

Constitutional development was a major focus of the Government's agenda in 2012. In the course of looking for election methods that suit the social characteristics of Macao, the Central People's Government has given its full support to Macao while the Government has adhered strictly to the relevant requirements of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Based on the interpretation and decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and taking into consideration the practical situation of Macao, the Government has secured mainstream consensus after the consultation period, and started the amendment process of the selection and formation methods for the Chief Executive and Legislative Assembly respectively.

On 31 December 2011, the Standing Committee of the NPC passed the bill on the Interpretation of Article 7 of Annex I and Article 3 of Annex II of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (the "Interpretation"), thus officially establishing the five-step process to revise the methods of selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Assembly. During the one-month initial public consultation, the Government received a total of 2,692 submissions of opinions and suggestions. After considering mainstream opinion from various sectors of society and the general public, the Chief Executive submitted a report to the Standing Committee of the NPC on 7 February 2012. On 29 February, the Standing Committee of the NPC adopted a decision on the methods for forming the Legislative Assembly of the MSAR in 2013 and selecting its Chief Executive in 2014 (the "Decision").

Constitutional development is closely related to the daily life of Macao people, and the Government attaches great importance to the support and participation of the general public. Public opinion was widely collected through various consultation channels, and consideration given to the interests of different sectors of society, in order to reach community-wide consensus.

In accordance with the Basic Law and the Interpretation and the Decision passed by the Standing Committee of the NPC, the Government published its consultation paper on Macao's constitutional development, and on 10 March 2012 launched a 45-day public consultation on the methods for forming the Legislative Assembly of the MSAR in 2013 and selecting its Chief Executive in 2014. A total of ten consultation sessions were organised, which enabled the Government to better understand public opinion through direct conversation. During the consultation period, the Government received 165,247 submissions of opinions and suggestions from different sectors of society, various community groups and organisations, as well as the general public.

With regard to the method for selecting the Chief Executive in 2014, among the 153,092 submissions collected, 133,431 supported increasing the membership of the Chief Executive Election Committee from 300 to 400. In regard to the allocation of the newly added seats in the Election Committee, of the 54,100 submissions, 28,362 were for increasing the numbers of seats for the professional, labour, and social services sectors. As for the method for forming the Legislative Assembly, among the 159,837 submissions collected, 138,251 supported the idea of having two additional directly and indirectly elected legislators, with the number of appointed legislators remaining the same.

After concluding and analysing the opinions collected, the Government accordingly tabled the draft bill of amendment to the method for the selection of the Chief Executive, and the draft bill of amendment to the method for the formation of the Legislative Assembly. The former suggested that the number of members in the Chief Executive Election Committee be increased from 300 to 400; while the latter suggested adoption of the "adding two to each" proposal, meaning that the

fifth Legislative Assembly formed in 2013 would have 33 members, with the number of directly elected legislators increased from 12 to 14, the number of indirectly elected legislators increased from 10 to 12, and the number of legislators appointed by the Chief Executive remaining at seven.

The bills were endorsed by a two-thirds majority of the Legislative Assembly on 5 June 2012. On 30 June 2012, the bill on the Amendment to Annex I of the Basic Law: Method for Selecting the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the bill on the Amendment to Annex II of the Basic Law: Method for Forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region, were approved and officially recorded by the Standing Committee of the NPC, signifying the successful completion of all legislative procedures for the amendment to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Assembly.

The Government considers that its first initiative in proposing appropriate amendment to the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Assembly was an important step in the constitutional development of Macao, which would have a positive impact on the maintenance of a stable political system and improved democratic elements in the constitution of Macao, on effective practice of executive-led government, on balancing the interests of different social strata and sectors, and on securing the long-term prosperity, stability and development of Macao.

The Government immediately started legislative work relating to the selection and formation methods to implement the decision made by the Standing Committee of the NPC and the results of the initial consultation. On 29 August 2012, the bill on the amendment to the Chief Executive Electoral Law and the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law passed their second readings in the Legislative Assembly, providing a legal basis for the Legislative Assembly Election in 2013 and the Chief Executive Election in 2014.

## Promotion of voter registration and measures to enhance convenience

To better prepare for the 2013 Legislative Assembly Election, the Government set up an election promotion task force, which coordinated and launched a series of publicity campaigns to improve public understanding of the amended Chief Executive Electoral Law and Legislative Assembly Electoral Law. Since October, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau has extended its voter registration services for the



convenience of local residents, including setting up mobile voter registration counters at various locations in Macao every day, providing voter registration services at the Public Administration

and Civil Service Bureau, Government Integrated Service Centre and various public services centres on Saturdays and Sundays, visiting tertiary institutions and secondary schools to register teachers and students as voters, and setting up registration counters at events organised by non-profit-making organisations.

Statistics show that in 2012, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau received 26,909 applications for natural person voter registration, among which 2,102 were eligible advance applications from permanent residents who reached the age of 17. By 31 December 2012, the number of natural person voters was 277,153 (including those under the age of 18 who completed the registration in advance), an increase of 10.18 percent compared with the figure of 251,542 on 31 December 2011. In 2013, six legal person voters were newly entered into the register of voters.

## **Ensuring effectiveness of consultation guidelines and acting as a bridge between the Government and communities**

In 2012, the Government continued to uphold the “Putting people first” principle in the administrative and judicial aspects by implementing and promoting a series of measures in regard to public administration, development of the legal system and civic and municipal affairs.

After the Standard Guidelines for Public Policy Consultation came into effect, various stages of consultation were carried out by different public departments as required. The Public Administration Reform Coordination Committee performed its coordination role by following up on the implementation of various consultation projects, communicating with different departments, and providing assistance to them to ensure effective implementation of the guidelines. The merging of the Public Administration Reform Consultation Committee and the Public Administration Reform Coordination Committee enabled the Government to strengthen internal coordination and enhance communication with the community.

The 15 special panels under the Community Services Consultation Committee cooperated with various public services centres, acting as a bridge between the Government and the community. As an important channel for direct communication between the Government and residents, the functions of community seminars have become more significant. The Community Services Consultation Committee organised direct discussion sessions with local residents, during which they explored, exchanged and followed up on issues such as environmental hygiene, food safety, urban infrastructure and public facilities management. In 2012, the Community Services Consultation Committee reported 364 cases, of which 261 were handled or settled, and among which 104 involved several departments. In addition, the 345 submissions received during the 12 community seminars were all followed up on.

## **Implementation of central recruitment system and central promotion and training scheme**

The implementation of the central recruitment system and central promotion and training scheme in response to changes in society and the demands of local residents has made management of human resources in public administration more systematic, standardised and transparent, demonstrating

the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness in human resource management, as well as enabling better coordination and management of civil servants.

The central recruitment system was applicable to a total of 34 general and specific positions. According to Executive Order No. 230/2011, central recruitment and selection should be conducted for senior technician and technical assistant posts at the first stage.

In 2012, with reference to the Government's recruitment plan for the next three years, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau completed its analysis of the recruitment and requirements for the positions of technical assistant and senior technician, applicants for which would have to take a central examination. In August, recruitment procedures for the positions of technical assistant in general administrative support, administrative support in public reception and information technology, which included application, examination of relevant knowledge and professional interview, were undertaken to fill 128 vacancies in 30 public departments. According to the published list of candidates, a total of 14,051 people sat the central recruitment 'general knowledge' examination.

The implementation of the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants and the Recruitment, Selection and Training for Promotion of Civil Servants linked the training of civil servants with the central promotion scheme. The formulation of the training route map enabled civil servants to enhance their capabilities in accordance with various policy objectives, job nature and their career development through fundamental, consolidation, upgrading and continuing courses. The training route map offered two main course types – compulsory and elective. In 2012, eight targeted promotion training courses were organised for 250 civil servants due to be promoted in 2013.

The Civil Servant Training Centre opened in February 2012 with responsibility for consolidating resources and improving course organisation. Courses offered by the centre enable civil servants to receive systematic and tailor-made training, to strengthen their overall administrative ability.

In 2012, the Civil Service Pay Council, composed of the relevant government departments and a number of civil service associations, was established with the aim to perfect the civil service remuneration system and establish a scientific and reasonable adjustment mechanism for civil service salaries. After considering various factors, the council put forward a proposal for salary adjustment for civil servants in 2012, which was submitted to the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly for discussion and examination. With the bill on the adjustment to civil servants' salaries and pensions passed in May, each point on the civil service salary scale increased from 59 patacas to 62 patacas.

Regarding the judicial aspect, the Government prioritised the formulation of regulations concerning people's livelihoods according to their importance and urgency.

In 2012, the Government submitted 14 bills to the Legislative Assembly, of which nine were in the legislative plan and five were non-planned items. A total of 17 bills passed their second reading in the Legislative Assembly, including the Law Governing Video Surveillance in Public Places, the Deposit Protection Scheme, the amendment to the Chief Executive Electoral Law (Law No. 3/2004), and the amendment to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law (Law No. 3/2001).

Furthermore, 26 by-laws were promulgated by the Chief Executive, including the Wealth Partaking Scheme for 2012, the amendment to the SME Assistance Scheme and the Deposit Protection Fund.

In regard to the review and amendment of major legal codes, the bill on the amendment to the Criminal Procedural Code passed its first reading in the Legislative Assembly. Regarding the amendment to the Civil Procedural Code, preliminary analysis, data collection and studies of comparative law were completed, with emphasis on enhancing judicial efficiency, simplifying legal proceedings, and better allocating judicial resources. The consultation paper regarding amendment of the Contract System was also ready for consultation.

Promoting the Basic Law was a major task in the field of law promotion. The government departments concerned made use of favourable elements in society, and integrated the government's information networks with those of the community to organise various publicity activities to raise awareness among Macao residents of the Basic Law. These activities include fun fairs, academic seminars and Basic Law training courses,



a photo exhibition cum quiz game in Anhui to commemorate Macao's reunification with the motherland, a series of seminars and lectures on the Basic Law co-organised with Anhui University, promotional activities in schools, library events and panel displays. Moreover, the construction of the Commemorative Gallery of the Macao Basic Law was expedited and the content of the exhibition was enriched in order to develop a base for the promotion of the Basic Law.

## Improving social welfare and securing people's well-being

In 2012, the Government gave priority to the improvement of people's livelihoods and social welfare, and implemented and enhanced a number of policies to safeguard and improve people's standard of living, which involved a total expenditure of over 10 billion patacas. Projects such as the development of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, road networks, and drainage systems were completed, which further enhanced the living quality of local residents and created a more livable environment and a brighter future for Macao.





In light of high inflation in recent years, the Government continued to share the wealth by implementing short-term measures to help the population cope with the hard times. It also gave further financial and policy support to the underprivileged and families with difficulties to support their living.

## **Long-term social security planning and short-term measures to share wealth**

On 12 April, the Executive Council announced the Wealth Partaking Scheme 2012, under which each permanent resident and non-permanent resident received respectively 7,000 patacas and 4,200 patacas. Around 540,000 permanent residents and 70,000 non-permanent residents benefited from the scheme, involving a total of 4.123 billion patacas.

At the same time, the Government raised the minimum subsistence index by 0.6 percent in January and by another five percent on 1 July, with that for a one-person household increased to 3,300 patacas. In addition, the Government took a series of social security measures such as raising the income ceiling for applicants for the Short-term Food Assistance Programme, and increasing the level of special subsidies to the three categories of underprivileged families. In January and September, an extra one-month full subsidy was disbursed to more than 5,000 families who had registered with the Social Welfare Bureau to receive financial assistance. At the end of July, the Old-age Allowance was raised to 6,000 patacas for each eligible senior citizen. Meanwhile, the Government continued to provide financial allowances to eligible low-income, full-time employees. Starting from 1 October, the electricity fee subsidy to each residential household was increased from 180 patacas to 200 patacas per month.

In 2012, the Government waived rent payments for all 7,300 public housing tenants for one year. From 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013, temporary housing subsidies at a level increased by eight percent were provided to eligible families on the waiting list for public housing. Since its first disbursement in 2008, a total of 223 million patacas of temporary housing subsidies has been offered, helping more than 7,110 families. Moreover, the Government has striven to make the supply of public housing more effective, increase the number of residents who benefit, and loosen the eligibility criteria for elderly households to apply for public housing by amending the Public Housing Application Regulations.

On 13 November, Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivered his fourth Policy Address, and for the first time, eased the pressure on middle-income earners with a tax rebate to support upward mobility for residents. Various temporary subsidies were also provided to alleviate the burden of inflation on all social sectors.

To combat inflation, the Government organised and assisted the food industry to broaden its sources of supply. To maintain stable food prices, an inter-departmental working group on food prices was established to conduct research on the import, wholesaling and retailing of food, and release information on food prices in different districts in a timely manner. A website was also launched jointly by a number of departments to release updated and comprehensive information on food prices.