres of social life. From the theoretical and practical perspectives of Pham Thi Phuong Giang (2026) and Vu Thi Thu Hien (2026), "protecting the Party's ideological foundation means protecting Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; protecting the Party's

Platform and guidelines; protecting the People, the socialist rule-of-law State, and the socialist regime in Vietnam.¹" This assertion holds core directional significance, clearly outlining the object, objective, and encompassing scope of the task of protecting the ideological foundation in new conditions. Protecting the Party cannot be separated from protecting the People; protecting the ideology must be closely linked with protecting revolutionary achievements, the socialist regime, and the supreme interests of the nation-state.

In the context of profound globalization, comprehensive international integration, along with the robust explosion of digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace today, the methods of impact employed by hostile forces have become increasingly sophisticated and cunning. They not only launch direct attacks on the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism but also find every way to dull ideals, sow doubt, and promote "self-evolution" and "self-transformation" from within. For this reason, the requirement to protect the Party's ideological foundation in new conditions can by no means be approached through outdated mindsets that solely focus on criticism, condemnation, or prevention ("fighting").

On the contrary, the task of protecting the ideological foundation must be placed in a dialectical, parallel, and closely bound relationship between "building" and "fighting," where "building" is the root, fundamental, and long-term aspect, while "fighting" is important, decisive, and timely. "Building" here means constantly consolidating scientific and political trust in society, cultivating revolutionary cultural and moral values, improving the material and spiritual life of the People, and creating a high level of unity in awareness throughout the entire Party and society.

Consolidating social trust and creating unity in political awareness is the strongest "shield" to neutralize all plots of distortion and misrepresentation of the regime's nature from early on and from afar. Social consensus and public trust do not arise naturally; they are the results of translating the correct guidelines and policies of the Party into vivid practical socio-economic development achievements.

Discussing this issue, Tran Van Phong (2026) deeply emphasized that: "the sustainable values of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought always serve as a solid theoretical foundation, illuminating the revolutionary cause, requiring the entire system to proactively propagate, spread, and protect them²." This thesis affirms the enduring vitality of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought. No matter how the storms of the era may turn or how far science and technology may develop, those foundational principles still embody profound scientific, revolutionary, and humanistic characteristics, serving as a true manual of action for the Vietnamese revolution.

Therefore, the entire political system, from central theoretical research agencies to the grassroots political

system - especially the core role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations - must be proactive and creative in propagating and spreading these correct values through various rich and practical forms. Turning theory into belief and turning scientific knowledge into concrete revolutionary actions of the masses is the most effective and sustainable way to protect the Party's ideological foundation, contributing to firmly consolidating the "people's hearts posture" in the new era of national advancement.

2.2 Position and Functions of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in the Political System

Within the political system of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Fatherland Front holds an exceptionally important, specific, and irreplaceable position. This legal and political position is clearly constitutionalized in Article 9 of the 2013 Constitution and institutionalized in the Law on the Vietnam Fatherland Front. Accordingly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front is defined as a political alliance and voluntary union of political organizations, socio-political organizations, social organizations, and prominent individuals representing social classes, strata, ethnic groups, religions, and overseas Vietnamese.

As the solid political base of the people's government, the Front does not stand outside or above the political system but immerses itself in the hearts of the People, shouldering the sacred mission of representing and protecting the legitimate and legal rights and interests of all strata of the People. This close bond creates the profound popular nature of our State, ensuring that all guidelines and policies of the Party and laws of the State originate from the aspirations, practical interests, and happiness of the People. In the current context of building and perfecting the socialist rule-of-law State, the Front's position as a political base further affirms its role as a solid anchor to maintain the flesh-and-blood relationship between the Party, the State, and the People, effectively preventing any manifestations of bureaucracy or alienation from the masses.

At the local level, the Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level acts as the center for consultation, coordination, and unified action in centrally run provinces and cities. This position shapes the presiding function of the provincial Front in institutionalizing and deploying guidelines for great national unity, suited to the socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, and religious characteristics of each region (such as the diverse ethnic and religious features in the Mekong Delta). The provincial Front is the primary level responsible for guiding and connecting the Front systems at lower levels, while acting as an active and regular partner of the same-level Party committee and administration in concretizing the resolutions of provincial and municipal Party congresses into practical life.

Besides its representative function, within the structure of the political system, the Vietnam Fatherland Front also plays a direct and core role in fostering social consensus, practicing democracy, and conducting social supervision and criticism. Practical socio-economic and political life shows that the Front is a sustainable and smooth two-way bridge between the Party, State, and People. Through its extensive organizational network from provincial and district levels down to grassroots residential areas, the Front timely, vividly, and effectively conveys the Party's will and

¹ Academy of Politics Region IV (2026), Proceedings of the Scientific Conference: Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Context of Operating the Two-Tier Local Government Model in the Mekong Delta Today, Can Tho.

² Academy of Politics Region IV (2026), Proceedings of the Scientific Conference: Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Context of Operating the Two-Tier Local Government Model in the Mekong Delta Today, Can Tho.

the people's aspirations to one another.

At the provincial level, the functions of fostering social consensus, supervision, and criticism by the provincial Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee are strategic and comprehensive. The provincial Front directly presides over organizing public consultations on documents of Party congresses at all levels, major socio-economic development programs, provincial master plans, large investment projects, and specific local mechanisms and policies. The provincial Front Committee's synthesis of hundreds of thousands of insightful comments from all strata of the People is an important method for the people to participate in co-creating guidelines and policies, thereby enhancing social legitimacy and the unity of awareness throughout the entire community.

Particularly in the mission of protecting the Party's ideological foundation, the Vietnam Fatherland Front acts as a vital "filter" and "democratic throttle valve." Through social supervision and criticism mechanisms specifically regulated in Party decisions (such as Decision No. 217-QĐ/TW and Decision No. 218-QĐ/TW of the Politburo), the Front and its member socio-political organizations actively participate in controlling power, combating corruption, waste, and negativity, and contributing comments to improve guidelines and laws before enactment. Specifically for the provincial level, social supervision and criticism activities focus on issues of major impact such as the enforcement of laws and policies, compensation, resettlement support, administrative reform, public ethics of key officials, and the operation of the two-tier local government model. Such supervision and criticism not only help enhance the transparency and accountability of public apparatuses at provincial and communal levels but also serve as a method to prevent, early and from afar, social causes that may diminish political trust. When legitimate grievances and petitions of citizens are heard, synthesized, and forwarded by the provincial Front to competent authorities for satisfactory resolution, information gaps will be filled. Through this, the Front contributes to eliminating external conditions often exploited by hostile forces to incite and distort, while firmly consolidating the great national unity bloc and the absolute trust of the People in the Party's leadership.

2.3 The Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

In the Vietnamese political system, the Vietnam Fatherland Front holds the position of the political base of the people's government, serving as a political alliance and voluntary union of political, socio-political, and social organizations, and strata of the People. From theoretical and practical perspectives, defining the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in protecting the Party's ideological foundation requires placing it in a dialectical relationship among building great national unity, practicing democracy, and consolidating political trust and social consensus. Specifically, this role is demonstrated through the following key dimensions:

First, acting as a smooth two-way bridge and core subject in gathering and mobilizing the People to build a solid "people's hearts posture." With the function of representing and protecting the legitimate and legal rights and interests of the People, the Front utilizes its extensive organizational network from the central to grassroots levels to translate the

Party's guidelines and policies and the State's laws into the voluntary will and action of the masses. The Party's ideological foundation is thus protected not only through propaganda, theoretical education, or direct counter-argument, but also realized through the practical strength of the people's hearts.

Second, promoting the role of social supervision, social criticism, and power control. In the context of digital transformation, the explosion of cyberspace, and the operation of the two-tier local government model, changes in governance space easily generate information gaps or interest conflicts, creating loopholes for hostile forces to exploit and distort. By implementing social supervision and criticism regulations, participating in building the Party and government, and fighting corruption and negativity, the Front helps improve policies, enhances the accountability of the public apparatus, and serves as a method to prevent early and from afar the social causes that undermine political trust.

Third, proactively grasping legitimate thoughts and aspirations and promptly resolving emerging issues right from the grassroots level to narrow the gap between the Party's will and the people's hearts. By proactively listening to and truthfully reflecting the opinions of the People to Party committees and authorities, and directly participating in removing bottlenecks at the grassroots level, the Front contributes to consolidating the flesh-and-blood bond between the People and the Party.

Fourth, translating the humane guidelines of the Party into vivid practical experiences through patriotic emulation movements and major social security programs. Practical activities such as campaigning for the "For the Poor" Fund and eliminating temporary and dilapidated houses help people clearly perceive the superiority of the regime. When trust and social consensus are solidly consolidated on the basis of practical interests, society will naturally form a strong internal "resistance capacity." This resistance capacity serves as a steel shield helping cadres, party members, and citizens alertly recognize, proactively filter, and resolutely reject all erroneous and hostile arguments, firmly protecting Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, the Party's Platform and guidelines, and the socialist regime in the new era.

2.4 Impacts of the Digital Era on the Role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation

The explosive advancement of the digital era, comprehensive digital transformation, and the extraordinary development of cyberspace have created multi-dimensional, profound impacts on all aspects of socio-political life, while posing entirely new requirements for the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in protecting the Party's ideological foundation. According to DataReportal (2025), Vietnam recorded approximately 85.6 million Internet users (reaching an 84.2% penetration rate of the population), about 79.0 million social media user identities (equivalent to 77.6% of the population), and mobile connections reaching about 137 million (equivalent to 134% of the population)³. These impressive figures prove that cyberspace has become an

³ DataReportal (2025), Digital 2026: Vietnam, available at: <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2026-vietnam>, accessed May 26, 2026.

inseparable organic part of community life, serving as the place where citizens directly receive information, express views, participate in debates, and shape political sentiments. Besides positive aspects, the digital environment also generates major challenges as information spreads at lightning speed, across multiple layers and platforms, making the boundary between official information and manipulated information increasingly fragile for citizens. Hostile forces and opportunistic elements thoroughly exploit technological platforms and artificial intelligence to produce fake news, edited images, and videos to sow doubt and deny the Party's leadership role. Faced with this reality, cyberspace has become a vital front, requiring the Vietnam Fatherland Front not only to maintain traditional mobilization methods via conferences or paper documents. Front organizations at all levels must proactively and strongly transform their mindset and operational methods, apply information technology, operate 24/7 digital interactive channels to promptly receive and process citizens' petitions, and build a sharp communication network to spread positive information, proactively guide public opinion, and firmly protect the Party's ideological foundation from the grassroots.

3. Current Status of the Role of the Provincial-Level Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Mekong Delta in the Digital Era

3.1 Impacts of the Digital Era on the Role of the Provincial-Level Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Mekong Delta Today

The new context of the digital era and the strong explosion of cyberspace are creating profound, multi-dimensional changes that directly impact the role and operational methods of the Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the Mekong Delta region.

The Mekong Delta region inherently possesses vast characteristics, with a diverse population in terms of ethnic composition (such as the Khmer compatriots accounting for a significant proportion) and religions (with a large number of followers of various religions). As the digital era penetrates deeply into social life, coupled with the process of administrative unit reorganization and the operation of the two-tier local government model, people's living and interactive space has expanded strongly into the online environment. According to practical research data, the number of people accessing the Internet and using social media in localities within the region is continuously increasing, turning cyberspace into a vital front where public opinion, political sentiment, and public trust are formed.

However, the rapid development of digital technology also brings unprecedented challenges to the provincial Front system. Hostile forces and opportunistic elements thoroughly exploit social media platforms and artificial intelligence to spread fake news and toxic information, distort guidelines and policies, or exploit sensitive issues regarding ethnicity, religion, land, environment, and climate change in the Mekong Delta to sow doubt and incite division in the great national unity bloc. Meanwhile, the IT application capacity, digital content production skills, and social opinion data analysis skills of a segment of grassroots

and provincial Front cadres in certain localities within the region still show certain gaps compared to the pace of practical development.

It is within this volatile space that the role of the Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at the provincial level in the Mekong Delta is posed with more revolutionary requirements than ever before. The provincial Front cannot merely maintain traditional mobilization methods and administrative meetings but must take the lead in comprehensive digital transformation. The requirement is to build smooth digital interactive channels, effectively operate platforms receiving people's opinions and petitions 24/7, and proactively build a sharp network of digital collaborators from the provincial to grassroots levels. Only through quick grasping, timely feedback, and strong dissemination of positive information, good models, and real-person real-story accounts in cyberspace can the provincial Front maintain its political core role, cultivate ideological "resistance" for all strata of the People, early neutralize all distortion plots, and firmly protect the Party's ideological foundation in this land.

3.2 Results Achieved Regarding the Role of the Provincial-Level Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Mekong Delta in the Digital Era

Over recent years, closely adhering to the Party's guidelines and resolutions - directly Politburo Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW on strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation and combating erroneous and hostile viewpoints in the new situation - the Vietnam Fatherland Front systems at all levels in the Mekong Delta region have made numerous efforts to innovate their content and operational methods. Particularly in the context of organizational reorganization and the operation of the two-tier local government model, the Committees of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of provinces and cities in the region have clearly affirmed their political core role, achieving important and comprehensive results across all work fronts.

First, performing well the role of gathering and mobilizing the masses, firmly consolidating social consensus and the great national unity bloc from the grassroots level.

The first prominent result is that the Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels in the region has clearly affirmed its role as a sustainable, smooth bridge between Party committees, authorities, and all strata of the People. Through forms of direct contact and dialogue, the Front system has performed well in grasping the people's sentiment, promptly synthesizing and fully and truthfully reflecting legitimate opinions and petitions of voters to competent authorities.

Particularly in the Mekong Delta region - an area with very high characteristics of ethnic and religious diversity - Fronts at all levels have effectively promoted their central role in building the great national unity bloc. Through close coordination with state agencies and member organizations in the spirit of Secretariat Decision No. 238-QĐ/TW, propaganda and mobilization work among ethnic minority compatriots (such as the Khmer compatriots in Can Tho with over 411,164 people, accounting for 12.86% of the population) and followers, dignitaries, and clerics of religions (Khmer Theravada Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism) has been widely deployed. In Can Tho, religious followers account for nearly 30% of the population

(about 1,246,766 people)⁴; in Ca Mau, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap, Fronts at all levels have maximized the prestige of religious dignitaries and influential people at the grassroots level to create profound social consensus, helping people boldly express political views and actively participate in contributing opinions to the Party's guidelines and State laws. A typical proof of the co-creation role is that the nationwide Front system synthesized 527,764 insightful public comments on the Documents of Party Congresses at all levels and the 14th National Party Congress. This process contributed to narrowing the gap between the Party's will and the people's hearts, creating natural "resistance" against distorted arguments.

Second, enhancing the quality of social supervision and criticism activities, contributing to early and remote prevention of causes undermining political trust.

Recognizing that social supervision and criticism are important methods to protect the Party early and from afar, the Committees of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in provinces and cities throughout the region have gradually deepened these activities, closely tying them to the operation of the two-tier local government model.

Localities in the region have achieved impressive figures in social supervision and criticism. In Can Tho city, the Fatherland Front at all levels presided over the supervision of 278 contents; across the entire system of the Front and socio-political organizations, 646 contents were supervised through 1,170 supervisory sessions, alongside 406 social criticism conferences with 357 contents, and the coordinated organization of 2,326 voter contact sessions attracting 146,148 voter attendances and 3,108 speaking opinions⁵. In Vinh Long province, this work recorded 121 supervision contents and 201 social criticism sessions. In Dong Thap, An Giang, and Ca Mau provinces, Fronts at all levels also intensified supervision over the implementation of key projects, compensation and resettlement policies, and administrative reform to enhance "post-supervision effectiveness."

Through monitoring the enforcement of laws and policies, resolving complaints and denunciations, compensation and resettlement work, administrative procedure reform, public ethics, and practical livelihood issues, the Front has significantly contributed to policy improvement, transparency, and accountability of the public apparatus. Promptly discovering bottlenecks and petitioning competent

authorities for thorough resolution helped close information gaps, depriving hostile forces of conditions to incite and defame the regime, thereby firmly consolidating public trust. Third, innovating operational methods, gradually adapting to the requirements of digital transformation and developing the information front in cyberspace.

Facing the rapid development of information technology and cyberspace, the Vietnam Fatherland Front in provinces and cities of the Mekong Delta has proactively innovated its content and operational methods toward being close to the people, close to the grassroots, and promoting digital applications.

Many localities in the region such as Can Tho, Ca Mau, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap have thoroughly utilized social media platforms (such as Facebook, fanpages, Zalo groups) and grassroots broadcasting systems to propagate and spread positive information, guiding public opinion. For instance, in Can Tho city, the Front system and member organizations organized 208,749 propaganda sessions attracting 9,295,268 attendees, while deploying social media propaganda reaching 3,301 news articles and 2,340 images with 4,498,026 views⁶. This large scale of reach demonstrates the efforts of the grassroots Front system to cover official information. Expanding digital interaction channels in regional provinces helped shorten the distance between authorities and citizens, enhancing the capacity to grasp sentiment and reactions promptly from the grassroots, contributing to a healthy information environment and protecting the Party's ideological foundation in both physical and cyberspace.

Fourth, closely linking ideological work with patriotic emulation movements and social security activities, using practical effectiveness as the measure of trust.

One of the prominent and characteristic successes of the Vietnam Fatherland Front at all levels in the Mekong Delta is the harmonious linkage between ideological propaganda for protection and patriotic emulation movements alongside practical social security programs.

Fronts in regional provinces have played a core role in mobilizing social resources to care for the poor, vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, and areas heavily affected by climate change. Specifically in provinces:

In An Giang province: In the 2024-2029 term, the 2025 campaign to eliminate temporary and dilapidated houses was completed with 9,082 houses (including 7,185 newly built and 1,897 repaired), with a total budget of over 480 billion VND; the "For the Poor" Fund received over 145 billion VND, building and repairing 2,723 Great Solidarity houses⁷.

⁴ Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Can Tho City (2025), Draft Political Report Submitted to the 1st Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Can Tho City, Term 2025 – 2030, Can Tho. Extracted from: <https://www.mattrancantho.vn/files/files/2025/T%C3%A0i%20li%E1%BB%87u%20%C4%90%E1%BA%A1i%20h%E1%BB%99i/Du%20thao%20Bao%20c%C3%A1o%20ch%C3%ADnh%20tr%E1%BB%8B.pdf>, accessed May 26, 2026.

⁵ Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Can Tho City (2025), Draft Political Report Submitted to the 1st Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Can Tho City, Term 2025 – 2030, Can Tho. Extracted from: <https://www.mattrancantho.vn/files/files/2025/T%C3%A0i%20li%E1%BB%87u%20%C4%90%E1%BA%A1i%20h%E1%BB%99i/Du%20thao%20Bao%20c%C3%A1o%20ch%C3%ADnh%20tr%E1%BB%8B.pdf>, accessed May 26, 2026.

⁶ Ủy ban Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam thành phố Cần Thơ (2025), Dự thảo Báo cáo chính trị trình Đại hội đại biểu Mặt trận Tổ quốc Việt Nam thành phố Cần Thơ lần thứ I, nhiệm kỳ 2025 – 2030, Cần Thơ. Trích từ: <https://www.mattrancantho.vn/files/files/2025/T%C3%A0i%20li%E1%BB%87u%20%C4%90%E1%BA%A1i%20h%E1%BB%99i/Du%20thao%20Bao%20c%C3%A1o%20ch%C3%ADnh%20tr%E1%BB%8B.pdf>, truy cập ngày 26/5/2026.

⁷ An Giang Provincial Electronic Information Portal (2025), An Giang: Promoting the Strength of Great National Unity to Enter a New Era with the Country, Available at: <https://angiang.gov.vn/vi/an-giang-phat-huy-suc-manh-dai>

In Vinh Long province: The provincial "For the Poor" Fund mobilized over 375 billion VND, supporting the completion of 14,738 Great Solidarity houses for poor households⁸.

In Ca Mau province: The Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of the province mobilized social resources, notably focusing on deploying and completing thousands of Great Solidarity houses in the first 6 months of 2026, practically caring for the people's lives.

In Dong Thap and Can Tho: Patriotic emulation movements, new-style rural area building, civilized urban development, and social security work were strongly deployed, mobilizing hundreds of hundreds of billions of VND to support vulnerable people.

These telling figures affirm that when the humane guidelines of the Party and State are actualized by the Front into vivid material and spiritual results, people most clearly perceive the superiority of the regime. Proper care for livelihoods and daily life in Ca Mau, Can Tho, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap has become the solid anchor to consolidate the "people's hearts posture," turning political trust into a natural, sustainable resistance against sabotage plots by hostile forces.

3.3 Limitations and Causes of Limitations in Implementing the Role of the Provincial-Level Vietnam Fatherland Front in Protecting the Party's Ideological Foundation in the Mekong Delta in the Digital Era

First, methods of grasping social opinion and reacting to information in cyberspace in some localities remain slow, failing to keep pace with technological development and practical life.

Under the digital era and the two-tier local government model, grasping citizens' thoughts and aspirations in many regional localities is sometimes heavily administrative, relying heavily on vertical periodic reports rather than applying big data analytics tools in cyberspace. In Can Tho city, the draft Political Report of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of the city frankly pointed out that grasping social opinion is sometimes untimely, especially regarding complex information related to complaints, denunciations, or delayed planning projects. Similar situations occurred in Ca Mau, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap, where rapid response systems against toxic social media streams are sometimes hesitant, failing to form comprehensive early warning systems against ideological "hotspots."

Second, the digital transformation capacity and modern communication skills of a segment of grassroots Front cadres remain limited, failing to meet Industry 4.0 requirements.

Although digital transformation policies have been thoroughly disseminated, the practical implementation

capacity of provincial and communal Front cadres in Mekong Delta provinces still shows a large gap compared to new demands. In Can Tho, despite reaching millions of views via social media, interaction quality and the ability to produce sharp digital communication products (such as infographics, short fake-news debunking videos) remain uneven. In agricultural provinces with large areas like An Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, and Ca Mau, Front cadres holding concurrent positions lack advanced online information trend analysis skills and grassroots communication crisis handling skills, leading to limited dissemination of official information in many rural and ethnic minority residential areas.

Third, social supervision and criticism activities regarding sensitive issues directly related to political trust sometimes fail to keep pace with practical requirements.

Although social supervision and criticism by the Front at all levels achieved impressive numbers (such as Can Tho with 646 supervision contents and Vinh Long with 121 contents), the quality and "post-supervision effectiveness" in some places still fall short of expectations. Sensitive issues easily exploited by hostile forces such as site clearance compensation, environmental pollution caused by climate change, livelihoods of saline-affected people in Ca Mau, delayed major transport projects in Can Tho, or ethnic minority welfare in An Giang and Dong Thap are sometimes omitted from necessary sharp critical programs. Tracking and urging state agencies to implement post-supervision recommendations in some regional localities are sometimes formalistic, reducing early preventive effectiveness against trust-diminishing causes.

Fourth, causes of limitations and shortcomings.

The aforementioned limitations stem from both objective and subjective causes during implementation:

Objectively: The rapid, breakneck development of cross-border platforms and artificial intelligence in generating fake news and toxic information exceeds the adaptation speed of equipment systems and human resources at local Front agencies. Furthermore, the vast and ethnically/religiously diverse characteristics of the Mekong Delta create high complexity in ideological management.

Subjectively: The awareness of some Party committees, authorities, and even within the Front system regarding the role of fostering social consensus tied to protecting the ideological foundation in cyberspace is sometimes incomplete. Coordination mechanisms between the Propaganda Department, state agencies, and the Fatherland Front in sharing hot information and handling bottlenecks in Ca Mau, Can Tho, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap are sometimes not truly synchronous; digital data systems for grasping social moods are not standardized or interconnected into a unified system for the entire Mekong Delta region.

4. Solutions

4.1 Strongly Innovating Methods of Gathering the People and Building Social Consensus

People-centric approach: Fatherland Fronts at all levels must strongly transition from one-way propaganda to two-way dialogue mechanisms, enhancing community consultation forums and direct contact in residential areas. In Can Tho city, the Front system at all levels coordinated the successful organization of thousands of voter contact sessions and direct dialogues, attracting over 146,148 voter attendances

doan-ket-toan-dantoc-cung-dat-nuoc-buoc-vao-ky-nguyen-moi, accessed May 26, 2026.

⁸ Electronic Information Portal of Vinh Long Provincial Party Committee (2025), The 1st Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Vinh Long Province, Term 2025 – 2030: Affirming the Core Role and Realizing Development Aspirations, Available at: <https://vinhlong.dcs.vn/dai-hoi-dai-bieu-mat-tran-to-quoc-viet-nam-tinh-vinhlong-lan-thu-i-nhiem-ky-2025---2030-khang-dinh-vai-tro-nong-cot-hien-thuchoa-khat-vong-phat-trien-1005231.ngn>, accessed May 26, 2026.

and recording 3,108 direct speaking opinions. In An Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, and Ca Mau, direct community contact methods were innovated by listening to people's thoughts on socio-economic development projects, thereby creating high consensus and narrowing the gap between authorities and the People. This process helps promptly grasp social moods, thereby orienting ideology and firmly consolidating public trust in the Party's guidelines and policies.

Promoting the core role of grassroots forces: Emphasizing the prestige of village elders, village chiefs, religious dignitaries, and clerics (Khmer Theravada Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism) to disseminate official information and timely resolve conflicts right from the grassroots. For the Mekong Delta - home to millions of religious and ethnic minority compatriots (such as Can Tho with nearly 1.25 million religious followers, accounting for nearly 30% of the population, and over 494,400 ethnic minorities, with Khmer accounting to 12.86%) - promoting the role of dignitaries and influential people acts as an "extended arm" of the Front, spreading Party guidelines deep into every hamlet, village, and parish. This core force plays an important bridge in mobilizing the masses to heighten vigilance, avoiding exploitation and incitement by hostile forces, thereby contributing to early prevention of plots dividing the great national unity bloc.

4.2 Enhancing the Quality and Effectiveness of Social Supervision and Criticism Activities

Focusing on practical supervision: Concentrating on monitoring law enforcement, resolving complaints and denunciations, compensation and resettlement support, administrative procedure reform, and public ethics among cadres and civil servants in the two-tier local government model. Practical implementation in regional provinces and cities recorded large supervisory scales, such as Can Tho with 278 contents presided over by the Front and a system-wide total of 646 contents across 1,170 supervisory sessions, alongside 406 social criticism conferences with 357 contents. In Vinh Long province, this work recorded 121 supervision contents and 201 social criticism sessions. Ca Mau, An Giang, and Dong Thap also focused on bringing sensitive issues like site clearance compensation and key infrastructure works into key supervisory programs to ensure legitimate public rights and enhance state governance effectiveness.

Closing management gaps: Promptly discovering bottlenecks and petitioning competent authorities for thorough resolution, thereby depriving hostile forces of pretexts to defame the regime. Through following through on post-supervision recommendations in Can Tho, Vinh Long, An Giang, Dong Thap, and Ca Mau, Fronts at all levels contributed to thoroughly resolving livelihood grievances, closing information gaps, and eliminating external conditions exploitable for sabotage. This constructive supervision and criticism not only helps refine local mechanisms and policies but also serves as an early, remote preventive method against causes undermining political trust in society.

4.3 Building and Solidifying the Information Front in Cyberspace

Effectively operating the "Digital Front Portal": According

to the orientation of the 11th National Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, a 24/7 petition reception system should be synchronously deployed, striving for 100% of communes and wards to establish interactive social media pages directly with citizens. In Can Tho, An Giang, Vinh Long, Dong Thap, and Ca Mau, the Front system is promoting digitalization, building information portals and fanpages connected online with citizens to quickly receive feedback and petitions in cyberspace. Utilizing digital platforms significantly shortens the distance between state agencies and citizens, ensuring all contributions or grassroots problems are publicly and transparently answered and resolved.

Digital collaborator network: Building a network of digital collaborators consisting of young cadres, intellectuals, and union youth with political courage and technological skills to proactively detect, combat, and refute fake news, while spreading good models and real-person real-story role models. Mobilizing tens of thousands of union and association members in Mekong Delta provinces to join the core force in cyberspace helps cover positive information and directly fight toxic information. This network acts as an online "shield," promptly exposing distorted arguments and firmly defending the Party's ideological front in the online environment.

4.4 Maximizing Specific Advantages of Each Member Socio-Political Organization

Clear role division by target groups: Trade unions focus on protecting workers' rights; Farmers' Associations focus on livelihoods, land, and agricultural digital transformation; Youth Unions are vanguards in digital communication and revolutionary ideal education; Women's Unions promote roles in building cultural families and cyber safety; Veterans set bright examples in traditional education and grassroots reconciliation. In agricultural and labor-heavy provinces like Can Tho (with over 162,700 workers, 139,422 union members, 300,404 farmer members, 173,493 youth union members, over 655,489 women members, and 40,575 veteran members), alongside An Giang, Vinh Long, Dong Thap, and Ca Mau, member organizations effectively promoted specific emulation movements and livelihood support, thus firmly consolidating public trust in Party leadership. This close consultative coordination helps infuse ideological protection content into every corner of social life according to specific occupational and age characteristics.

4.5 Comprehensive Capacity Building for Front Cadres at All Levels

Equipping digital skills and modern communication: Innovating training and fostering of Front cadres not only in political courage but also in skilled mass mobilization, legal understanding, social opinion analysis capacity, and handling complex communication situations in the digital environment. Party committees and Standing Boards of the Vietnam Fatherland Front in Can Tho, Ca Mau, An Giang, Vinh Long, and Dong Thap are actively deploying digital skill training classes and professional development for grassroots cadres to meet task requirements in the digital era. Standardizing the capacity of cadres working closely at the grassroots will improve advisory quality, early detect complex issues, and handle communication crises early and from afar.

4.6 Synchronizing "Building" and "Fighting," Taking "Building" as the Root

Consolidating trust through practical effectiveness: Closely combining the fight against erroneous viewpoints with caring for the people's material and spiritual life, effectively implementing social security policies. Nguyen Van Dũng (2026) emphasized that the grand achievements of the Doi Moi process and transparency in public governance are the most vivid proofs affirming the correctness of the Party's ideological foundation. In Mekong Delta provinces, mobilizing the "For the Poor" Fund and social security programs achieved huge figures, exemplified by Vinh Long mobilizing over 375 billion VND for the "For the Poor" Fund and supporting 14,738 houses; An Giang completing the campaign to eliminate 9,082 temporary/dilapidated houses (7,185 newly built, 1,897 repaired) with over 480 billion VND plus over 145 billion VND for the "For the Poor" Fund; while Ca Mau, Can Tho, and Dong Thap also deployed thousands of great solidarity houses. These practical social security results represent the most vivid reality to solidly "build" the "people's hearts posture," serving as a firm scientific and political foundation to successfully protect the Party's ideological foundation.

5. Conclusion

Protecting the Party's ideological foundation in the new development stage is a vital, regular task of the entire political system. In the Mekong Delta, promoting the role of the provincial-level Vietnam Fatherland Front tied to the two-tier local government model plays a decisive role in consolidating social consensus and enhancing public trust. By strongly innovating operational methods, promoting digital transformation, improving the quality of social supervision and criticism, and promoting the strength of the great national unity bloc, the Vietnam Fatherland Front will continue to affirm its position as an important political nucleus at the grassroots level. Through this, it contributes to firmly protecting the Party's ideological foundation, maintaining socio-political stability, and promoting sustainable development of the region in the nation's rising era.

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