

Research Article

Political Beliefs of Citizens: Through Research in the Central Region of Vietnam

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A B S T R A C T

Political beliefs of citizens are less specifically expressed, analyzed and measured through studies in Vietnam. Political activities are of people of politics of different classes, organizations, political parties, and states. The activity takes place in a defined time and space, and is governed by the regulations of institutions, political institutions and the actual strength of all classes, political parties and the state in a specific society. In this article, we use the results of the survey on citizens' political beliefs in the Central region of Vietnam to analyze the positive and negative aspects of citizens' political beliefs. From there, draw important conclusions, needing attention for the ruling entity.

Keywords: Political Beliefs, Citizen, The Central Region, Vietnam

Introduction

Political beliefs is not a separate, separate and independent form of social beliefs that they are molded, expressed through the practical political activities of the subjects. It is associated with political processes and is constantly changing in the course of history, subject to the conditions of socio-economic and political conditions in each period and time of history. Therefore, the study of political beliefs needs to consider it in dialectical unity of a series of aspects: material and spiritual; logic and history; economic, political, cultural and ideological factors.

A set of beliefs about a given issue or philosophy (for example, economy, politics, environment or foreign policy) constitutes the core meaning of the belief aspect. For example, the economic belief aspect is the collection of a personal belief about what they consider to be an appropriate economic philosophy (for example, focusing on economic stimulus or austerity). An aspect of political beliefs is a set of beliefs about what an individual considers an appropriate political philosophy. The sum of all dimensions of belief constitutes a belief system that helps an individual

understand how the world works and how to achieve certain outcomes (Van Esch, 2007).

Concerning about political beliefs as a concept created in massive studies in social sciences and philosophy throughout the 1990s (Hardin, 1996; Misztal, 1996; Warren, 1999). According to Newton (1999, p.179) "political beliefs is being influenced by old factors such as the media". The common meaning of political beliefs is considered to be the citizen's assessment of the core institutions of the political system (Lipset & Schneider, 1983; Zmerli, Newton, & Montero, 2007, p.41). Political beliefs therefore means that people evaluate political institutions and the performance of political leaders positively. This requires trustworthiness, legitimacy and transparency in political decisions of leaders and the acceptance of different views. Faith in institutions and belief in political leaders have a positive influence on the state and its citizens, that they treat all people equally, ensure fairness, and do not cause disadvantage for any particular social group. Political behavior and beliefs play a decisive role in complying with state requirements and orders (Levi, 1997; Scholz & Lubell, 1998), thereby promoting the legitimacy of the state. Moreover, political

beliefs influence citizens' tendency to vote on candidates (Hetherington, 1999).

Political distrust often has a strong correlation with adverse policy assessments for citizens. Although, it has been acknowledged that reactionary ideologies and ideological extremists correspond to lower levels of trust (Inglehart, 1987). The relationship between political beliefs and the loss of political beliefs comes from extremist ideas or from the deterioration of socio-economic conditions. When extremism increases, the level of political extremism and distrust in society also increases (Miller, 1974). Obviously, political extremists do not trust and criticize the political system and its functioning (Greenberg & Jonas, 2003).

Studies in the field of social psychology have also shown that extreme conservatives, for example, may be the result of worries related to uncertainty and fear and are enforced by dogmatic political views, authoritarian and intolerant tendencies towards dissidents (Jost et al., 2003). However, further empirical research has shown that some of these characteristics may need to be attributed to both ideological rigidity and authoritarian tendencies associated with an increase in some leadership (McFarland et al., 1992). Indeed, a recent large-scale model in the Netherlands shows that both extremes of the left come from socio-economic development than political views (van Prooijen, Krouwel, Boiten, & Eendebak, 2015).

Furthermore, ruling party's members are more likely to exhibit a higher level of political trust than non-ruling party's members. Therefore, in addition to socio-economic factors, political factors are also the source of political belief or political distrust. Aberbach and Walker (1970, p.1202) argue that a person who does not believe in politics is "more likely to engage in violent activities to solve social problems than a person with political belief".

According to cultural and political studies (Almond & Verba, 1989), countries with a high degree of political trust achieve better economic development and a higher level of support for democracy among citizens of surname. After interviewing about 5,000 people living in five different countries between 1959 and 1960, the authors analyzed the orientation of the political system to the public and received an interested attitude of the people at three levels: *Firstly*, the people support the political system when the political institutions are highly stable. *Second*, the people have no affection nor express their appreciation for the political system. *Third*, People hate and underestimate, do not trust or deny the existence of that system. In their view, the reason why underdeveloped countries have difficulty improving their economic efficiency and political systems will lead to low levels of credibility (Wiarda, 1992). In this view, one might argue that political beliefs associated with a society affect its political and economic achievements.

Therefore, if the confidence between individuals and politics is low in a given regime, it is likely to increase authoritarian rule, which will hinder political development and positive factors of the economy and culture.

Through Researches, we Analyze Political Beliefs (in the Context and Characteristics of Vietnamese Political Institutions) from the Perspective of the Following Factors

Firstly, citizens are concerned about the purpose of the political process. The political beliefs of the people will change with the functioning of the functioning parts of the political system. When the components of the political system operate in a positive way, serving the people, bringing benefits to the people, strengthening the strength of the nation, the political beliefs of the people in that system will be raised. When the political systems are receiving the attention and good feelings of citizens, the interests of the country are consistent with the interests of citizens, the citizens will not only abide by but also practice self-discipline, belief in political decisions. Conversely, when that political system has been alienated (such as corruption), operating inefficiently for a long time, people will no longer be silent but will show disbelief and opposition or struggling to overthrow the old political system to replace it with a new, more advanced political system.

Secondly, citizens participate in socio-political activities. Depending on the social position of each citizens to assess their activeness in socio-political activities. For ordinary citizens it is possible to recognize their political beliefs through the actions of participating and implementing political goals in the organizations they are members. For leaders at all levels, political beliefs is reflected in the ability to determine the most effective method and form in organizing social forces; ability to select and appoint qualified and talented people to positions in party organizations, the state, socio-political organizations ... appropriately.

Thirdly, the level of citizens participating in creative labor fulfills political goals. Through active labor, each individual knows how to re-evaluate himself, train and grow to the maturity of his personality, ideology, moral level and culture. Labor, jobs and benefits corresponding to the results that labor produce is also a reality, a material content of political democracy. It encourages citizens to be active in production management activities as well as to actively participate in the work of the state, of the socio-political organizations to which they are members.

Data and Research Methods

In order to analyze and assess the status of political beliefs of citizens in the Central region of Vietnam, we conducted a survey of 2,100 samples (votes) in provinces in the Central

region, Vietnam. We selected the structure sample including provinces: Thanh Hoa, Quang Binh, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Ngai, Khanh Hoa and Binh Thuan, each locality selected 300 cases according to stratified sample. Out of 2,100 samples, the total number of men was 1,074 (accounting for 51.1%); The number of women in the sample is 1,026 (accounting for 48.9%). When designing the questionnaire, information about the age of the surveyed object is declared according to the actual age (recorded year of birth), then re-encoded according to the actual requirements as an independent variable. calculus; range from 19 to 85. For ease of analysis, we divided into 4 age groups: group 1 (from 18-35 years old); group 2 (from 36-45 years old); group 3 (aged 46-55) and group 4 (over 55 years old).

Basing on the survey results, we use qualitative and quantitative research methods, combined with secondary documents, such as reports, legal documents, data local statistics and comments, assessments, attitudes of groups of people, leaders and local managers in the Central region from which to draw comments, solve problems raised in the article. In addition, we also use expert methods, social trust measures, forecasting methods. We use SPSS for Windows software to process the collected data and use other appropriate research techniques.

Result

Firstly, the degree to which citizens are interested in political life: (Table 1)

Through surveys (2,096 people), people in the Central region have been frequently interested in domestic and international politics, accounting for a high proportion. With 5 levels of assessment, the rate of the number of people regularly interested in domestic politics accounted for

41.3%; The percentage of people who are often interested in foreign affairs of the country is 32.0%. However, the proportion of people occasionally interested in foreign affairs is quite high - 38.5%. This shows that citizens are still mainly concerned with domestic political life but not really concerned about our country's foreign affairs today.

In other fields: Regarding national defense and security activities, among the 5 levels of interest, the number of respondents (2,084 people), the highest rate is often concerned (accounting for 38.0%), the number of people not interest accounts for only 8.9%. This shows that people in this region are always interested in the national security and defense. Regarding the situation of the East Sea (the number of respondents 2,099 people), the level of interest in the East Sea situation of the region is as follows: very often interested: 14.6%; regular interest accounted for 34.8% and did not care 13.7%. For international integration (number of respondents 2,099), the rate of very interested and regular attention is 11.3% and 31.6% respectively - that is, less than 1/2 of the regular people are concerned and interested in international integration. Meanwhile, the percentage sometimes, rarely or not interested in the majority. Thus, paying attention to the process of international integration of people in the Central region is still a difficult problem that needs solutions to overcome this situation, especially in the context of our country's integration is deeper than today. As for administrative reform, out of 2093 respondents, the percentage of people who are very interested in taking care of them is still modest (11.0%), is not interested in the field of administrative reform accounting for more than half of the respondents (51.4%). This shows that the number of people really interested in administrative reform in the Central region is still not much.

Table 1. Citizen's level of interest in some issues of political life

Aspects	Level of concern	Frequency	Rate %
Political activities in the country	Very often	366	17,4
	often	867	41,3
	Sometimes	507	24,2
	Seldom	143	7,0
	Disinterest	213	10,1
	Total	2.096	100,0
Foreign activities	Very often	214	10,2
	Often	670	32,0
	Sometimes	806	38,5
	Seldom	251	12,0
	Disinterest	155	7,4
	Total	2.096	100,0

National defense and security activities	Very often	252	12,1
	Often	791	38,0
	Sometimes	606	29,1
	Seldom	249	11,9
	Disinterest	186	8,9
	Total	2.084	100,0
The situation of East Sea	Very often	307	14,6
	Often	730	34,8
	Sometimes	551	26,3
	Seldom	223	10,6
	Disinterest	288	13,7
	Total	2.099	100,0
The situation of international integration	Very often	238	11,3
	Often	663	31,6
	Sometimes	651	31,0
	Seldom	222	10,6
	Disinterest	325	15,5
	Total	2.099	100,0
Administrative reform activities	Very often	231	11,0
	Often	786	37,6
	Sometimes	734	35,1
	Seldom	216	10,3
	Disinterest	126	6,0
	Total	2093	100,0

Source: Academy of Politics Region III (2019), Research results of project code KX.01.42 / 16-20.

Second, the Level of Trust in Political Life (Table 2)

According to a survey of 2,100 people, about the belief in the Party's leadership, the percentage of very trust and trust is very high (42.4% and 35.2% respectively) and the proportion of non-believers. trust and not trust respectively 2.3% and 3.1%. This shows that the Central's people believe in the Party's leadership. This will be a very good condition for the Party committees at all levels continue to have favorable conditions in socio-economic development of localities. Regarding the stability of the political situation, the survey results show that the percentage of respondents confirming the political stability of our country in general and the Central region in particular is as follows: very confident (24.8%); trust (50.8%); Very unreliable (2.8%) and not trusting (2.0%). For the handled corruption cases, the rates of very trust and trust were 13.1% and 51.0%,

respectively; Very unreliable (2.7%). As for the strength of national solidarity, out of 2,100 respondents, the number of respondents who are very confident and trust is 26% and 48.7% respectively; Very disbelieving and disbelieving were 2.7% and 1.7% respectively (Table 2). This is a very important belief in the political field to create unity, national strength in the struggle to defend the Fatherland, as well as the strength in socio-economic development, bringing our country through the difficulties and challenges. Regarding the growing economic situation of the country, the percentage of people who believe and believe in it is very high (58.9% and 23.3% respectively), very not trust only very little, accounting for 2.1%. This shows that the majority of the people surveyed believe that they must lead the economy of the Party and the Government and it also reflects the people's enthusiasm for Vietnam's continuous economic development in all the time.

Table 2. Level of confidence in some areas

Aspects	Level of concern	Frequency	Rate (%)
Party's leadership role	Very unreliable	66	3,1
	Unreliable	48	2,3
	Normal	356	17,0
	Reliable	740	35,2
	Very reliable	890	42,4
	Total	2.100	100,0
The political situation is increasingly stable	Very unreliable	58	2,8
	Unreliable	42	2,0
	Normal	414	19,7
	Reliable	1.066	50,8
	Very reliable	520	24,8
	Total	2.100	100,0
Corruption is handled	Very unreliable	56	2,7
	Unreliable	116	5,5
	Normal	583	27,8
	Reliable	1.070	51,0
	Very reliable	275	13,1
	Total	2.100	100,0
The power of national unity	Very unreliable	56	2,7
	Unreliable	36	1,7
	Normal	440	21,0
	Reliable	1.022	48,7
	Very reliable	546	26,0
	Total	2.100	100,0
The country's economy is growing	Very unreliable	44	2.1
	Unreliable	53	2.5
	Normal	277	13.2
	Reliable	1237	58.9
	Very reliable	489	23.3
	Total	2100	100.0

Source: Academy of Politics Region III (2019), Research results of project code KX.01.42 / 16-20.

Third: The Degree of Change of Citizen's Beliefs in the Political Fields Compared to 5 Years Ago (Table 3)

When assessed the change in some areas of political life at five levels (much better, relatively better, unchanged, worse, much worse), a total of 2100 people asked as follows: : Regarding the political system, the percentage of respondents who rated it much better and relatively better is very high (accounting for 26.4% and 57.8% respectively), while the number of people who think it is worse many only accounted for 0.7%. This is a very happy sign for

the belief of citizens in the political life of our country. Regarding the security and order situation, the rate of good and much better evaluation is also very high (20.8% and 48.8% respectively), while only 0.8 % of respondents rated it as much worse. As for the defense sector, up to 76% of respondents said that the defense sector in our country in general, in the Central region in particular, is much better and relatively better, only 0.7% for that much less. As for diplomacy, as well as a number of other areas, with diplomacy the percentage of people who think that is much better and relatively better is up to 87%. This shows that respondents highly appreciate the positive change of

Vietnamese diplomacy in the past 5 years. As for the Party reorganization, from the beginning of the term up to now, our Party has stepped up and achieved many successes in party reorganization. Therefore, the number of people who think that the field of construction and adjustment of the party has been much better and relatively better occupies a high proportion (33.5% and 49.4% respectively),

the number of people saying that it is worse many only accounted for 1.3%. As for administrative reform, compared to other areas, people have acknowledged the efforts and successes in this work of the Government and local authorities in the Central region over the past 5 years. big. This is reflected in the rate that is much better at 17.2% and relatively better at 61.5%.

Table 3. Level of change of Citizen's beliefs in political fields compared to 5 years ago

Assessing changes in some areas (compared to 5 years ago)	Level of evaluation	Frequency	Rate %
Political system	So much better	554	26.4
	Much better	1213	57.8
	Unchanged	268	12.8
	Abatement	51	2.4
	Much abatement	14	0.7
Security	So much better	437	20.8
	Much better	1024	48.8
	Unchanged	425	20.2
	Abatement	196	9.3
	Much abatement	17	0.8
National defense	So much better	537	25.6
	Much better	1058	50.4
	Unchanged	411	19.6
	Abatement	80	3.8
	Much abatement	14	0.7
Diplomatic	So much better	691	32.9
	Much better	1136	54.1
	Unchanged	226	10.8
	Abatement	31	1.5
	Much abatement	15	0.7
Building and regulating the Party	So much better	703	33.5
	Much better	1037	49.4
	Unchanged	289	13.8
	Abatement	44	2.1
	Much abatement	27	1.3
Revolutionizing administration	So much better	360	17.2
	Much better	1291	61.5
	Unchanged	391	18.6
	Abatement	45	2.1
	Much abatement	12	0.6

Source: Academy of Politics Region III (2019), Research results of project code KX.01.42 / 16-20.

Fourthly: The Situation of Losing Most Trust in Politics (Table 4)

Through surveys for the masses: Compared to other fields, beliefs in three criteria in the field of politics: Status of running a position, running rights; Corruption status; Bureaucracy, harassment are the three areas that account for the highest level of distrust of the masses (66.3%; 68.6% and 39.6%, respectively). The statistical results show that "corruption" is said to be the problem that makes people lose the most confidence (66.3%); "Running, running right" is the second cause of people losing confidence (68.6%). Although, the above analysis shows that the rate of people believing in the fight against corruption is quite high. However, the number of people who think that the "corruption" in the political system is making them lose trust is also the highest. This requires a well-deserved system of solutions to improve people's political beliefs.

For the Vietnamese Communist Party's members: It is worth mentioning that the respondents are party members who have considered "more negative" about the running of power and corruption. The results of the survey showed that 71.7% of the Party's members said that "running for office and running for power" was 71.6%; The problem of "corruption" is 71.3%. If this problem is not solved promptly, it will significantly affect the political ideology of the Party's members in the Central region - this is the most important measure of trust in the political field of the team.

understand that people in Central, Vietnam in the current period has a better understanding of the political system of the country, about the guidelines and policies of the Vietnamese Party Communist, the legal policies of the State of Vietnam.

The development of awareness in political-social relations has motivated citizens in need of being aware of their rights in political life. In recent years, along with the development of economy - society, science, technology ... the intellectual level of citizens has been raised significantly. Basic rights and obligations in the field of socio-politics such as the right to participate in state management, social management, the right to vote, to stand for election, the right to lodge denunciations, the right to supervise and to close making suggestions on the general affairs of the political system implemented by citizens is increasingly active and better. This partly proves that the self-awareness, political beliefs of citizens are increasing.

Moreover, the people have actively implemented the rights and obligations of citizens. It is expressed through the good implementation of citizens' right to complain and denunciation against the manifestations and acts of violating laws, corruption and the rights of some officials and public servants in the political system. When the right to complaints and denunciations is well exercised, it means that citizens have directly expressed their opinions to participate in the State management and social management, promoting

Table 4. Level of change of Citizen's beliefs in political fields compared to 5 years ago

Aspects	Partisan		Not Partisan		Total	
	Frequency	Rate	Frequency	Rate	Frequency	Rate
Buy regency and power	606	71.6	832	66.3	1438	68.5
Corruption	603	71.3	860	68.6	1463	69.7
Bureaucrats, harassment	299	35.3	497	39.6	796	37.9
Unusual wealth of some people	65	7.7	135	10.8	200	9.5

Source: Academy of Politics Region III (2019), Research results of project code KX.01.42 / 16-20.

Analysis and Judgment

By analyzing the results of the survey on political beliefs in the Central region, Vietnam shows that: Economic integration with the automation of politics has enabled citizens to have access to values of culture, politics, society. These values daily and hourly affect people's awareness through many different ways such as mass media, Internet, social relations... with many such impacts help people formulate their needs to explore and learn to understand and create new values.

The attention of the people of Central in Vietnam to the activities of the political system enables citizens to expand their horizons to understand the socio-political relations of the nation. Thanks to the exploration and learning to

responsibility for the political system, promoting political beliefs of citizens.

Another point that demonstrates the increasing awareness of citizens about their rights and obligations in political life is the participation of questions and their opinions through voter contact programs of Delegates of the National Assembly, People's Councils and participation in voting of confidence for key positions of People's Councils, People's Committees of communes, wards, townships and village heads. With these manifestations, it can be seen that citizens' awareness of their rights and obligations in political life is more and more fully and positively contributing to raising citizens' political beliefs in current period.

The recent renovation of the political system in

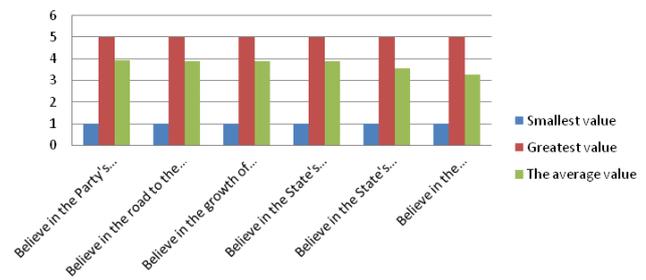
Vietnam has contributed to attracting a large number of citizens to participate in grassroots socio-political organizations, promoting ownership and participation in social management. State management, participating in building new cultural life in residential areas... the active participation of the Central's citizens in the socio-political organizations has led people to directly participate in discussions and making decisions in various areas such as: contribution rate for infrastructure construction, various types of funds, construction of village conventions, cultural villages, establishment of the Supervisory Board of works funded by the people's capital, poor household reviews, development directions and economic restructuring ... have contributed to promoting the democratic rights of citizens, creating motivation for the process of economic development. health, culture, society.

The anti-corruption work of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the State of Vietnam has achieved positive and initial results recently. That has partly strengthened the confidence of the people in the construction and adjustment of the Party that the Party has been promoting in recent years. That will be a very important factor to strengthen the political beliefs of the people in the country in general and people in the Central in particular.

The socio-economic development achievements of Vietnam in recent years of renovation are an important basis for people to believe in the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party (the percentage of the respondents is quite high). In particular, the Central region is a region with many difficulties compared to the whole country. However, in recent years, the people of Central in Vietnam have made very important developments in both material and spiritual life. This will be the basis for people to have more faith in the renovation process and in the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party in the coming time.

Especially, when surveying the level of belief changes compared to 5 years ago in such aspects as: Trust in the head of the Vietnamese Communist Party; Believe in the road to socialism; believe in the growth of Vietnam; Believe in the policies of the Vietnamese State; Belief in the administration of the Vietnamese State; Believing in the commune and ward government apparatus, people in the Central region of Vietnam have changed their beliefs in these aspects and have changed in a positive way. Among them, the most praiseworthy is the belief in the policies and guidelines of the Vietnamese Communist Party, which has the biggest change compared to other aspects in the past 5 years. However, the foundation of the four-level political system as in Vietnam, the communal and ward authorities play a very important role in the goal of strengthening people's confidence in political life. This aspect has the lowest change compared to the other 5 aspects (see diagram below):

The change of political beliefs compared to 5 years ago



Source: Academy of Politics Region III (2019), *Research results of project code KX.01.42 / 16-20.*

However, there are also Notable Points

Firstly, along with the current status of political beliefs of citizens in many places across the country, the political beliefs of citizens in the Central region, Vietnam now also have some issues that need to be addressed. The evidence is that the socio-political life is complicated, the reaction and opposition against the authorities in many places has reached alarming levels and the number of socio-political hotspots in the Central region and Vietnam. The male tends to be thicker and more complicated.

Secondly, the survey showed that the number of respondents in the Central region of Vietnam still doubted the cadre apparatus of the political system in running power, embezzlement, corruption and wastefulness accounted for billions have quite high rate. This will be a big problem posed for the current construction of the country. It is also a difficult problem in building consensus between the people and the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the management of the Vietnamese State.

Recommend some Issues

The first, the Vietnamese Government should direct ministries, departments and branches to attach importance to building sustainable and highly effective socio-economic development strategies, which bring benefits to people nationwide, in general People in the Central region in particular. In particular, the ministries, departments and branches should have specific plans and schemes specific to socio-economic development in the Central region. Because this region is still more difficult in the development process than other areas and also the area with harsh natural conditions, often receiving negative impacts of environmental factors.

The second, it is necessary to further promote the prevention and fight against corruption, clean up the apparatus of power agencies from the Central to local levels in order to consolidate the political beliefs of the people, especially of the contingent. Party's members do not hold positions in the political system on the leadership of the Vietnamese

Communist Party, the state management from the central to local levels.

The third, the Government needs to study and study more and more mechanisms and policies for people to have more democratic rights when participating in political life, especially the right to contribute more voices (directly or indirectly) in the process of formulating decisions of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the State in order to create consensus right from those decisions and policies. At the same time, there should be timely directing the local governments to promptly and effectively solve pressing issues of people in the Central region such as environmental pollution, bureaucracy, corruption, land issues. band...

The fourth, in reforming the political system in the coming time, attention should be paid to building the political system at the local level in the direction of streamlining, effectiveness and efficiency. In particular, it is necessary to attach importance to building the grassroots political system towards streamlining, professionalism, a contingent of cadres with high professional qualifications, pure ethics, dedicated to serving the people. In this way, newly building up the "image" and beliefs of Party and State officials right from the grassroots level towards the people.

Conclusion

The paper has used the results of the questionnaire survey, the survey on the political beliefs of citizens in the Central region of Vietnam. The results of the analysis through the indicators have shown that the political beliefs of citizens in the Central region, Vietnam has many positive points, which will be the premise for Vietnamese Government agencies, levels of local governments in the central provinces of Vietnam implement and implement policies in the process of socio-economic development. In particular, the evidence further confirms the foundations for socio-political stability in the central region of Vietnam.

However, the survey also shows that the level of political beliefs of citizens in this region, especially corruption, wastefulness, and bureaucracy in some places, has affected quite a lot to the political beliefs of citizens. This is also the basis for the Vietnamese Communist Party and the Vietnamese State to continue to step up the fight against corruption and wastefulness in the state apparatus at all levels from the central to local levels stronger, more effective than the past time, in order to strengthen and improve the political beliefs of citizens in the Central region in particular and the whole of Vietnam in general.

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