# Vietnam Appoints To Lam as New President Amidst Anti-Corruption Drive



**Vietnam Confirms To Lam as New President**

**Date**: May 22, 2024

**Location**: Hanoi, Vietnam

**Event**: Vietnam’s National Assembly has appointed To Lam, the nation's top security official, as the new president. Lam's appointment marks the third presidential change in less than 18 months amid an ongoing anti-corruption campaign led by Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

**Key Figures**:   
- **To Lam**: General and former Public Security Minister, known for leading the extensive anti-corruption campaign.  
- **Nguyen Phu Trong**: Current Communist Party General Secretary, aged 80, who is expected to step down in 2026.  
- **Tran Thanh Man**: Newly elected National Assembly Chair.  
- **Vo Van Thuong**: Lam’s predecessor who resigned in March 2024.

**Details**:  
- Lam’s confirmation comes amid a sweeping anti-corruption drive that has significantly disrupted the country's political landscape, leading to numerous high-profile resignations and arrests.  
- Analysts suggest Lam's role positions him as a strong contender to succeed Trong as party chief.  
- Under Lam's leadership in the Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam has faced criticism from rights groups for suppressing basic freedoms and for allegations of a high-profile kidnapping in Germany.  
- Lam's presidency, while largely ceremonial, advances him in Vietnam's four-person collective national leadership.

**Context**:  
- The anti-corruption drive has caused significant political instability, influencing investor confidence and economic activities.  
- In 2023, Vietnam's growth slowed to 5.1% from 8% in 2022 due to export contraction and bureaucratic hesitation.

**Reactions**:  
- Rights organizations have criticized Lam's tenure for its aggressive repression of government critics and activists.  
- Economic analysts express concern over the prolonged uncertainty affecting foreign investments and economic development.

**Conclusion**:  
To Lam's presidency marks a continuation of Vietnam's stringent anti-corruption efforts, threading closely with Nguyen Phu Trong’s governance policies, amidst a backdrop of political reshuffling and economic challenges.