



## **ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS STATEMENT ON VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Saturday, 2 September 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), the largest progressive, anti-imperialist, and socialist movement for economic emancipation in Africa, joins millions of progressive forces worldwide in celebrating the 78th anniversary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's independence.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam proclaimed its independence on September 2, 1945, under the capable and determined leadership of President Hồ Chí Minh. Historically, this republic has played a significant role in global anti-colonial struggles, offering substantial ideological, political, and military support to various liberation movements in Africa and numerous other regions across the world.

We also seize this moment to honour the Vietnamese resistance fighters who bravely combated and triumphed over American invaders, who aimed to destabilise the Republic during its early years. Despite facing daunting challenges, Vietnamese guerrilla fighters emerged victorious against these imperialist forces.

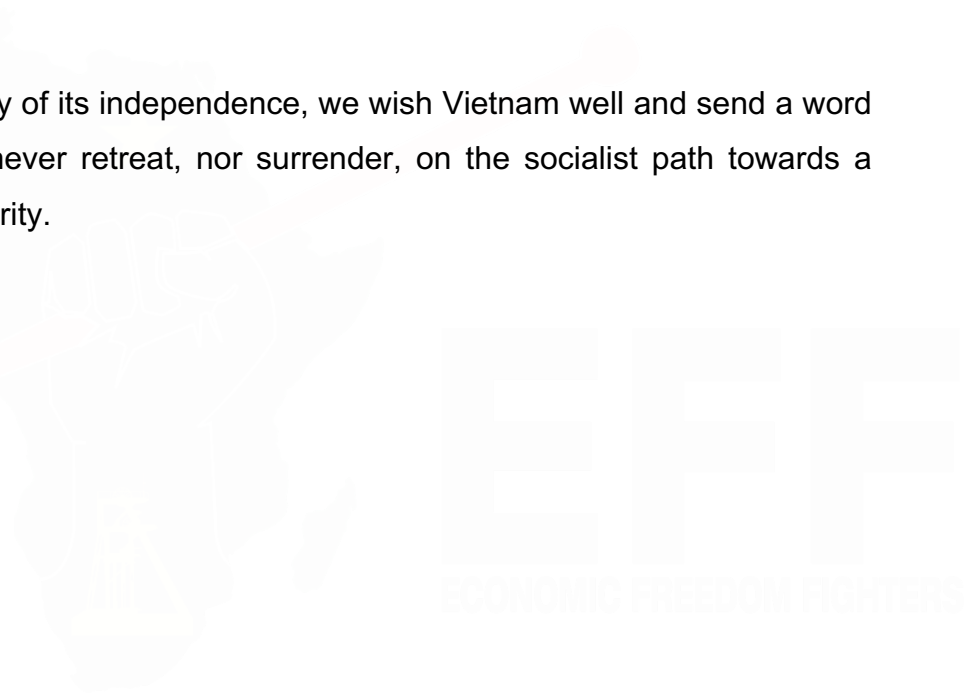
Moreover, the swift development of productive forces in Vietnam, accompanied by the gradual eradication of poverty and illiteracy, serves as a compelling demonstration that the socialist approach to development possesses inherent superiority.

Just as we regard the People's Republic of China with admiration, the EFF equally looks up to Vietnam admirably, pledging our commitment to also pursue a socialist path in the development of our own productive forces.

Despite the significant contributions made by Vietnam in the fight against apartheid, the current government has, unfortunately, not placed a priority on diplomatic and trade relations with Vietnam.

This is in spite of the numerous potential political, ideological, social, and economic advantages that South Africa could attain through enhanced relations with Vietnam. After the 2024 general elections, the EFF will prioritise and bolster our ties with Vietnam.

On the 78th anniversary of its independence, we wish Vietnam well and send a word of encouragement to never retreat, nor surrender, on the socialist path towards a future of shared prosperity.



**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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