

year, Macao received 35.8 million tourists, representing year-on-year growth of 9.8 percent. The Government improved the tourism environment, promoted application of smart tourism, implemented the tourism information interchange platform, conducted studies on tourism carrying capacities, conducted site management and developed strategies for crowded tourist attractions, explored the possibilities for developing potential tourism areas into new tourist attractions, to create new activity spaces for residents and visitors, in order to foster the sustainable development of the tourism industry and the city as a whole.

Legislative Assembly Addresses Public Aspirations through Legislation, Fulfils its Supervisory Functions and Listens to Public Opinion



During the first session of the sixth Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2017 to 15 October 2018, 51 plenary meetings and 167 committee meetings were held, with 13 laws, one resolution and 24 simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

Legislative function:

Regarding people's livelihoods and the economy, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 1/2018 on Amendments to Regulations on Urban Real Estate Tax and Law No. 2/2018 on Stamp Duty for Non-first Time Buyers of Residential Property through emergency procedures. The former abolished the provisions of the relevant regulations whereby vacant properties were exempt from taxation, thereby reducing the hoarding of vacant properties for speculation; the latter imposed an additional five percent or ten percent stamp duty on non-first time buyers of residential property, thereby discouraging property speculation.

Regarding the protection of rights of the disabled, in order to ensure long-term financial support for the disabled, promote employment, and help them integrate into society, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 6/2018 on Amendments to Law No. 4/2010 on the Social Security System, and Law No. 8/2018 on Provision of Tax Concessions to Employers Who Hire People with Disabilities, thereby transforming the temporary disability allowance scheme into a long-term measure, and granting employers hiring people with disabilities a certain amount of tax deduction.

Law No. 12/2018 on Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly was also passed, to establish the overall framework for the protection of rights of the elderly, and provide the Government with clear principles and guidelines for formulating policies on elderly persons.

The Legislative Assembly also passed Law No. 3/2018 on Amendments to the General Rules for Disciplined Personnel of Macao Security Forces, approved by Decree-Law No. 66/94/M dated 30 December 1994, concerning public administration, thereby improving the human resources allocation of the public security forces.

Regarding the enhancement of system establishment, Law No. 9/2018 on Establishment of the Municipal Affairs Bureau was passed, thereby establishing a municipal body that is not an organ of political power, in strict compliance with the Basic Law of Macao, to ensure a smooth transition of the functions and personnel of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

For optimisation of division of functions, Law No. 11/2018 on Amendments to the Rights of Assembly and Demonstration, approved by Decree-Law No. 2/93/M dated 17 May 1993 was passed, under which notification of a demonstration should instead be given to the Public Security Police Force, thereby simplifying the administrative procedure and improving administrative efficiency.

Regarding improvement of welfare for civil servants, Law No. 5/2018 on Adjustment of the Amount of Birth Allowance was also passed, thereby increasing the birth allowance for civil servants giving birth to their children to an amount comparable to that under the Social Security Fund, hence fully implementing financial support measures to encourage childbirth.

For stability of financial order, Law No. 4/2018 on Amendments to Law No. 9/2012 on the Deposit Protection System was passed, thereby improving the effectiveness of the deposit protection system by improving its payout efficiency and reinforcing account holders' confidence in the deposit system.

Furthermore, in response to the cancellation of registration of a large number of damaged vehicles following the passage of Typhoon Hato on 23 August 2017, Law No. 10/2018 on Special Tax Concession for Acquisition of Motor Vehicles was passed, thereby offering a special tax concession to relieve the financial burdens of those who had to purchase new vehicles due to the damage caused by the typhoon.

As the Central People's Government had demarcated Macao's marine boundaries, with an area of 85 square kilometres of inshore waters falling under the administration of Macao, Law No. 7/2018 on Maritime Area Management Framework Law was passed, to define the objectives and principles of maritime area management, and foster the establishment of an overall planning system, thereby ensuring the effective management and appropriate development and use of the maritime area.

The above-mentioned laws were proposed by the Government.

Supervisory functions:

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Legislative Assembly oversaw the government budget and public finances. This involved tasks included passing Law No. 16/2017 on the 2018 Government Budget, deliberating the Government's Reports on Budget Implementation for 2016, and listening to and discussing the 2018 Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive.

In addition, during the legislative session, legislators raised 636 written and 63 oral questions, and called for eight plenary meetings regarding the oral questions. During the plenary meetings, legislators gave 341 pre-agenda speeches, covering housing policy, public transport, healthcare and education, economy and culture, environmental protection, public administration, talent cultivation and labour rights protection.

Moreover, the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs and the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs actively followed up on and prepared 14 reports on important administrative issues and implementation of relevant laws.

Other responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include listening to and fully reflecting different views, suggestions and criticisms from the public, and making prompt responses regarding public aspirations. During the session, legislators

continued to strengthen the roster system for receiving public visitors, and 50 residents were personally received by legislators through this service. The Legislative Assembly also received 169 opinions and suggestions from the public through phone and email. Moreover, the Legislative Assembly received three petitions from citizens and groups, and handled these appropriately.

CCAC successfully combats corruption and CA promotes optimal use of public funds



In 2018, the Commission Against Corruption (“the CCAC”) stepped up its efforts in fulfilling its anti-corruption mission. Building on past experiences, the CCAC continued improving law enforcement models, strengthened law enforcement skills, upgraded law enforcement equipment and optimised workforce management, to achieve the anticipated results in anti-corruption and regional law enforcement cooperation.

Regarding complaints to the Ombudsman, the CCAC actively monitors the operations of public departments, conducts special investigations on cases of major public interest, and publishes reports on the investigations. With the combination of traditional media and online platforms, the CCAC has expanded promotion and education regarding integrity. During the year, the CCAC continued organising activities to promote external exchanges and cooperation at all levels with related organisations.

In 2018, the CCAC received 733 complaints and reports, of which 141 involved anti-corruption cases and 592 were complaints to the Ombudsman.