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Vietnam donates 5,000 tons of rice to Cuba

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Vietnamese authorities donated 5,000 tons of rice to Cuba this June 16, following a pledge made last September by then President of Vietnam, Truong Tan Sang, during his visit to the island.

As noted during the presentation ceremony, which was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (Mincex), the donation is a gift from the Vietnamese Communist Party, state, and people to the Cuban people.

Officially signing for receipt of the donation were the Head of the General Department of State Reserves of Vietnam, Pham Pahn Dung, and Mincex Director of Trade Policy with Asia and Oceania, Rigoberto Enoa Novo.

Both parties highlighted the excellent ties of friendship and solidarity that unite the two nations, as well as efforts to build and defend their socialist homelands.

Pham Pahn Dung stated that in the immediate future, the delivery of these 5,000 tons of rice to the port of Santiago de Cuba, will serve to help overcome difficulties faced by the island.

He also noted that thanks to the results of the 7th Congress of the Communist

Party of Cuba (PCC), the Cuban people have embarked on new paths to overcoming adversities and advancing the development of the country.

Pham Pahn welcomed the initiative of Cuba and Vietnam to further strengthen economic and trade relations to the level of their political ties, and recalled the assistance provided by the island during the war and reconstruction of his country, a gesture, for which he said the Vietnamese people would be eternally grateful.

Meanwhile, Rigoberto Enoa Novo expressed gratitude for this donation, and highlighted the growing interest of companies from this Southeast Asian country to invest in Cuba.

In this regard, he noted that several projects are at an advanced stage of negotiation, and that Vietnam is already represented in the Mariel Special Development Zone, through a company producing disposable diapers.

Enoa stated that the donation would be directed to increasing subsidized stocks of this important food for the Cuban population.

He noted that although trade between the two nations has seen modest growth, the range of Vietnamese imports has been diversified, with some products in very high demand by Cuban consumers due to their quality and value of the price.

The Mincex official praised the joint collaboration plans between the two countries, with special mention for the Vietnamese project to produce rice on the island, which has already reached its fourth phase.

He also recalled that Cuba cooperates with Vietnam in the production of medicines and vaccines, some of which are unique. Both projects, Enoa stressed, are noteworthy examples of collaboration between developing countries.

The Vietnamese delegation also included the country's Ambassador to Havana, Duong Minh, and other officials of the Ministry of Finance.

Participating on the Cuban side were Mincex, Ministry of Finance and Prices and Foreign Ministry officials, as well as Ariel Fiallo Semino, commercial director of the Alimport state food trading enterprise.

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