

the development of these shops. A first batch of 12 shops were bestowed the title of “Time-honoured Local Shop”. Also, the Government continued supporting chambers of commerce with launching the one-stop cross-boundary e-commerce service, to help Macao SMEs to more effectively tap into the mainland China market.

In 2018, the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Lifts and the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Gates and Water Pumps were rolled out, to subsidise the installation of anti-flooding lifts and anti-flooding gates by SMEs.

By the end of 2018, 53 applications had been received for the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Lifts, and 1,164 applications for the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flooding Gates and Water Pumps. Also, the SME Assistance Scheme had received 11,249 applications, of which 9,930 were approved, for assistance totalling 2.924 billion patacas.

## Comprehensive support and multi-level coverage model to improve livelihoods



In 2018, the Government adhered to the administrative principle of “Be pragmatic yet enterprising, and share the fruits of development”, implemented the development

goals in the Five-year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administration Region (2016-2020), strived to enhance people's livelihoods, improved healthcare services, promoted building Macao as a healthy city, strengthened the social security system, upheld the development strategies of "letting Macao thrive through education" and "building Macao with talented people", promoted Macao as a "Creative City of Gastronomy" through interdepartmental collaboration, and facilitated development of culture, tourism and sports.

## Improving medical services and prioritising prevention to continue building Macao as a healthy city

Regarding health-related issues, the Government implemented the principle of "improve medical services and prioritise prevention", supported the Ten-year Plan for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, strengthened the ability to respond to disasters and emergencies, optimised the contingency system and planning, prepared and applied for accreditation for membership of the WHO Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Initiative; expanded sentinel surveillance of infectious diseases to private clinics, and encouraged residents to receive immunisation, thus building a strong immunological barrier in the community.

The Government attached extra importance to healthcare services for particular groups, including the elderly, women, children, the disabled and the underprivileged. In recent years, we have increased provision of early treatment services and strengthened family support, so that the average waiting time for diagnosis and treatment has shortened by 90 percent to one month, while people in urgent need receive immediate treatment. Some new measures were introduced, including a pilot scheme for specialist outreach treatment services, and health assessment services for senior citizens.

The Government added new check-up items in prenatal check-up services and tests for genetic diseases, and promoted breast-feeding, to ensure the health of pregnant women and children. The mortality rates of newborn babies and pregnant women remained at very low levels. The five-year survival rates of breast cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer remained among the highest in the world. The average life expectancy in Macao was 83.4 years, which was among the highest life expectancies for any country or territory.

The public health services continued improving. The construction of the Ka Ho Rehabilitation Hospital was completed, to cater for the demands for rehabilitation services. On 31 July, the Bairro da Ilha Verde Health Centre commenced operations, increasing the total number of health centres in Macao to eight, and optimising the grassroots healthcare service network in the northern district.

The Health Bureau continued introducing new technologies and equipment,

extended service hours, optimised the mental health service mechanism, commenced work related to organ transplants, expanded the application of Chinese medicine in the community, commenced work under the Plan for Improvement of the Medical and HealthCare System, and further strengthened cooperation with non-profit and private medical institutions, to provide quality medical services.

The Macao Academy of Medical Specialists commenced operations, to coordinate specialist training for medical doctors in Macao. The Government strived to follow up the legislation for the System for Professional Qualifications and Licensing for Medical Workers, to ensure Macao meets international standards for medical professional accreditation.

The Government actively promoted “Smart Healthcare”, introduced electronic healthcare vouchers, and extended the vouchers’ eligibility period to two years. Self-service registration kiosks for the Electronic Health Record Sharing System were introduced, to make good use of the diverse new media channels and deepen health education. Moreover, the Tobacco Control Law was strictly enforced to foster healthy lifestyles.

Regarding sports, the Government promoted sports for all, and continued implementing a dual-track policy on promoting sport-for-all and competitive sports.

The Sports Bureau published the Report on an Investigation of Sports Venues in Macao 2017, showing that sports venues in Macao occupied a total area of 873,512.58 square metres. This provides scientific data for sports facility planning in future. The Government strived to expand sports facilities, create opportunities in sport, and expand the public sports facility network to cover different sectors in the community and develop sports businesses for the benefit of people’s health.

## **Improving the social security system to support the elderly and the underprivileged**

The Government continued perfecting the social security system, including the two-tier social security system, social support and social welfare, to enhance support for the underprivileged; widened the scope of innovative services – including rehabilitation and services for the elderly, children’s early treatment services, services for elderly persons with dementia, and child-care services; constructed accessibility facilities; supported the underprivileged and financially disadvantaged families; disbursed old age allowances and disability gratuities; and established a disaster prevention mechanism, to safeguard people’s wellbeing and safety.

Regarding social support, the Government has completed assessing 10,000 financial subsidy applications and formulated poverty alleviation plans for eligible applicants.

In the past five years, an average of some 500 families were lifted out of poverty every year. Their living burdens were also relieved by the food assistance programme and special living allowances.

The Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence was fully implemented, and underprivileged families were prioritised for childcare services. In 2018, quotas for childcare services were increased to 11,000, ten percent more than in 2017.

To facilitate the long-term development of retirement protection, after years of research, discussion and consultation, the Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly (Law No. 12/2018) was promulgated on 20 August 2018, and came into effect on 19 November.

There was further progress in implementing the Ten-year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025). Among the Action Plan's 141 medium-term (2018-2020) projects, 13 projects were completed ahead of schedule in 2017, and 58 projects were rolled out in 2018. The Outdoor Emergency Tele-assistance Service was introduced, to help dementia patients. The new Ka-Ho Nursing Home commenced operations, providing more than 200 places for residential care services.

There was also progress with rehabilitation services, as the Government continued coordinating with relevant departments regarding the implementation of the Ten-year Development Plan for Rehabilitation Services 2016-2025. Out of 125 medium term items (2018-2020), 53 had been completed in 2017, and 38 would be implemented in 2018.

To meet the needs of social development, the Taipa and Coloane Social Service Centre in Seac Pai Van commenced operation during the year, while the services provided by the Central and Southern District (Patane) Social Service Centre were restructured. The General Guidelines on Design and Construction of Accessibility Facilities in the Macao SAR were fully implemented, and projects to enhance social service facilities will be implemented.

A cross-departmental disaster prevention working committee was set up, to coordinate with the civil protection authorities. The Government set up 16 emergency shelters and four emergency assembly and evacuation points, which played important roles during Typhoon Mangkhut.

The Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System came into effect in 2018, marking the official establishment of the two-tier social security system, to ensure retirement security for residents.

The Old-age Allowance was increased from 8,000 patacas per year to 9,000 patacas per year, representing an increase of 12.5 percent. The Government continued

disbursing disability gratuities, and converted temporary disability allowances into a long-term welfare measure through amendment to a law. These disability allowances are disbursed through the Social Security Fund. Meanwhile, the Employment Incentive Programme for Disability Pension Beneficiaries was launched, to promote community participation by people with disabilities.

To implement a healthy birth policy and increase the fertility rate, the birth allowance under the Social Security Fund was increased to 5,000 patacas, and both parents may simultaneously apply for this allowance for babies born after 1 January 2018.

The Government continued to open Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund individual accounts for eligible Macao residents, who were entitled for a special allocation of 7,000 patacas. This marked the ninth year of allocations from the fund. In 2018, over 370,000 residents fulfilled the requirements for receiving allocations from the fund.

## Letting Macao thrive through education and emphasising cultivation of youth talent



The Government adhered to the development approaches of “letting Macao thrive through education” and “building Macao with talented people”, promoted talent cultivation through education, exchanges, internships and launching support and subsidy programmes, encouraged and supported young people in Macao to seize opportunities arising through the Belt and Road initiative and the development of the

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to expand their scope for further studies, employment and potential for starting businesses.

Regarding non-tertiary education, the Government expanded the structure and content of cooperation on education in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Eligibility for tuition fee subsidies for Macao students studying in Guangdong was expanded to cover 21 cities throughout Guangdong province.

The targeted completion rates of the Ten-year Development Plan for Non-tertiary Education (2011-2020) were raised to 83 percent. The public consultation on Non-tertiary Technical and Vocational Education System was completed. The Government prioritised free education and actively implemented integrated education to realise fair education. The by-law on Recurrent Education Subsidies Scheme came into effect in the 2018/2019 academic year, to enhance the competitiveness of students receiving recurrent education. The third phase of the Continuing Education Programme was implemented, to promote lifelong learning.

Regarding tertiary education, the Government continued supporting students in pursuing further studies. In 2018, 951 recommended students were admitted to 69 mainland China tertiary educational institutions. The enrolment rate to higher education institutions of third-year senior secondary school students receiving formal education remained at above 94 percent.

The Law on the Tertiary Education System and related regulations came into effect on 8 August 2018. The Tertiary Education Council and the Tertiary Education Fund commenced operation, with a start-up fund of 300 million patacas, providing tremendous support to the development of tertiary institutions. The Government encouraged tertiary institutions to launch more scientific research projects, stepped up efforts in scientific innovation, promoted the establishment of state key laboratories, and cultivated talented people. It also continued developing Macao as a base for tourism education, and a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese.

The Government announced the Macao Medium-to-long-term Talent Cultivation Scheme – Five-year Action Plan to consolidate data regarding shortages of talented people and compile lists of labour shortages in seven industries – including convention and exhibition, food and beverage, hotel, retail, gaming, finance and construction, to provide direction and a scientific reference for planning talent cultivation policies and measures.

The first phase of the Thousand Talents Programme was completed; over 3,300 local talented young people were identified and nurtured over a three-year period. A youth forum was held, with the theme of joining forces for developing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to promote exchanges between young people in the Greater Bay Area, and seize opportunities arising from the development of the Greater Bay Area.

The Government also supported the development of innovative business start-ups by young people. The first national-level mass innovation space in Hong Kong and Macao regions opened at the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre, to further enhance cooperation with innovative mainland China entrepreneurs, and provide more opportunities to local newly-founded enterprises, especially regarding career development for young people.

## **Facilitating exchanges on culture conservation and developing Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre**

Regarding culture, the Government worked actively on heritage conservation, cultural exhibitions, and development of cultural and creative industries. We completed the Update Report on Urban Renewal of the Historic Centre of Macao, which was submitted to the UNESCO by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage.

The second phase of the public consultation for the Plan for Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Macao was completed. The Lai Chi Yun Shipyard area was listed as a heritage site. The Government also commenced an assessment of the second batch of nine tangible cultural heritages in Macao, and achieved progress in compiling the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Mandarin's House was officially opened, the restoration of five houses in the Ka Ho Village of Our Lady was completed, and the renovation of St. Mary Village Activity Centre (the original Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows) was in progress.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau organised the first "Encounter in Macao – Arts and Cultural Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries", marking the establishment of an art and cultural exchange platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The bureau will organise more events and festivals. To facilitate development of the cultural industry, the Cultural Industry Fund launched the Community Cultural and Creative Production Subsidy Scheme and the Specific Subsidy Scheme for Brand Building, to support the development of competitive cultural and creative brands.



The Government was committed to raising public awareness of cultural heritage conservation – encouraging the public, especially young people, to become involved in inheriting and disseminating local culture. We also continued identifying, training and supporting talented local people in culture and art, and implementing the Arts and Cultural Studies Subsidy Scheme; strengthened cooperation across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and co-organised activities with other groups and organisations – such as “A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera New Stars”, “Youth Internship Programme at the Palace Museum” and “Cultural Heritage Summer Course for Secondary School Students of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao”, to facilitate cross-border exchanges and cooperation.

Regarding tourism, the Government leveraged its advantages to establish Macao as a destination for tourism along the Belt and Road and in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. There was progress with implementing the Master Plan for Developing the Tourism Industry of Macao, including through work on 67 short-term action plans. The Government also actively developed maritime tourism and began renovating the Grand Prix Museum.

The Macao Year of Gastronomy 2018 was officially launched, to enhance Macao’s comprehensive strength as a Creative City of Gastronomy. We continued leveraging synergy of large-scale events through a combination of sports, tourist, cultural and creative elements, to enrich the experience of residents and tourists, and hence enhance the attractiveness of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre.

In 2018, the tourism industry in Macao enjoyed favourable development. During the

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.