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| **Appointment decisions handed over to new health, science and technology ministers & central bank governor**  Hanoi – PM Phuc on Monday presented the State President’s decisions to **appoint** Long as Minister of the Ministry of Health, Hong as the Governor of State Bank of Vietnam, and Dat as Minister of Science and Technology.  PM Phuc spoke highly of efforts made by the health sector in preventing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, and asked for greater endeavours from the sector to protect and take care of the people’s health.  The sector was tasked with effectively controlling the coronavirus disease, preventing it from breaking out again, as well as other infectious diseases such as **diphtheria**, **dengue fever**, **seasonal flu and cholera**.  Attention should be also paid to completing policies and financial mechanisms to improve the quality and efficiency of medical services, and reduce hospital overloads, he said.  It is also necessary to manage costs for medical services, pharmaceuticals, food, medical supplies and equipment; and ensure publicity and transparency in management of drug licensing, bidding and procurement; and improve the quality of food safety, especially at kitchens in schools and industrial parks, the Government leader added.  PM Phuc asked the sector to do more to expand the coverage of universal health insurance and health insurance payments, and take care **policy beneficiaries** such as the poor, people in difficult circumstances, and **those with meritorious services to the country**, towards ensuring that all people can get initial health care services.  Long, the deputy health minister who has been promoted to be acting health minister since July, promised that the ministry will focus on sucessfully implementing the tasks assigned by the Party and people.  He also demonstrated the determination to promote digital transformation in the sector with programmes such as remote medical examination and treatment, medical publicity, **control of communal-level medical stations**, and personal medical record management.  The sector will also speed up administrative reform to make it easier for people to access health care services, he said.  **At the event to officially give** the title to Hong as Vietnam’s first female governor of central bank, PM Phuc highly valued the central bank’s proactive, drastic and timely actions to assist people and businesses hit by the COVID-19 pandemic such as debt repayment deadline extension, interest reduction, and fee exemption.  He asked the **new governor** to build on her **predecessors**’ achievements and lead the banking sector to fulfill its duties.  The SBV needs to push ahead with efforts to ensure the control of inflation, macro-economic stability, and stable value of domestic currency. It also has to increase of **non-performing loans** (NPLs), address the existing NPLs, and apply modern technology to develop banking products and services.  Hong thanked leaders of the Party, State, National Assembly, and Government for **entrusting** the position to her, pledging to help central bank fulfill its tasks.  Earlier, the **parliament** had approved Hong as the 15th Governor of the central bank.  While presenting the decision to Dat on Sunday, PM Phuc asked the science and technology sector to focus on promoting practical connection between enterprises, research institutes and universities towards narrowing the gap between production and business.  He also urged the sector to propose breakthroughs in management mechanisms in the field, while stressing the need to make science and technology and direct production and business force to improve productivity and quality.  Minister Dat, replacing his predecessor Chu Ngoc Anh who was reassigned to the post of Chairman of Hanoi People’s Committee earlier this year, as stated that he will do his **utmost** to further promote achievements and results made by the ministry in recent years.  He also pledged to perform the tasks assigned by the PM focusing on enhancing cooperation among domestic and foreign scientists in exploiting and developing national science and technology potential. | **Appoint:** to name or assign to a position.  **Diphtheria:** bạch hầu.  **dengue fever:** Sốt xuất huyết.  **seasonal flu and cholera:** cúm mùa và bệnh tả.  **policy beneficiaries:** đối tượng chính sách.  **those with meritorious services to the country:** những người có công với đất nước.  **control of communal-level medical stations:** kiểm soát trạm y tế cấp xã.  **At the event to officially give:** tại sự kiện chính thức đưa ra.  **new governor:** tân thống đốc.  **Predecessors:** người tiền nhiệm.  **non-performing loans:** các khoản nợ xấu.  **entrusting:** giao, giáo phó cho.  **Parliament:** National Assembly.  **Utmost:** at the greatest possible. |