

Fulfilment of legislative and supervisory duties with the passage of 16 bills

During its third session, the Legislative Assembly held 45 plenary meetings and 104 committee meetings. The Government, led by the Chief Executive, cooperated extensively with the Legislative Assembly to facilitate its operation by attending its plenary and committee meetings, as well as answering legislators' questions.

During the normal operation period of the third legislative session (16 October 2011 to 31 August 2012) of Macao's fourth Legislative Assembly, 16 bills, three resolutions and five simple-majority resolutions were passed. All the laws approved during the session were submitted by the Government. Particularly noteworthy among the bills were the one on the amendment to the method for selecting the Chief Executive, and one on the amendment to the method for forming the Legislative Assembly, whose examination and passage by the Legislative Assembly led to the subsequent introduction, examination and passage of the bills on the amendment to the Chief Executive Electoral Law (Law no. 3/2004) and the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law (Law no. 3/2001).



Perform legislative and supervisory duties according to law

With respect to its law-making function, the Legislative Assembly also passed, regarding the civil service system, bills on the Adjustment on Salaries, Pensions and Gratuities of Public Servants and the Additional Remuneration for Public Security Forces and Services; regarding environmental protection, bills on the Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Tax Regulations; regarding public order, the Law Governing Video Surveillance in Public Places; regarding people's livelihoods, bills on the Deposit Protection Scheme, Central Provident Fund Individual Accounts, the General System for Legal Aid, and Conditions for Entering, Working and Gaming in Casinos; in support of and to perfect existing systems, bills on the Amendment to the Appendix to the Consumption Tax Regulations, the Framework for Private School Teaching Staff, the Amendment to Law no. 10/2000 – the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and the Amendment to the Code of Commercial Registration; and last but not least, the Amendment to the Legal System of Copyright and Related Rights.

In respect of its supervisory functions, the Legislative Assembly supervised the budget and public finances by exercising the powers enshrined in the Basic Law. Such tasks included scrutinising and voting on the 2012 Government Budget, and preparing written advice and resolutions on the

Government's reports on budget implementation for 2010. In addition, the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs received an explanation from the Secretary for Economy and Finance in regard to interim report. During the normal operation period of the Legislative Assembly, legislators submitted 466 written and 49 oral questions to the Government, and held nine plenary meetings for these enquiries. During the plenary meetings, legislators presented 224 pre-agenda speeches, relating to politics, society, the economy, culture, administration and other matters of public interest for Macao.

Efficient and fair trials and stringent action in criminal prosecution

Continued increase in caseload at all tiers of the court system and sharp rise in appeal cases

In 2012, caseloads at Macao's three tiers of the court system continued to increase, reaching a record high of 17,626 cases. Of these, 87 were filed with the Court of Final Appeal, 1,057 with the Court of Second Instance, 16,289 with the Lower Court, and 193 with the Administrative Court. The drastic rise in the number of cases filed with the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Second Instance indicates that residents were dissatisfied with the administrative actions of government officials, and strongly sought review by the judiciary.



The three-tier court system concluded 17,801 cases in 2012, of which 83 were concluded by the Court of Final Appeal, with 10 more cases pending; 992 were concluded by the Court of Second Instance, with 777 further cases pending; 16,471 were concluded by the Court of First Instance, with 8,209 cases pending; and 255 were concluded by the Administrative Court, with 107 cases pending.

Assistance in and processing of litigation involving foreign parties

As well as handling cases in Macao, the Court of Second Instance also has the power to review and endorse judgments made by courts or arbiters outside Macao. In 2012, some 36 cases were heard and endorsed by the Collegial Panel, while one case was rejected. Countries and regions involved in these cases, which deal with custody, inheritance and divorce, were mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States, Australia, Canada and Cape Verde.