

Vietnam's New State Leadership & Redefined Power Balance

Transitioning from the “Four Pillars” to a Consolidated “Five-Pillar” Framework (April 2026)

Contact:

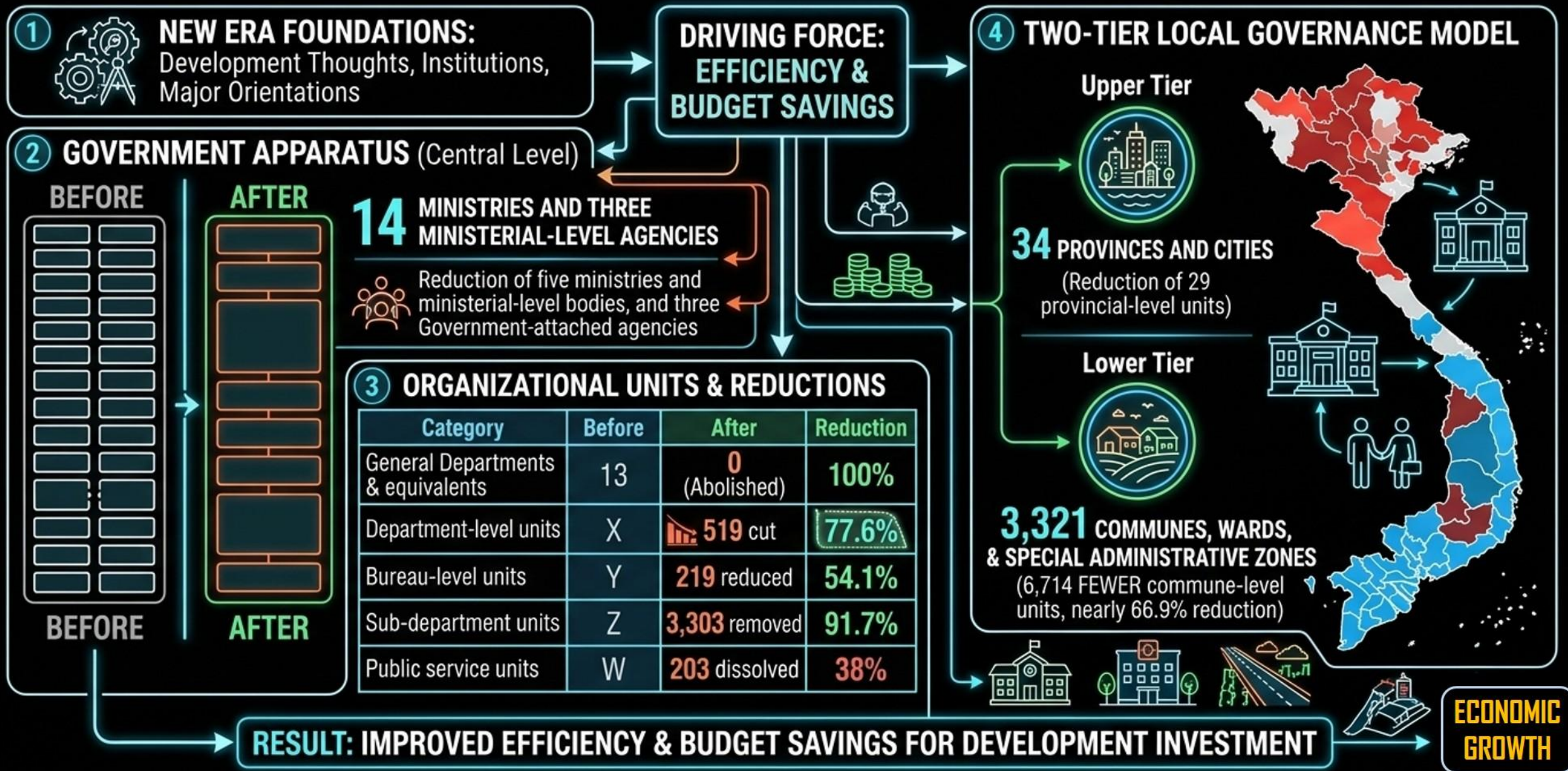
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Introduction: 2025 Systemic Transformation

- In 2025, Viet Nam completed the massive restructuring of the political system to improve the efficiency of the political system while saving budget for development investment.
- After restructuring, the Government apparatus comprises **14 ministries and three ministerial-level agencies** (a reduction of five ministries and ministerial-level bodies, and three Government-attached agencies).
- All **13 general departments** and equivalent entities were **abolished**; **519 department-level units were cut** (down 77.6 percent); **219 bureau-level units were reduced** (down 54.1 percent); **3,303 sub-department units were removed** (down 91.7 percent); and **203 public service units were dissolved** (down 38 percent).
- The two-tier local governance model now includes **34 provinces and cities** (a reduction of 29 provincial-level units) and 3,321 communes, wards, and special administrative zones (6,714 fewer commune-level units, a reduction of nearly 66.9 percent).

VIET NAM'S MASSIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING (2025)



- On April 7, 2026, the **16th National Assembly** of Vietnam officially elected **To Lam** as the State President for the 2026–2031 term. This move is a landmark event in Vietnamese politics, signaling a significant shift toward the consolidation of power and a new era of governance.
- The most notable aspect of this election is that **To Lam now holds both the position of General Secretary of the Communist Party and State President**
- This move mirrors the "top leader" model seen in China under Xi Jinping. It represents a departure from Vietnam's traditional "**four pillars**" collective leadership model.

The Evolution of the "Four Pillars"

- **Traditional Model:** Power has historically been shared among four key roles to prevent a single-leader autocracy:
 - **General Secretary** (Party Chief)
 - **State President** (Head of State)
 - **Prime Minister** (Head of Government)
 - **Chairman of the National Assembly** (Legislature)
- **The Shift:** To Lam has consolidated power by holding the **top two roles** (Party Chief and State President) simultaneously.
- **A "Five-Pillar" Reality:** The Standing Member of the Secretariat is now formally elevated to the senior leadership tier, expanding the core group.

Evolution of Vietnam's Power Structure

Traditional (Four Pillars)

1. General Secretary
2. State President
3. Prime Minister
4. National Assembly Chair

Focus: Collective Leadership

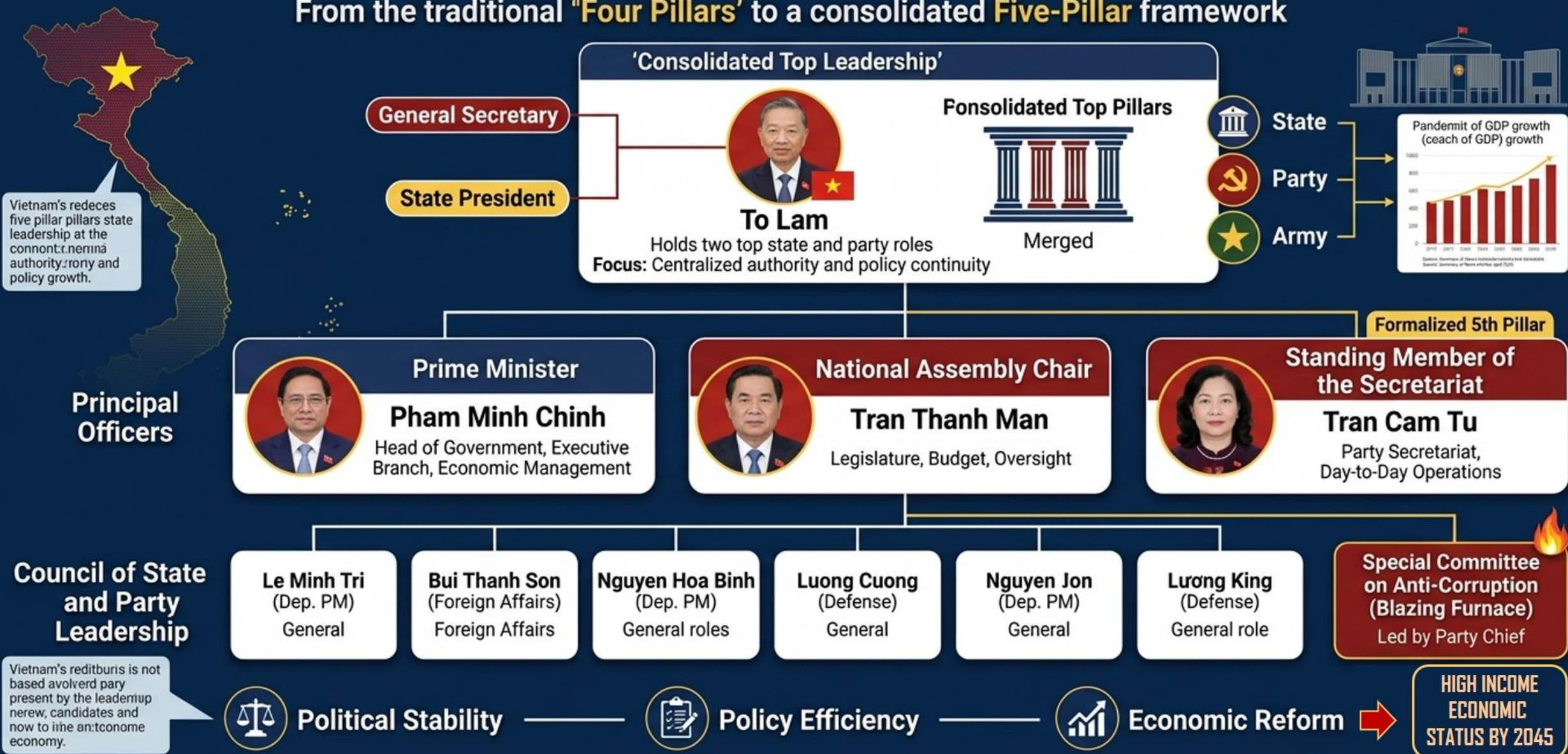
New (Redefined Balance)

- 1. General Secretary & State President (To Lam)**
2. Prime Minister (Pham Minh Chinh)
3. National Assembly Chair (Tran Thanh Man)
- 4. Standing Member of the Secretariat (Tran Cam Tu)**

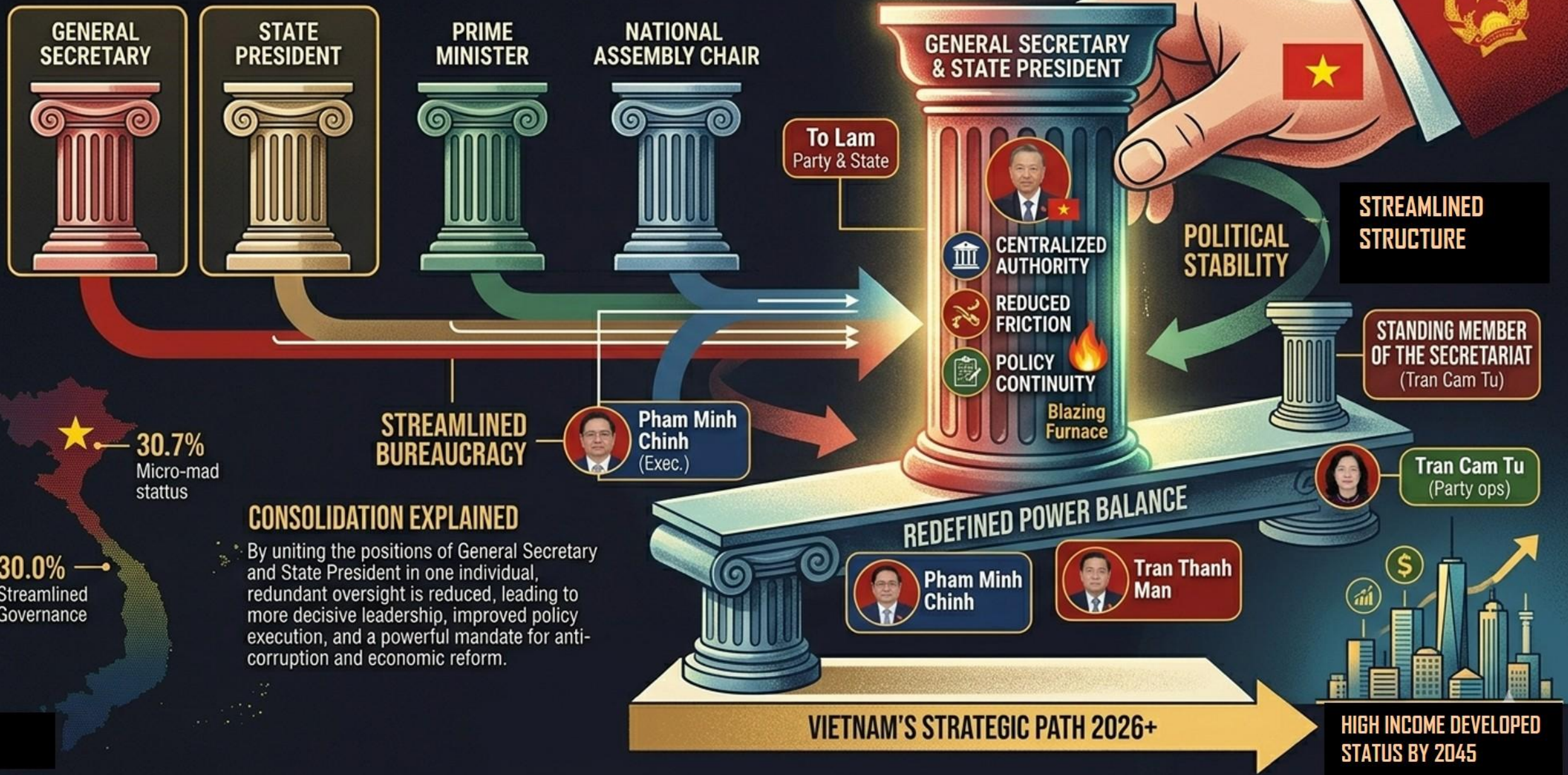
Focus: Consolidated Authority & Stability

VIETNAM'S NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE: REDEFINED POWER BALANCE (APRIL 2026)

From the traditional "Four Pillars" to a consolidated Five-Pillar framework



HOW VIETNAM'S POWER PILLARS CONSOLIDATED



Key Leader Profile: To Lam

- **Dual Role:** Formally elected as State President while remaining the General Secretary position
- **Background:** Former security chief; known for a rigorous anti-corruption campaign (the "blazing furnace")
- **Economic Vision:** Viewed as a "pro-business reformer" despite his security background
- **Goal:** Aims to propel Vietnam to "*high-income developed status*" by **2045**
- **Governance Style:** Streamlining bureaucracy, merging administrative units, and accelerating policy execution

Policy Implications & Market Impact

Doi Moi 2.0*:

- A new era of reforms focused on science, technology, and legal frameworks.
- **Market Confidence:**
 - Reappointment signals **policy continuity**
 - Vietnam is on track for **FTSE Emerging Market status** by late 2026
 - Projected active fund inflows of **USD 3 billion to USD 5 billion**

Key Sectors: Heavy emphasis on private-sector growth, industrial upgrading, and moving away from low-cost manufacturing

** Initiated in 1986, **Đổi Mới ("renovation")** is Vietnam's economic reform policy shifting from a centrally planned to a "socialist-oriented market economy." It legalized private enterprise, encouraged foreign investment, and transitioned agriculture from collectives to household ownership, resulting in rapid poverty reduction and high economic growth.*

The "Four Resolutions" Strategy

The core pillars of To Lam's current reform agenda: **National Rise 2045**

- **Resolution 1:** Science & Technology (Innovation-led growth)
- **Resolution 2:** International Integration (Global trade & FDI)
- **Resolution 3:** Rule of Law (Legal reform & Anti-corruption)
- **Resolution 4:** Private-Sector Growth (The engine of the economy)

Vietnam's "Four Resolutions" Strategy: A Blueprint for Reform

Pillar 1: Economic Efficiency

- Market-oriented reforms
- SOE modernization
- Increased productivity
- Technological integration



Government Transparency & Rule of Law

- Anti-corruption measures
- predictable legal framework
- efficient bureaucracy, open data



**Future Vietnam:
Resilient, Efficient,
and Prosperous**



Pillar 2: Social & Labour Reforms

- Enhanced labor rights
- Skills development
- Inclusive growth
- Sustainable employment



Power Sector Restructuring & Sustainable Energy

- Diversified energy mix
- smart grid investment
- regional connectivity
- reduction in carbon emissions



Conclusion: Stability vs. Consolidation

- **Increased Stability:** Experts suggest the stronger "first pillar" reduces the turbulence and leadership reshuffles seen in previous years
- **Consensus-Based Governance:** While power is more concentrated, the structure still requires support across key military and security factions
- **Outlook:** The 2026 political reset provides a mandate for "bold measures" to navigate external economic shocks and internal efficiency gains