

## Vietnam's 16th National Assembly: Election Results, Composition, and Inaugural Session Agenda

In Vietnam, a National Assembly Deputy serves as a constitutional representative within the country's highest organ of state power. Holding a dual mandate, they must balance the specific needs of their local constituency with broader national interests. Their three primary functions are voter representation, active participation in lawmaking, and exercising supreme oversight, effectively acting as the vital link between state mechanisms and civil society.

Their key legislative and supervisory powers include questioning senior government officials, compelling information from state agencies, and initiating legislation or major constitutional actions. To ensure high-quality governance, a deputy's performance is increasingly measured by their technical legal competence and capacity to hold leadership accountable.

### Election Results

#### Key Numbers

- **Voting date:** March 15, 2026
- **Total seats:** 500
- **Candidates contested:** 864 across 182 electoral constituencies
- **Voter turnout:** 99.7%
- **CPV-affiliated deputies:** 482
- **Non-Party deputies:** 18

## Composition of the 16th National Assembly

The new legislature reflects deliberate efforts to build a more professional, highly educated, and diverse legislative body. Official results from the National Election Council confirm the final demographics of the 500 elected deputies:

Indicator	16th National Assembly (2026)
Total deputies elected	500
First-time deputies	253 (50.60%)
Postgraduate qualifications	418 (83.60%)
Women deputies	150 (30.00%)
Ethnic minority deputies	76 (15.20%)
Youth deputies (under 40)	33 (6.60%)
Full-time legislative deputies	40.00%

The 16th National Assembly marks the highest level of legislative professionalisation in Vietnamese history, with 40% of the body serving as full-time deputies. The educational calibre is exceptionally high, with 83.60% of elected officials holding postgraduate degrees, representing a 5.04% increase from the previous legislative term. Additionally, candidates nominated by the Central Committee achieved a near-perfect success rate of 99%, with 214 out of 216 securing their seats.

For the first time in Vietnamese parliamentary history, a representative of the Ó Đu ethnic group – one of the country’s smallest minorities – was elected to the chamber. While 18 non-Party members were elected to the Assembly, it is important to distinguish these from true independent candidates, as only four self-nominated individuals ran in the entire election.



## What Comes Next: The April 2026 Inaugural Session

The 16th National Assembly's first session is divided into two phases:

- **Phase 1 (April 6–11):** Preparatory session (April 5 afternoon), then formal opening on April 6. Focus on personnel and organisational matters – electing the National Assembly Chairperson, State President, and Prime Minister.
- **Recess (April 12–19):** Agencies revise and finalise draft legislation.
- **Phase 2 (April 20–25):** Debate and adoption of 11 draft laws and normative resolutions, plus review of socio-economic and state budget matters.

### Four key areas to watch:

#### 1. Leadership elections

The Assembly will formally elect the National Assembly Chairperson, State President, Prime Minister, and full Cabinet, plus senior judicial officers. All officials will take a single collective oath after all positions are filled – a new streamlined protocol.

#### 2. Eleven draft laws

An unusually heavy legislative load for an inaugural session, including:

1. A Revised Capital Law granting Hà Nội greater autonomy and updating governance under the new two-tier administrative system
2. A Resolution on International Investment Disputes establishing a new legal centre to protect FDI investors
3. Revised Civil Status Law
4. Revised Law on Access to Information
5. Revised Law on Belief and Religion
6. Amendments to the Social Insurance Law
7. Revised Law on Notarisation
8. Amendments to the Law on Overseas Representative Missions
9. Revised Law on Prevention and Control of Tobacco Harm
10. Revised Law on Legal Assistance
11. Revised Law on Emulation and Commendation

### 3. Economic blueprint adoption

The Assembly will adopt the **Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026–2030)** targeting 10% annual GDP growth, the **2026 state budget** (USD 125 billion in expenditure, 4.2% deficit), and a public investment programme more than double the 2021–2025 plan.

### 4. Supervisory agenda

The Assembly will review 2025 economic performance (8% GDP growth), monitor early 2026 implementation, and oversee resolution of nearly 3,000 stalled development projects worth an estimated USD 94 billion.

**The big picture:** This is Vietnam’s most substantive inaugural session in modern history – deliberately designed to begin implementing the 14th Party Congress agenda from day one rather than deferring it to later sessions.

### What the April 2026 Inaugural Session Means for Businesses and Investors

For domestic and international business stakeholders, the April 2026 session carries direct commercial relevance:

Area	Expected Outcome	Business Relevance
Leadership election	New Cabinet confirmed	Policy direction clarity, ministerial appointments
Five-year plan adoption	2026–2030 investment roadmap formalised	Infrastructure investment priorities, sector priorities
Budget approval	VND 995 trillion (USD 38.5B) state budget investment for 2026	Public procurement opportunities, infrastructure development
Investment dispute resolution	New legal centre and framework	Stronger FDI legal protection, dispute risk mitigation
Revised Capital Law	Greater Hà Nội autonomy	New investment mechanisms in the capital
Anti-stalled projects	926 projects (VND 724 trillion) resolved; ~USD 95.5B total still to be unlocked	Land market recovery, project delivery
16th term legislative agenda	34 laws for 2026 alone (which will be discussed in several sessions)	Major legal overhaul of business, social insurance, notary laws