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ASIA/VIETNAM - Parliament debates on the revision of the Constitution, on corruption and development

Hanoi (Agenzia Fides) - The revision of the Constitution of 1992 and other important measures on issues such as corruption and socio-economic development are at the center of the sixth session of the National Assembly in Vietnam, which opened yesterday in Hanoi. As Fides learns, among the legislative measures that will be taken into consideration by the National Assembly, there are laws regarding possession of land, labor rights, environmental protection, the fight against waste and corruption, and a series of measures affecting the socio-economic sphere of the country. Most importantly, according to Fides sources , is the report on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan in 2013 and the development of the new plan for 2014 and 2015. Another important point will be the central issue of prevention and fight against corruption. The session of parliamentary work is transmitted for 22 days live on state television channel
The Catholic Church, say Fides sources, is "vigilant", in assessing the work of the Vietnamese Parliament. In recent years, in fact, the Church highlighted and criticized how corruption is an evil that afflicts and paralyzes society, as pointed out by the Franciscan Vietnamese Fr. Nguyen Hong Giao, published on the website of the Episcopal Conference of Vietnam. The problem of corruption in public office - according to observers – has a direct effect on religious communities: in a phase of economic transition (from a centralized economy to a market economy), what happens is that the leaders of the Communist Party sometimes try to buy the personal property of buildings that were taken away from churches, Buddhist communities and other faiths. The current legislation provides, however, that such buildings or land are to be returned to their communities, when they are no longer used by the state. Public officials take possession of such property in order to resell the property on the market and earn profit. Churches and other communities claim these properties and this creates discontent and conflict. (PA)
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