

## STATE MANAGEMENT OF RELIGION IN THUA THIEN HUE PROVINCE NOW – SITUATION AND SOLUTIONS

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### ABSTRACT

Thua Thien Hue province is one of the major religious centers of the Central - Central Highlands region and the whole country. Hue province Committee for Religious Affairs is tasked with state management of religion in Thua Thien Hue province. In recent years, promoting its role and functions, the Committee for Religious Affairs has done well in the governmental management of religion in the area, such as creating policies and promulgating legal documents on religion; organizing the enforcement of religious rules and legislation; publicize the law; conduct inspections of and keep an eye on religious activities.

**Key words:** Management, religion, reality, Thua Thien Hue.

### INTRODUCTION

Thua Thien Hue is known as one of the major religious centers of the Central - Central Highlands region and the whole country. Currently, in Thua Thien Hue province, approximately 60% of people in the population identify as religious, with 04 main religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Cao Dai, Protestantism, with 1,677 dignitaries, 2,389 positions and 568 establishments worship<sup>(1)</sup>. In addition, there are also roughly 1,411 places of worship, offering a wealth and diversity of beliefs, such as worship of ancestors, worship of the village emperor, worship of the mother of the three palaces,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Buddhism: there are over 600,000 followers of Buddhism (268,161 followers have taken refuge), 1,387 dignitaries, 1,660 positions, 410 places of worship. Catholic: there are about 58,493 followers, 285 dignitaries, 709 positions, 162 religious establishments. Protestant: 02 branches of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (Southern) recognized by the State, with 334 followers, 02 pastors, 01 missionary and 12 positions. Cao Dai: has 241 followers, 02 dignitaries, 08 positions and 01 religious establishment under Tay Ninh Cao Dai Church.

the four palaces, and the worship of gods; worshipping national heroes, worshipping job ancestors..etc

The Committee for Religion has historically performed well when it comes to state management of religion, bringing about high efficiency in the construction of the great national unity block and promoting socioeconomic growth in the province of Thua Thien Hue. Doing well in the state management of religion has promoted the role of the state while ensuring the right to freedom of belief and religion, maintaining stability and sustainable socio-economic development, providing Hue people with a spiritual life infused with their cultural identity.

The people of Thua Thien Hue province have successfully promoted the motto of leading a good and religious life, supporting the nation, actively taking part in patriotic emulation movements, and well obeying the Party's and guidelines, policies, and laws of the State over the years thanks to performing well the state management of religion. This enables people of all religions to join hands and work together with the government to well implement legal policies related to belief and religion, contributing to the effective implementation of economic development plans, society of Thua Thien Hue province, bringing prosperity to people's lives in general, and people of all religions in particular, in line with the Party's guidelines and the state's legal policies "Ensuring freedom of religion and belief" the religion of the people [9; 10].

## **CONTENT**

### **1.1. Status of state management of religious activities in Thua Thien Hue province**

#### **1.1.1. These achievements**

*Firstly, consulting work in formulating and promulgating legal policies on belief and religion*

Promoting the role of a specialized unit in state management of religion, the Committee for Religion has advised the Provincial People's Committee (People's Committee) to implement policies and laws on belief and religion, making it possible for religious organizations to function, conduct religious rituals, and deal with the legitimate needs of religions within the framework of the law. Utilizing actions like as sending documents to provincial departments, agencies, People's Committees of districts, towns, Hue city and Hue University on strengthening religious work for the "Church of God the Mother" and "The Grace of Salvation". These are urgent and sensitive topical issues that have taken place in recent times. Therefore, the Religious Affairs Committee has carefully researched professionally and legally to propose the government to issue guiding documents in a timely and scientific manner, bringing

high efficiency, public consensus and support. household. Besides, issues such as land and construction related to religion in the province are also thoroughly solved.

In order for the state management of religion in Thua Thien Hue province to go into order and effectiveness, to promote the positivity of religion in building the great national unity block, serving economic development. - In society, leaders of the Religious Affairs Committee have regularly thoroughly grasped the Party's viewpoints to each cadre doing religious work. Directing the implementation of *Directive No 15-CT/TU* dated September 22, 2021 of the Provincial Party Committee on improving the effectiveness of the advocacy and state management of religion. Implement training and retraining plan for religious cadres and civil servants in 2022. Conduct preliminary review of 03 years of implementation of Law on Belief and Religion and Decree 162/2017/ND-CP of the *Government* on Thua Thien Hue province. Summary of 10 years of implementation *Conclusion No 08-KL/TW*, dated August 2, 2011 of the Secretariat on "Building the core in religion". Doing well in this work has contributed to promoting the positivity of religion, "ensures the unity between religious activities and the preservation of cultural values, the harmony and harmony between the interests of individuals and the community. community and national and social interests"[7; 22].

*Secondly, the organization and implementation of policies and laws on belief and religion*

Stemming from the people's awareness and religious activities, it is "an indispensable spiritual need of a part of the people, a right, moreover a happiness, a requirement, healthy, is a noble will"[6; 249], the government pays special attention to the management and guidance of belief and religious activities; handle administrative procedures in the field of belief and religion in the locality. Over the past time, functional agencies have closely coordinated with agencies, departments, branches and localities to advise and propose to the Provincial People's Committees, People's Committees of districts to guide and create favorable conditions for organizations. Religious individuals operate and live within the framework of the law, ensuring compliance with the Government's guidelines and guidelines on religious activities. Religious activities are carried out in accordance with the law, such as taking measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 epidemic; celebrate Buddha's Birthday, Quan The Am festival, Vu Lan festival in 2021 - PL.2565, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnamese Buddhist Church (November 7, 1981-November 7, 2021) ; The second congress of delegates of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha at district level, term 2021-2026; Catholics, Protestants celebrate Easter,... Solve the registration of religious organizations to appoint and transfer monks .

*The work of coordination with relevant departments and branches in the state management of beliefs and religions such as: coordinating with relevant provincial*

departments and agencies and localities to advise the Provincial People's Committee to consider, solving a number of religious issues such as: the 2nd district congress of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, the term 2021-2026; p coordinate with departments in Thua Thien Hue province such as Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Construction to handle the granting of land use right certificates for religious places of worship; constructions, residential resettlement areas and other religious establishments; Working closely with agencies in the internal affairs sector and localities to monitor and grasp the religious situation before, during and after the 13th National Party Congress, the 15th National Assembly Election and the People's Councils at all levels. term 2021-2026; grasp the situation, advise the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Committee to solve complex and sensitive religious issues, maintain security - politics, social order and safety.

*Advocacy work, enlisting dignitaries, positions and prestigious people in religions.*

Organize visits and greetings on the occasions of the New Year of the Ox, the Great Buddha's Birthday, the Vu Lan festival in the year 2021 - PL.2565, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnam Buddhist Church, Easter, and other significant religious holidays in order to consistently focus on developing good relationships with churches, dignitaries, and religious offices. The appointment of religious staff to actively engage with, have ongoing conversations with, and work with a select group of religious dignitaries in the church of all religions in order to understand their thoughts and aspirations, promote and mobilize dignitaries and religious adherents to comply with the policies and laws of the State, and address some issues. associated with religion.

*Third, the propaganda and dissemination of the law; examine, coordinate and advise on settlement of complaints and denunciations and handle violations of the law on belief and religion in the locality; receive citizens about beliefs and religions*

According to *Official Letter No. 727/TGCP-PCTT* dated September 14, 2020 of the Government Committee for Religion on strengthening the propaganda, dissemination, training and fostering of the law on belief, religion and knowledge about religion. With the guidance of the Provincial People's Committee, the Committee for Religion has prepared documents, contents and programs to organize a conference to propagate and disseminate the law on belief and religion. Implement the plan to inspect the implementation of the law on belief and religion; inspecting and reviewing legal documents on belief and religion and documents containing legal regulations related to belief and religion in 2021, the Committee for Religion has developed a plan to check the situation of law enforcement and implementation the law on belief and religion in A Luoi and Quang Dien districts; direct the Department of Home Affairs to advise the

People's Committee of the district to develop implementation plans in the localities. Issue the Notice of Reception of Citizens and strictly organize the periodic and irregular reception of citizens during the year. The Department of Religion has coordinated with relevant provincial departments, agencies, and local authorities to advise the Provincial People's Committee to settle in accordance with the provisions of law. Following the guiding spirit of the Provincial Party Committee, the Religious Affairs Committee has appointed officials to "encourage, encourage, help and create conditions for people of all religions to build a good and religious life"[1; 87].

*Fourth, work on consolidating and consolidating the organization of the state management apparatus on belief and religion; training and fostering cadres, civil servants and public employees engaged in belief and religious work*

Implementing Decree No. 107/2020/ND-CP and Decree No 108/2020/ND-CP of the Government, the contingent of cadres and civil servants doing religious work at the Department of Religious Affairs and the Department of Home Affairs at the district level stable version. Currently, the Religious Affairs Committee has 02 departments (General Department - Administration and Professional Department), 01 Head, 02 Deputy Heads, with 14 officials and civil servants. At district level, there are 09 Departments of Home Affairs at district level, with 18 officials in charge of religious affairs, including 09 Deputy Heads and 09 consultants for state management of religion, concurrently undertaking emulation and commendation work, government building, administrative reform,... For the commune level, there are 290 part-time officials doing religious work; Among them, there are 145 Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commune People's Committee concurrently working on belief and religion, and 145 civil servants of the Office of Statistics, Culture and Society civil servants or commune-level Cadastral officials concurrently attending, to conduct religious work for the Commune People's Committee. After the election of the People's Councils at all levels for the 2021-2026 term, localities will consolidate and consolidate their organizational apparatus, including the contingent of cadres and civil servants doing religious work at grassroots level, rotation, change. In addition, the Committee for Religion has reported to the Government Committee for Religion on the results of the implementation of the Prime Minister's Decision No. 174/QĐ-TTg dated February 9, 2017 on approving the "Project on fostering cadres, civil servants doing religious work in the period 2017-2020" and organize the apparatus for state management of beliefs and religions in Thua Thien Hue province.

#### 1.1.2. Existences, limitations and causes

##### 1.1.2.1. Existence, limitation

Firstly, the state management of religion in some localities is not really effective, in some places, sometimes it is still loose, not timely grasping the situation and

reporting problems arising in the locality. The work of enlisting dignitaries and mobilizing the masses is still heavy on administration; passive and confused in solving sensitive religious issues. It is this limitation that "the enemy uses to cause division in the great national unity bloc"[6; p. 284].

Secondly, the system of documents related to religious management is still small, "there is a complete lack of specific regulations related to the functions and tasks of authorities at all levels in management and supervision of activities"[7; p. 95]. Even the problems related to land management and construction in some localities are still not strict, the status of building statues in private houses, building religious works, and illegal auxiliary works is still very difficult is also quite common.

Thirdly, in many localities throughout the province, activities related to Mother's worship at temples and private shrines have not been strictly managed. The registration of belief activities at many belief establishments, notification of the list of religious activities of some religious establishments (especially Catholics) have not been strictly complied with the provisions of law.

Fourth, the phenomenon of Buddhist monks operating in religious establishments; Monks using their citizenship status or asking relatives to buy and sell, transfer land use rights, stay temporarily and perform spiritual and religious activities at home are still taking place in some localities. The work of granting land use right certificates to religious establishments still has a number of problems and difficulties.

Fifth, propaganda activities, enticing people to participate in activities of "Church of God the Mother", Falun Gong, Magical Sound Method, "strange religions", "evil religions", delusional activities Superstition... still taking place in some localities, causing insecurity, social order and safety in the area.

#### *1.1.2.2. The cause of the existence, limitations*

Firstly, about subjective reasons:

Some levels of Party committees and local authorities have not regularly paid attention to leading, directing and inspecting the organization and implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws related to belief and religion; Propaganda, dissemination, and legislation on belief and religion in some grassroots localities is not regular; Methods and forms of propaganda sometimes lack synchronization and suitability for each audience.

The contingent of religious staff at grassroots levels is too small, mainly part-time, often changing, not properly trained, not specialized in knowledge of beliefs and religions, so they are aware, experienced and expertise has not met the requirements of tasks, especially in key areas of religious security.

The coordination between departments, branches, mass organizations and authorities at all levels in inspecting, detecting and dealing with arising cases related to religion is sometimes lacking in synchronization and untimely; some cases have not done well in identifying and properly assessing the situation in order to have an effective solution; there is a phenomenon of pushing and evading by reporting to the district and provincial level for advice and direction when the incident has occurred.

Second, objective reasons:

Thua Thien Hue is one of the religious centers of the Central region and the whole country, religious extremist organizations and individuals continue to take advantage of "religious freedom, democracy and human rights" to conduct activities, mobilize, propagate and incite to destroy the Party and State.

Some dignitaries, officials and followers of different religions have not actively coordinated with the government in solving problems related to religion, especially the declaration and registration for issuance of use right certificates land, the implementation of regulations on building permits...

The Law on Belief and Religion does not have the concepts of new religious phenomena, "strange religion", "evil religion", provisions on the organization of seminars with religious elements, the erecting of statues, symbols, etc. Religious statues outside the premises of worship facilities, in cemeteries, social organizations, households, etc. lead to difficulties in the management and resolution of the authorities at all levels.

The 2013 Land Law stipulates that religious establishments may not convert, transfer, lease or donate land use rights, but dignitaries and monks have used their citizenship status to buy, sell, transfer, ask relatives to stand name, inheritance... then proceed to build houses, turn generals into worship facilities.

## **1.2. Directions and solutions to improve the efficiency of state management of religious activities**

### **1.2.1. Focus on advising the Provincial People's Committee on religious work in the locality**

Advise the Provincial People's Committee to organize and effectively implement the guidelines and guidelines of the Party and the State's policies and laws on belief and religion; settle legitimate needs and aspirations and create favorable conditions for individuals and religious organizations to operate, live and perform religious ceremonies, ensure freedom of belief and religion according to provisions of law. Coordinate to grasp the situation, advise and propose the Provincial People's Committee to solve complex issues and cases related to religion; fight to prevent

activities that take advantage of "religious freedom, democracy and human rights" to destroy the Party and State, and ensure religious security in the area.

1.2.2. To step up the propaganda and dissemination of the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws on belief and religion for religious cadres at all levels, dignitaries, positions and monks practice and followers of religions; the implementation of the Law on Beliefs and Religions and guiding documents for the implementation of the Law

To advise the Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial People's Committee to continue to direct and do well the propaganda and dissemination of the Party's guidelines, policies and laws on belief and religion for dignitaries, positions and officials monks and followers of religions. Organize conferences to spread policies and laws on belief and religion for dignitaries and monks practicing religions, as well as the contingent of cadres and civil servants doing religious work at all levels in the province, in coordination with the Government Committee for Religious Affairs, local agencies, and units in the area.

Strengthen coordination with Vietnam Fatherland Front Committees of provinces, departments, agencies, mass organizations at all levels and local authorities to build a core force in religion. Continue to build good relationships with churches, dignitaries, positions, followers of religions; proactively contact, meet and work directly with prestigious dignitaries and positions in the Churches to capture their thoughts and aspirations and do a good job of enlisting, propagating, advocating, and solving problems issues related to belief and religion as prescribed by law; in which focus on advocacy work, taking advantage of dignitaries to stabilize the personnel situation and unite within the Church during the 8th Provincial Congress of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, term 2022-2027.

1.2.3. To advise on the state management of activities of religious organizations and individuals; house and land work related to religion; inspection, testing; handling complaints, complaints related to religion

Do well advising the Provincial People's Committee to continue improving the effectiveness and efficiency in the state management of beliefs and religions; settle administrative procedures and issues related to belief and religion in a timely manner and in accordance with the Law. Coordinating with relevant departments, agencies, branches and localities to guide, help and create conditions for religious organizations to successfully organize solemn holidays and major activities and important religious events. teacher.

Strengthen the inspection of the law enforcement situation and the implementation of the law on belief and religion in the localities. Actively grasp the



situation, coordinate to advise and propose to the Provincial People's Committee to solve outstanding problems of belief and religion. Coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Construction, and localities to continue to consider and grant land use right certificates, grant construction permits to religious establishments; research, advise and propose the Provincial People's Committee to settle disputes and complaints "claiming back", recommendations on houses and land related to religion.

#### 1.2.4. Planning, training and fostering staff and consolidating the organization and apparatus in charge of state management of beliefs and religions at all levels

Advise the Standing Provincial Party Committee, Provincial People's Committee, Department of Home Affairs to do well in planning, consolidating and consolidating the organization of religious staff of the Department of Religion and Departments of Home Affairs at district level. Coordinating with People's Committees of districts, towns, Hue city, and provincial mass organizations in fostering and improving professional qualifications and expertise in religious work for grassroots officials, civil servants and members.

#### 1.2.5. Cooperation with branches and mass organizations on belief and religion work; fight against the exploitation of religion by religious extremist groups and elements

Closely coordinate with agencies, departments, branches and mass organizations to advise the Provincial People's Committee to solve the legitimate needs of religious organizations and complex issues related to belief and religion according to regulations. provisions of the law. Strengthen coordination to grasp the situation, timely detect and proactively implement the work of coordination, mobilization, struggle and prevention of illegal activities, superstitious activities that affect security - politics, social order and safety in the locality. Take advantage of dignitaries and followers of reputable religions in the churches to propagate, mobilize and coordinate in solving disputes, complaints and lawsuits "claiming back" the premises of houses, land and complex issues related to religion, not to form "hot spots", contributing to ensuring religious security.

#### 1.2.6. Religious foreign affairs

Coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs and relevant branches and localities to advise the Provincial People's Committee to welcome and work with foreign diplomatic delegations to visit and learn about the situation of religious freedom in the locality. Creating conditions for religious organizations to welcome, meet and exchange with delegations of foreign religious organizations visiting and conducting religious activities in the area. On that basis, research to perfect the law, guidelines and policies related to foreign activities of religion.

## CONCLUSION

Due to the good state management of religion, religions in Thua Thien Hue have close relations with the government, actively participate in patriotic emulation movements, strictly abide by the guidelines and policies books of the Party and State. The situation of religious security is basically stable, religious activities are increasingly orderly and law-abiding. Relations between religious organizations and authorities at all levels tend to draw closer together, sympathize, share and cooperate closely. The majority of believers are excited by the country's achievements and believe in the renovation policy initiated and led by the Communist Party of Vietnam, actively building a harmonious life "good life - good religion", actively building a harmonious life actively build the block of great national unity, participate in socio-economic development, national defense - security of the locality.

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**QUẢN LÝ NHÀ NƯỚC VỀ TÔN GIÁO  
TRÊN ĐỊA BÀN TỈNH THỪA THIÊN HUẾ HIỆN NAY –  
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**TÓM TẮT**

Tỉnh Thừa Thiên Huế là một trong những trung tâm tôn giáo lớn của khu vực miền Trung - Tây Nguyên và cả nước. Trong thời gian qua, Ban Tôn giáo tỉnh Thừa Thiên Huế được giao nhiệm vụ quản lý nhà nước về tôn giáo trên địa bàn của tỉnh. Phát huy vai trò, chức năng của mình, Ban Tôn giáo đã làm tốt công tác quản lý nhà nước về tôn giáo trên địa bàn như xây dựng chính sách, ban hành văn bản quy phạm pháp luật về tôn giáo; tổ chức thực thi các quy tắc và pháp luật tôn giáo; công bố pháp luật; tiến hành thanh tra, giám sát các hoạt động tôn giáo.

**Từ khóa:** Quản lý, tôn giáo, Thừa Thiên Huế, thực trạng.



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*Lĩnh vực nghiên cứu:* Triết học, Chính trị học, Hồ Chí Minh, Khoa học quản lý.



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*Lĩnh vực nghiên cứu:* Kinh tế chính trị, chính trị học, khoa học quản lý.

