

Strengthening efforts to combat crime and reinforcing civil protection

The Government also intensified its efforts to prevent and combat crime by taking a multi-pronged approach to build a livable Macao in good public order. In 2012, Macao was ranked China's safest city according to the China Urban Competitiveness Report, issued by the China Institute of City Competitiveness.

In 2012, emphasis was put on the enhancement of intelligence network by Macao's public security authorities, which worked actively with overseas police forces in intelligence exchange. In cracking the two fraud cases involving a fake casino in February and March, 23 suspects were arrested following extensive intelligence analysis and surveillance operations.



Moreover, to ensure a timely response to gaming-related crime, the Judiciary Police made adjustments to the organisation and resources deployment for prevention, investigation and combating of such offences, which included restructuring human resources, reforming emergency response mechanism, and setting up a special inspection team to carry out round-the-clock patrols in all casinos in Macao. Since the introduction of the new mechanism, initial success has been achieved in deterring and preventing gaming-related crime.

The Government also paid close attention to the improvement of public security hardware. After the Law Governing Video Surveillance in Public Places came into effect on 19 April 2012, video surveillance cameras were installed in three phases at border checkpoints, transport interchanges and crime black spots to combat crime such as arson, vehicle theft and pickpocketing.

On 11 July, the Secretary for Security approved the installation and 24-hour operation of 1,353 video surveillance cameras at various border checkpoints, public security departments, the Golden Lotus Square, the Guia Lighthouse, Rampa do Observatório da Taipa Grande and Alto de Coloane Road. In order to protect the privacy of Macao people, these cameras are only permitted to video-record at fixed positions and the recording and collection of sound is forbidden. It is not permitted to video record or focus on private places.

To combat drug trafficking, public security authorities continued to strengthen law enforcement actions at the airport to stop the flow of illicit drugs into Macao. On 24 April 2012, the largest drug manufacturing operation in recent years was smashed. Seven bags and suitcases of raw materials for methamphetamine manufacturing weighing 166.5 kilograms were seized, and the suspects were

arrested. In March, the Public Security Police and mainland public security authorities smashed a cross-border human trafficking syndicate in a joint operation in which seven suspects were arrested and a number of victims freed.

Adjusting civil protection plan by setting response levels

The Government made timely adjustments to the civil protection master plan in accordance with the actual situations. Contingency plans to cope with the onslaught of water salinity, handle construction project accidents and respond to water contamination incidents were formulated and included in the plan. At the moment, besides natural hazards such as tropical cyclones, the master plan also includes contingency plans in case of catastrophes and public health emergencies, with all accidents and natural hazards categorised into five response levels.

On numerous occasions, the newly amended civil protection master plan yielded positive results in the protection of the lives and property of Macao residents.

When Typhoon Signal No. 8 was hoisted by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau at 7pm on 23 July as Typhoon Vicente approached Macao, the Civil Protection Operational Centre immediately activated the contingency measures according to the civil protection master plan. As local winds strengthened rapidly, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau issued Typhoon Signal No. 9 at 2:15 am. This was the first Typhoon Signal No. 9 hoisted since the passage of Typhoon York 13 years ago in 1999 before the establishment of the MSAR.

Under the guidance of the civil protection master plan, the Fire Service coordinated 28 departments and organisations and liaised closely with different government departments, private organisations and the media, in order to gather up-to-date meteorological information and release civil protection advice to the public in a timely manner. Organised contingency measures for the convenience of the public greatly reduced the negative impact of the typhoon.

In a bid to enhance its response capability in the event of disasters or emergencies, the Government conducted numerous drills and tests in 2012. On 23 May, various departments and the Sai Van Bridge Management Company jointly organised a fire drill at the lower deck tunnel of Sai Van Bridge to assess the coordination and response capability of the relevant departments in case traffic accidents occur inside the tunnel during a typhoon.

On 13 November, several government departments jointly organised an on-site nuclear drill to enhance the preparedness of Macao's Nuclear Incidents Response Task Force and to review the effectiveness of the implementation and reporting mechanism of the Contingency Plan on Nuclear Incidents in Neighbouring Nuclear Power Stations. On 14 December, Macao and Zhuhai jointly organised a passenger boat drill to assess the enforceability of the Contingency Plan on Maritime Incidents and joint rescue work. Other emergency drills and exercises regarding public communication during disasters, control of serious epidemics, airport security, prison security, public security and accidents at power stations were also conducted in 2012 to thoroughly review the Government's response capability in the event of public disasters and emergencies.