

= Prime Minister of Vietnam =

The Prime Minister of Vietnam ( Vietnamese : Th? t??ng Vi?t Nam ) , officially styled Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic ( Vietnamese : Th? t??ng Chính ph? n??c C?ng hòa Xã h?i ch? ngh?a ) , is the head of government of Vietnam and presides over the meetings of the Central Government ( formerly the Council of Ministers ) . The prime minister directs the work of government members , and may propose deputy prime ministers to the National Assembly .

The head of government is responsible to the National Assembly and serves as the Deputy Chairman of the Council for Defence and Security . The tenure of a prime minister is five years , and the term is renewable once . The current prime minister Nguy?n Xuân Phúc has served since 2016 . In case of incapacity , a deputy prime minister assumes the office of acting prime minister until the prime minister resumes duty , or until the appointment of a new prime minister .

The powers and prestige of the prime minister have varied through the years . Pham Van Dong , Vietnam 's second prime minister , often lamented that in practice he had little power . Since the death of Pham Hung in 1988 , the prime minister has been ranked 3rd in the order of precedence of the Communist Party 's Politburo , the highest decision @-@ making body in Vietnam .

= = History = =

Ho Chi Minh , who also served as the country 's President , was appointed Vietnam 's first prime minister in 1946 by the National Assembly , after having served months as Acting Chairman of the Provisional Government and foreign minister in the aftermath of the 1945 August Revolution . Both the 1946 and 1959 Constitutions state that the National Assembly had the power to appoint and relieve the prime minister of his duties . The prime minister presided over the Council of Ministers , the highest executive body of state , from 1981 until it was renamed to Government in the 1992 constitution . The office of prime minister was renamed in the 1980 constitution to that of Chairman of the Council of Ministers .

Pham Van Dong , the second Prime Minister of Vietnam , served as North Vietnamese Prime Minister from 1955 until 1976 , when he became prime minister of a unified Vietnam , and then until 1987 , when he resigned . At his resignation , he was the longest @-@ serving prime minister in Vietnamese history , and the oldest serving prime minister in the world . He often lamented that he was one of the world 's weakest prime ministers , on one occasion saying ; " I can do nothing . When I say something , nobody listens . If I propose changing a deputy minister , it turns out to be impossible . I cannot even choose my own ministers . " Since the death of Pham Hung in 1988 , the prime minister has been ranked Number 3 in the order of precedence of the Communist Party 's Politburo .

= = Duties , powers and responsibilities = =

The National Assembly by a proposal of the President of Vietnam elects the prime minister . The prime minister is responsible to the National Assembly , and the Assembly elects all ministers to government . Activity reports by the prime minister must be given to the National Assembly , while the Standing Committee of the National Assembly supervises the activities of the Central Government and the prime minister . Finally , the deputies of the National Assembly have the right to question the prime minister and other members of government .

The prime minister is the only member of government who must be a member of the National Assembly . This is because the prime minister is accountable to the National Assembly , and he reports to it , or to its Standing Committee , and to the president . The prime minister issues directives and supervises the implementation of formal orders given by the president , the National Assembly or the Standing Committee . Cabinet members and members of the Central Government in general are responsible to the prime minister and the National Assembly for the fields they specialise in . According to the Constitution of Vietnam , the following are the duties , powers and responsibilities of the prime minister :

To head the Central Government , and direct the works of members of the Central Government , the People 's Councils at all levels and to chair the meetings of the Cabinet ;

To propose to the National Assembly that ministries , or organs with ministerial rank , be established or dissolved ; to present to the National Assembly or , when the latter is not in session , to its Standing Committee , for approval , proposals on the appointment , release from duty , or dismissal of deputy prime ministers , cabinet ministers and other members of the Government ;

To appoint , release from duty , or dismiss deputy ministers and officials of equal rank ; to approve the election , release from duty , secondment and dismissal of chairmen and deputy chairmen of People 's Committees of provinces and cities under direct central rule ;

To suspend or annul decisions , directives and circulars of cabinet ministers and other Government members , decisions and directives of People 's Councils and chairmen of People 's Committees of provinces and cities under direct central rule that contravene the Constitution , the law , or other formal written documents of superior State organs ;

To suspend the execution of resolutions of People 's Councils of provinces and cities under direct central rule that contravene the Constitution , the law , or the formal written orders of superior State organs ; at the same time to propose to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to annul them ;

To make regular reports to the people through the mass media on major issues to be settled by the Government .

When the prime minister is absent , he must choose one of his deputy prime ministers to direct the work of the government .

The prime minister serves concurrently as the secretary of the CPV Government Caucus Commission . The National Assembly chairman serves as the commission 's deputy . Currently there are ten members of the Commission , all of whom hold government posts . Commission members are appointed by the Politburo , and the Commission itself is responsible to the Politburo and the Secretariat . The decision @-@ making process within the Commission is based on the principles of collective leadership .

= = Living former prime ministers = =