

good premises for enhancing environmental protection in the coming time. However, the socio-economic development has been followed by many unwanted environmental impacts, including the following urgent issues:

The development of industrial parks and complexes does not conform to their environment-related technical infrastructure conditions; some still lack concentrated wastewater treatment systems, leading to serious environmental pollution. Mining activities in some localities have not been strictly managed, giving rise to an increase in the number of environmental pollution black spots. The rate of solid wastes, hospital wastes, and household and industrial wastewater which are collected and treated in accordance with relevant standards remain low while emissions and dusts generated from transport, construction and production activities are not closely controlled, causing serious environmental pollution in major cities and river basins. In rural areas, agricultural and household wastes are not properly and hygienically collected and treated, and chemical fertilizers and plant protection drugs are spreadingly used, thus leading to incremental increase of rural environmental pollution which is very seriously in some areas. Environmental pollution in craft villages remains difficult to be controlled, treated and remedied and has become worse in some areas. Complicated developments have been seen in the import into Vietnam of backward technologies and wastes in the form of scraps. Biodiversity is seriously deteriorated and threatened with species and genetic resources being decreased and lost while the number of species facing the extinction remains on the rise.

THE GOVERNMENT

Resolution No. 35/NQ-CP of March 18, 2013, on a number of urgent issues in environmental protection

Over the past years, toward achieving the target of sustainable development, the Party, the National Assembly and the Government have always paid attention to directing socio-economic development while attaching importance to environmental protection and improvement. Thanks to these efforts, positive results have been obtained, creating

The above-mentioned problems and limitations can be attributed to numerous causes but mostly the following:

The awareness about and sense of responsibility for environmental protection of administrations, managers, businesses and the community remain low. It is still common that environmental protection is put behind immediate economic interests. Environmental protection regulations are infeasible, overlap and inconsistent with one another but not yet promptly amended and supplemented, while law enforcement is not stringent. Violations of the environmental protection law are more and more sophisticated and serious. The managerial apparatus is inadequately staffed and professionally unqualified, thus failing to meet working requirements and revealing many weaknesses in direction and administration work. Environmental protection requirements have not received due attention during the policymaking process while financial resources for environmental protection remain limited. Limitations are also seen in the mobilization of integrated strengths of the community for, and law enforcement supervision role of socio-political organizations in, environmental protection.

In order to address the above-mentioned urgent issues and create a breakthrough in environmental protection, the Government requests ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government-attached agencies and People's Committees of provinces and centrally run cities to direct and properly implement the following tasks and solutions:

1. Intensifying environmental protection in industrial parks and complexes; raising the

quality of appraisal of environmental protection requirements in development strategies, master plans, plans and projects

a/ To increase inspection and examination of the observance of the environmental protection law in industrial parks and complexes; to strictly handle violating businesses, resolutely suspending or banning seriously violating ones from operation in accordance with law; and to publicize information on businesses violating the environmental protection law;

b/ To permit the construction of plants and projects in industrial parks and complexes only after concentrated wastewater treatment facilities of these parks or complexes are completely built and can treat the whole volume of generated wastewater up to current environment-related technical regulations;

c/ To improve the quality of strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment for development strategies, master plans, plans and projects, especially in the stage of appraisal; to enhance post-appraisal examination of environmental impact assessment reports so as to assure that all projects, before being commissioned, are certified as having completed environmental protection facilities or measures;

d/ To amend and supplement the Government's Decree No. 140/2006/ND-CP of November 22, 2006, on environmental protection requirements in the stages of elaboration, appraisal, approval and implementation of development strategies, master plans, plans, programs and projects, clarifying its subjects of application and increasing supervision, inspection and examination activities as well as handling measures and penalties.

2. Attaching importance to environmental protection in mining activities

a/ To concentrate efforts on examination and inspection of mineral mining, transportation and processing activities and resolutely and strictly handle violations of the environmental protection law;

b/ To review and improve regulations on payment of deposits for environmental improvement and rehabilitation in mining activities towards creating sufficient funds for all environmental improvement and rehabilitation works and clarifying plans on and responsibilities for environmental improvement and rehabilitation of involved organizations and individuals;

c/ To promulgate the Regulation on environmental protection in mineral mining, transportation and processing, clarifying responsibilities and obligations of involved organizations and individuals.

3. Concentrating efforts on remedying pollution and improving the environment in rural areas and craft villages

a/ To further control the use of agricultural chemicals; to step up the collection and treatment of pesticide, fertilizer and animal feed containers;

b/ To adopt specific measures for effectively handling environmental pollution caused by rural solid wastes and concentrated animal husbandry;

c/ To allocate appropriate land areas for, and pay attention to the building of garbage and wastewater treatment facilities and environmental technical infrastructure;

d/ To effectively handle seriously polluting

craft villages and areas with plant protection chemical residues under the national target program on environmental pollution remedy and environmental improvement during 2012-2015; to soon promulgate and effectively implement the overall scheme on environmental protection in craft villages;

dd/ To formulate and promulgate mechanisms for raising state budget funds and other funding sources to upgrade infrastructure facilities in recognized craft villages, especially traditional ones;

e/ To review master plans on rural trades and craft villages and list craft villages of types and sizes which should be conserved and developed and those which should be removed from residential and rural areas;

g/ To promulgate specific support policies for craft villages regarding production technologies, human resource training, production sites, outlet markets and development investment; to formulate village conventions and codes in association with environmental protection in craft villages;

h/ To review and add environmental protection regulations into craft village recognition criteria;

i/ To further examine, inspect and strictly handle production establishments abusing the capacity of craft village for processing or producing seriously polluting products;

k/ To zone off seriously polluted areas; to warn and provide guidance on measures to prevent and mitigate risks to the health of local inhabitants;

l/ To effectively integrate environmental protection tasks into the national target program

on building a new countryside during 2011-2020;

m/ To arrange full-time officers to take charge of environmental administration in communes with polluting craft villages.

4. Giving drastic directions for step by step remedying environmental pollution in major cities and river basins

a/ To effectively control exhaust emissions from means of transport according to promulgated standards; to adopt policies to encourage the use of clean and non-polluting energies for transportation, especially mass transit;

b/ To promulgate specific regulations on environmental protection applicable to construction works and vehicles transporting construction materials; to formulate a mechanism on compensation for environmental pollution caused by construction activities;

c/ To strictly control the observance of environmental protection regulations in new urban centers and public works according to technical regulations on construction;

d/ To study and elaborate a national program on investment in wastewater treatment, focusing on major cities and river basins according to an appropriate roadmap;

dd/ To direct the effective implementation of the program on investment in solid waste treatment and the overall scheme on treatment of hospital wastes already promulgated;

e/ To speed up the relocation of seriously polluting establishments out of urban centers and residential quarters;

g/ To build capacity of air and water environment observation stations; to build a

national environmental observation database to serve the state management of environmental protection;

h/ To formulate an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism so as to increase the effectiveness of inspection, examination and handling of violations of the environmental protection law in transport and construction activities in major cities.

5. Strictly controlling the import of scraps

a/ To fully implement the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; to increase information exchange and proactively and effectively prevent the transportation of wastes into Vietnam;

b/ To focus on improving national technical regulations on scraps permitted for import; to formulate a mechanism for effective inter-sectoral coordination in controlling the import of scraps;

c/ To review and supplement regulations on closely controlling the temporary import for re-export, import and export of scraps right from the licensing stage.

6. Effectively preventing ecosystem degradation and species reduction

a/ To promulgate a national strategy on biodiversity through 2020, with a vision toward 2030, and a master plan on biodiversity conservation;

b/ To review, amend and supplement relevant legal documents toward unified and concentrated management of biodiversity conservation;

c/ To study and formulate a mechanism on payment for environmental services and a

mechanism for approaching genetic resources and sharing benefits brought about by genetic resources;

d/ To increase the state management of biodiversity; to resolutely inspect, detect and handle illegal trading and consumption of rare, precious fauna and flora species prioritized for protection.

7. Improving the effect and effectiveness of state management of environmental protection

a/ To submit to the National Assembly the draft law on Environmental Protection (amended) according to set schedule;

b/ To urgently review functions, tasks, powers and organizational structures of ministries directly involved in environmental protection tasks along the line of assigning them specific responsibilities while setting up a national focal point for centralized management so as to overcome existing dispersions and overlaps.

To focus on elaborating a scheme on consolidation of the environmental protection apparatus from the central to local levels and the scheme on building capacity for environmental administrators, prioritizing district- and commune-level officers, and submit them to the Prime Minister for consideration and decision;

c/ To soon promulgate documents guiding the Penal Code's provisions on environmental crimes; to intensify investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes;

d/ To increase budget allocations from development investment capital sources for environmental protection; to gradually

increase the allocation rate for non-business environmental activities based on the economic growth rate; to study and add a separate section on expenditures for investment in the construction of environmental protection works in public areas to the Law on the State Budget for submission to the Government for consideration;

dd/ To review, amend and supplement policies and mechanisms to encourage socialization and attraction of various resources for environmental protection;

e/ To increase the time and contents of environmental protection programs on national radio and television networks, and then strive to provide an environmental television channel;

g/ To further include environmental protection contents in the national education system; to increase the time of intra-curricular teaching and extra-curricular activities of environmental protection at all grades;

h/ To boost public information activities, encourage people to practice environment-friendly, cultured lifestyles and proactively observe the law on environmental protection;

i/ To formulate and promulgate a mechanism to encourage organizations and individuals to take part in scientific and technological researches in service of environmental protection, focusing on the research and transfer of waste treatment, clean production, energy-saving and environment-friendly technologies and green economic development models;

k/ To review and supplement lists of technologies restricted or banned from transfer so as prevent the transfer of outdated, polluting technologies, vehicles and equipment into

Vietnam; to study and supplement regulations on environmental protection for technologies upon investment licensing:

l/ To elaborate a program on scientific and technologies research in service of environmental protection for addition to the list of state-level key scientific and technological programs.

8. Organization of implementation

a/ The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall:

- Assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with related ministries and sectors in, submitting to the Prime Minister for promulgation in May 2013 a decision on assignment of specific tasks regarding the implementation of this Resolution to ministries, sectors and localities:

- Regularly examine and urge ministries, sectors and localities to implement this Resolution: annually organize meetings to review and assess the implementation for reporting to the Government;

b/ Ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government-attached agencies and provincial-level People's Committees shall proactively formulate and implement plans on implementation of this Resolution.

c/ The Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance shall provide funds for ministries, sectors and provincial-level People's Committees to effectively implement solutions set forth in this Resolution.

d/ The Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member organizations shall closely coordinate with Party committees and administrations at all levels in:

- Mobilizing people to participate in mass

movements for environmental protection: launching new campaigns, attaching importance to methodological renewal so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of mass operations, movements and campaigns for environmental protection:

- Accelerating social supervision and criticism of environmental protection policies, measures, programs and schemes; creating the most favorable conditions for people to promote their rights to mastery and proactively implement policies and law on environmental protection.-

On behalf of the Government

Prime Minister

NGUYEN TAN DUNG