

On 17 September, the election date, the polling stations were open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. With a record-breaking 174,872 votes cast in direct elections, the voter turnout rate was 57.22 percent, 2.2 percent more than in the previous election. The voter turnout rate for indirect elections was 91.67 percent, which was higher than the previous election.

On 19 September, the General Audit Committee of the Legislative Assembly Election announced the audited results. Of the 174,872 votes counted, 172,628 were valid, 944 were blank, and 1,300 were invalid.

On 27 September, according to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR, Chief Executive Chui Sai On appointed seven legislators to the Legislative Assembly through an executive order. They were: Ma Chi Seng, Pang Chuan, Wu Chou Kit, Lao Chi Ngai, Fong Ka Chio, Iau Teng Pio and Chan Wa Keong.

On 28 September, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published an announcement by the Court of Final Appeal, and confirmed the results of the direct and indirect elections of the Legislative Assembly Election according to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law. The 14 directly elected legislators were: Mak Soi Kun, Lei Cheng I, Si Ka Lon, Jose Maria Pereira Coutinho, Ho Ion Sang, Au Kam San, Leong On Kei, Song Pek Kei, Ng Kuok Cheong, Lam Iok Fong, Wong Kit Cheng, Sou Ka Hou, Zheng Anting and Leong Sun Iok. The 12 indirectly elected legislators were: Ho Iat Seng, Kou Hoi In, Chui Sai Peng Jose, Ip Sio Kai, Lam Lon Wai, Lei Chan U, Chui Sai Cheong, Chan Iek Lap, Vong Hin Fai, Chan Hon, Cheung Lup Kwan Vitor and Chan Chak Mo. All 33 members of the sixth Legislative Assembly of Macao were returned.

On 16 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On swore in all the legislators at the Government Headquarters. The four-year term of office commenced. The first plenary meeting was held on the same day, to elect the president, vice president and the first and second secretaries by and from among its members. Ho Iat Seng, Chui Sai Cheong, Kou Hoi In and Chan Hon were elected to these positions, respectively.

Enhance qualitative development of industries and promote adequate economic diversification

In 2017, Macao's economy gradually emerged from its in-depth adjustment period, to commence a stable upturn. Annual GDP grew by 9.1 percent to 404.2 billion patacas, putting a halt to the economic contraction over the past three years. Annual GDP per capita was 622,803 patacas. Public finance was sound and stable. The unemployment rate was maintained at two percent. Gross gaming revenue was 265.743 billion patacas, an increase of 19.1 percent over the previous year, representing the first growth in the past three years. On the whole, steady development of society was maintained.

In the area of economy and finance, the Government adopted an administrative approach aiming to “strengthen the foundations for maintaining innovative development and enhancing our driving force; foster employment and safeguard the people’s well-being to boost vitality”. It launched a series of initiatives to develop Macao as “One Centre, One Platform”, and speed up adequate economic diversification as set out in the country’s 13th Five-Year Plan and the Five-

Year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2020).



In 2017, the Government continued to foster the development of the convention and exhibition industry through the “conventions as the priority” approach, by launching the Convention Ambassador programme and inviting six authoritative figures to be convention ambassadors, to help Macao with attracting more regional or international conventions to be held in Macao. The Government also implemented and optimised a series of supportive measures for the convention industry, and completed a revision of the Convention and Exhibition Incentive Programme and International Convention and Professional Exhibition Support Scheme. The effectiveness of these supportive measures was consistently monitored through pre-approval assessments and on-site inspections. The Government also took an active role in helping the industry to cope with human resource challenges. As at September, seven conventions in Macao were awarded certification by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI). According to the 13th edition of the Annual Report on the Trade Fair Industry in Asia, published by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, Macao was ranked the most outstanding exhibition market in Asia in the past five years.

In the area of traditional Chinese medicine, the Government consistently boosted efforts to attract capital and build infrastructure for the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park, driving more high-quality mainland China and Macao enterprises to establish a foothold there. It also fostered regional cooperation and international exchanges in the traditional Chinese medicine industry, including establishing partnerships with Guangdong and Sichuan, as well as expanding the scope of cooperation with Fujian.

The Government also assisted Macao enterprises in promoting their products in Portuguese-speaking countries, such as Mozambique and Portugal, and followed up with matters concerning international product registration and import and export trade. In September 2017, the Government helped two patented Chinese medicines to complete their registrations with Mozambique; one

of these is manufactured by a Chinese medicine factory in Macao.

Specialised financial service is a nascent industry which the Government has actively promoted in recent years. In this regard, the Government has revised two laws: Legal System for Financial Leasing Businesses, and Tax Incentives for Financial Leasing, thereby improving the legal foundation for the development of the industry. The Government also launched supportive measures – providing convenient business registration, application for non-resident workers, and temporary residence permit application for management-level staff and qualified technical specialists – with a view to inviting more high-quality financial leasing companies to establish businesses in Macao. Importing and training talented people will, it is hoped, enable specialised financial professional teams to be established more quickly.

The Government also strived to create a mechanism for exchanging information between the banking industry associations of Guangdong and Macao, regarding “Belt and Road” investment and financing needs, with a view to fostering regional financial cooperation and expanding room for development of the industry. In 2017, three Macao banks established businesses in mainland China. Through cross-departmental cooperation, the Government visited neighbouring regions, including Guangzhou, Zhongshan and Zhuhai, in the fourth quarter of 2017, to promote Macao’s specialised financial services.

Market expansion via e-commerce among SMEs, while young entrepreneurs integrated into the Greater Bay Area

In 2017, the Government actively promoted development of e-commerce by launching a training programme targeting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and modifying the incentive programme for promotion of e-commerce (application of B2C platform), to encourage e-commerce engagement of businesses. Through driving participation in the Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair and similar programmes, the Government facilitated the expansion of business networks, helping SMEs in Macao to expand into the mainland China market via cross-border e-commerce. With Nansha as an entry point, the Government liaised with mainland China counterparts to jointly foster convenient customs clearance at Nansha, for e-commerce goods from Macao that are transported by land.

In mid August, the first-batch of cross-border e-commerce goods was delivered to Nansha from Macao. Moreover, various supportive programmes and services for SMEs were enhanced on an ongoing basis, including: launch of an online appointment service for “Services on the Doorstep”; organising shopping and sight-seeing tours for merchants participating in conventions and exhibitions, and activities to promote retail consumption and community economic development; improving the business environment to create more opportunities for businesses; and fostering long-term cooperation in the “Procurement Partnership Scheme for Local SMEs” between local commercial and industrial associations and Macao’s six large-scale integrated tourism and leisure enterprises, raising the proportion of local goods and services procurements by large enterprises and thereby driving the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regarding entrepreneurship for young people, in 2017 the Government joined hands with private organisations to launch a mentorship programme for young entrepreneurs. Under the programme, enterprises form mentorship circles to pass on knowledge and experience through exchanges, visits, talks and sharing sessions. The Government completed the revision of the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme, further expanding the range of target beneficiaries, simplifying the application process,

setting additional requirements, and optimising supervision and control. Businesses of young entrepreneurs will receive assistance that more closely matches their needs, fully demonstrating the functions of the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre.

The Government encouraged young people to participate in the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis. In tandem with young entrepreneur support centres in Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen, the Government provided work spaces, as well as legal, taxation and other supportive services for young entrepreneurs from Macao. Through mutual recognition of young entrepreneurship projects, young people from Macao were introduced to the incubation centres in mainland China, and those who were pursuing tertiary education in mainland China were given internship opportunities.

In 2017, the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur and Innovation Exchange Centre, which was established by the Government, officially opened. This provides a cross-regional platform for sharing resources regarding entrepreneurship between young people in these countries. The government also organised visits to Lisbon, Portugal, for young people from Macao, Qianhai and Hengqin, and invited groups of young Portuguese entrepreneurs to visit Macao, thereby promoting exchanges and cooperation regarding entrepreneurship and innovation between young people in China and Portugal via mutual visits.

Gradual development of Sino-Portuguese service platform and expansion of scope of PPRD regional cooperation

In 2017, the Government continued implementing new measures to support the Sino-Portuguese commercial and trade service platform. The headquarters of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund in Macao officially opened in Macao in June 2017. This provides services to Macao enterprises, including SMEs, and has commenced work on promotion and publicity.

The establishment of a food trading and distribution centre for Portuguese-speaking countries was underway. In 2017, the Government set up exhibition centres for food products from Portuguese-speaking countries, and organised product presentations, business matching sessions and trade fairs for Portuguese-speaking countries, in various mainland China cities. These conventions and exhibitions, together with the Sino-Portuguese commercial and trade service platform, demonstrated Macao's function as a convention and exhibition centre for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Economic and Trade Cooperation and Human Resources Portal Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries has continuously enhanced its functions, and has already started an online registration service for convention and exhibition events. In 2017, the Summit on the Chinese Central SOEs' Support of Macao in the Building of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Co-operation Platform made its debut, with several cooperation agreements signed between Portuguese-speaking countries, mainland China SOEs and Macao enterprises.

As for regional cooperation, the Government deepened exchanges and connections between Macao and PPRD provinces like Guangdong and Fujian as well as other provinces and cities.

The Government continued recommending projects for and conducting processes for the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park, to expedite start-ups by enterprises. Other positive

steps included the official opening of Zhongshan 760 Cultural Park Macao Interactive Zone, and steady progress with establishing the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone. The Government organised groups from Macao, Fujian province and other regions of mainland China to join the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in the Republic of Cape Verde, and visited Sao Tome and Principe together with a delegation from Fujian. The Government also enhanced cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine with Fujian, and liaisons and business matching with medicine and pharmaceutical technology companies in Fujian.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the Government signed the Hong Kong and Macau Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement with the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Caring for people's livelihoods, cultivating talents, and planning for a liveable and accessible city



In 2017, the Government continued to uphold its policy objective of optimising the five long-term mechanisms for people's well-being. Continuous improvements in people's livelihoods were achieved on several fronts, namely social security, housing, education, healthcare and talent cultivation, making progress towards meeting the policy targets established in the MSAR's Five-year Plan.

Implementing healthcare policy to jointly build a healthy city

In 2017, the Government upheld the principle of "improve medical services and prioritise prevention" in the implementation of various healthcare policies. In the Five-year Development Plan, the Government established 10 development targets for healthcare. Among these, the