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POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTRATION



Political Structure

Macao People Governing Macao with a High Degree of Autonomy

Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 20 December 1999. The MSAR's constitutional document, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, also came into force on the same day.

The Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region establishes, at the highest level of legal authority, the guidelines and policies of the Central People's Government regarding Macao. It stipulates the system to be practised in Macao, and lays down the political and administrative framework of the MSAR for 50 years from 1999. The systems and policies of the MSAR – including its social and economic systems; safeguards for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its residents; the executive, legislature and judiciary; and Government policies – are all based on the provisions of the Basic Law.

Under the Basic Law, the MSAR is entitled to a high degree of autonomy in all areas except defence and foreign affairs. It enjoys executive autonomy, legislative autonomy, an independent judiciary and the right to final adjudication. The executive and the legislature of the MSAR consist only of permanent Macao residents. The MSAR maintains the status of free port and independent tariff region. It also maintains the free flow of capital and the freedom of operations of financial institutions. It may, under the name "Macao, China", independently maintain, develop relations with and sign agreements with various countries, regions and international organisations in fields such as the economy, trade, finance, transportation, communications, tourism, culture and sports.

The principles of "One country, two systems", "Macao people governing Macao" and a high degree of autonomy have passed their initial tests with flying colours, and are now broadly recognised in Macao and infused into its social and political culture. "Macao people governing Macao" means that the people of Macao are in charge of their own affairs. Macao's Chief Executive, principal officials, members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly, the President of the Court of Final Appeal and the Public Prosecutor-General shall be permanent residents, and some of these positions may only be assumed by permanent residents of Macao who are also Chinese citizens.

"A high degree of autonomy" means that the National People's Congress (NPC) authorises the MSAR to exercise a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the Basic Law, and that the central government will not interfere in affairs that fall within the autonomy of the MSAR. The MSAR enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power and the power of final adjudication, as well as other powers authorised by the NPC, the Standing Committee of the NPC and the Central People's Government.

However, a high degree of autonomy does not mean full autonomy. In order to maintain a unified China and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the Central People's Government retains certain essential powers – for

example, the Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's foreign affairs and defence.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is the head of the MSAR and is accountable to the Central People's Government and the MSAR.

The Chief Executive is charged with the responsibility of leading the MSAR Government; implementing the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and other laws applicable to Macao; signing bills passed by the Legislative Assembly and promulgating laws; signing budgets passed by the Legislative Assembly and reporting those budgets and final accounts to the Central People's Government for the record; making decisions on SAR Government policies and issuing executive orders; formulating by-laws and promulgating them for implementation; nominating and reporting to the Central People's Government candidates for the posts of Secretaries, Commissioner Against Corruption, Commissioner of Audit, and leading officials of the Police and Macao Customs Service, and recommending to the Central People's Government the removal of the above officials; appointing a proportion of the members of the Legislative Assembly; appointing and removing members of the Executive Council; nominating and reporting to the Central People's Government the appointment of the Public Prosecutor-General and recommending his or her removal; appointing or removing presidents and judges of the courts at all levels, public prosecutors and civil servants; and, under particular circumstances, dissolving the Legislative Assembly.

The first- and second-term Chief Executive of the MSAR was Edmund Ho Hau Wah. The third- and fourth-term Chief Executive is Chui Sai On.

The Executive Council

The Executive Council assists the Chief Executive in policymaking. Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that, except for the appointment, removal and disciplining of officials and the adoption of emergency measures, the Chief Executive shall consult with the Executive Council before making important policy decisions, introducing bills to the Legislative Assembly, formulating by-laws or dissolving the Legislative Assembly. If the Chief Executive does not accept a majority opinion of the Executive Council, the specific reasons should be put on record.

Article 57 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be composed of seven to 11 Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of the MSAR. The Chief Executive shall appoint them from among principal officials, members of the Legislative Assembly and other public figures. The Chief Executive shall decide the appointment or removal of Executive Council members. The term of office of members shall not last beyond that of the Chief Executive who

appoints them, but the members shall remain in place until the new Chief Executive takes office.

Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be presided over by the Chief Executive and meet at least once a month. The proceedings of the Executive Council meetings are confidential, but a spokesperson announces important decisions to the public. The Executive Council held 42 formal meetings during 2018.

The first and second Chief Executive Edmund Ho appointed 10 members to the Executive Council in both his terms.

The third- and fourth-term Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, appointed 11 members to the Executive Council during his two terms in office: one Secretary, one Member of the Legislative Assembly and nine public figures.

The Legislature

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the MSAR enjoys legislative autonomy and the Legislative Assembly is its sole legislature.

The Macao SAR has full legislative autonomy, which embodies and guarantees Macao's high degree of autonomy. The legislative power of Macao is exercised solely by the Legislative Assembly. No other body or entity has legislative power. Laws formulated by the Legislative Assembly shall conform to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Legislative Assembly exercises its legislative power and supervisory power under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Authority

The term "legislative authority" broadly refers to the power to formulate general and abstract laws that are applicable to the MSAR and its residents. More specifically, the powers of the Legislative Assembly include the right to make laws, the right to amend laws, the right to suspend the execution of laws, and the right to abolish laws.

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Assembly members and the Government have the right to introduce bills and propose amendments. The Government has exclusive sponsorship rights in the four following respects: electoral law for the Legislative Assembly, public income and expenditure, political structure and Government operation.

Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly shall come into effect only after being signed and promulgated by the Chief Executive.

Supervisory Authority and Other Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include: examining and passing budgets introduced by the Government; examining the Government's reports on budget implementation; deciding on Government motions on taxation; approving debts to be taken on by the Government; and debating the policy addresses of the Chief Executive.

The term "issue of public interest" encompasses all aspects of Macao society; the Legislative Assembly may hold meetings to discuss such issues, and may require relevant Government officials to attend those meetings.

The Legislative Assembly receives and handles residents' complaints; it receives complaints concerning the existing legal system, but it does not directly handle individual cases or applications for legal consultations.

The Legislative Assembly also has the authority to impeach the Chief Executive.

When exercising the above-mentioned powers, the Legislative Assembly may summon, as required, persons to testify or give evidence.

Moreover, members of the Legislative Assembly are also entitled to address enquiries regarding the Government's work.

Composition and Term of Office of the Legislative Assembly

Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be permanent residents of the MSAR. The majority of them are elected and the term of office, except for the first term, is four years.

The first Legislative Assembly of the MSAR had 23 members, eight of whom were elected directly, eight indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term of office expired on 15 October 2001. The second Legislative Assembly had 27 members, 10 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term expired in 2005. The third and the fourth Legislative Assembly likewise had 29 members, 12 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. The fifth and the succeeding Legislative Assembly will have 33 members, 14 of whom are elected directly, 12 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. However, the aforementioned does not apply to the amendments made through legal procedures to the method for forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

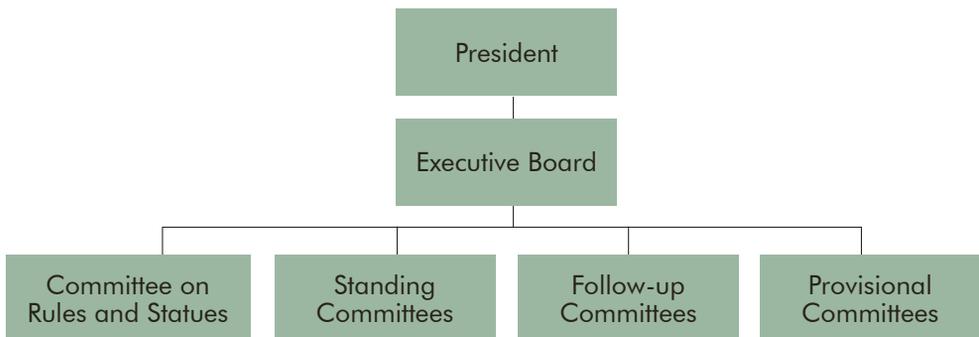
The Legislative Assembly has one president and one vice president, elected by and

from among its members. The president and vice president shall be permanent Chinese residents who have lived continuously in Macao for at least 15 years.

Structure and Operation of the Legislative Assembly

The structure of the Legislative Assembly comprises the president, the Executive Board, the Committee on Rules and Statutes, standing committees, follow-up committees and provisional committees. The president represents the Legislative Assembly and leads and coordinates the assembly's work. The president performs his or her duties in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Each Legislative Assembly usually serves four sessions. Each session lasts one year, normally from 16 October to 15 August of the following year. The Legislative Assembly uses Chinese and Portuguese, Macao's two official languages.



Administrative Agencies and Technical Support Offices

The administrative agencies of the Legislative Assembly include the president, the Executive Board and the Administrative Committee, all of which are responsible for the administrative affairs of the Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly's technical support offices report directly to the Executive Board. If the term of the Legislative Assembly expires or if the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Executive Board shall retain its responsibilities until the first meeting of the new Legislative Assembly. The technical support offices are led by the president and the Executive Board, and they report directly to the secretary-general. The technical support offices are divided into sections to handle different portfolios and to provide the administrative agencies and members of the Legislative Assembly with technical and administrative support.

The Legislative Assembly's Public Feedback System

The Legislative Assembly has established a public feedback system to collect opinions, suggestions and criticisms concerning legislation, Government activities, policies and other issues of public interest. The system also aims to explain the work of the Legislative Assembly and help citizens to exercise their rights to submit petitions and make complaints.

Citizens may voice their opinions via the feedback system in person or by telephone, post, fax or e-mail. Public reception is available during normal hours of government service.

In addition, legislators receive citizens by appointment at the Legislative Assembly building from noon to 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Legislators make themselves available according to a roster compiled by the Legislative Assembly.

Electoral Law

Macao's electoral system is based on Law No. 12/2000 the Voter Registration Law (as amended by Law No. 9/2008) and Law No. 3/2001 the Legislative Assembly Election Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (as amended by Law Nos. 11/2008, 12/2012 and 9/2016). The two laws govern both the direct and indirect elections of the Legislative Assembly, and the appointment of legislators as prescribed in Annex II (1) of the Basic Law.

The Voter Registration Law contains 60 articles, which govern the voter registration procedures for natural persons and legal persons, whereas the Legislative Assembly Election Law contains 222 articles, which govern the direct and indirect elections of members of the Legislative Assembly.

Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly

Under the Legislative Assembly Election Law, there are direct and indirect elections.

In direct elections, any individual aged 18 years or older and who is a permanent resident of the MSAR may, after registration under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 14 directly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

In indirect elections, representatives of legal persons who are confirmed as members of the relevant sectors for at least four years may, after being registered with and given legal personality by the Identification Services Bureau for at least seven years under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 12 indirectly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

Under the two election systems, the method used for converting the number of votes into seats in the Legislative Assembly is as follows: the first candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to the number of votes recorded for that list. The second candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to half the number of votes recorded for that list. The third candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to a quarter of the number of votes recorded for that list, and so on. Legislative Assembly seats are then awarded to the candidates who, among all lists, have the highest quotients. As regards the assignment of the final seat: if two candidates from different lists have equal quotients, the seat shall be given to the candidate from the list that has yet to win a seat. If both lists have won one or more seats, the seat shall be given to the list that received the most votes. If both lists have won the same number of votes, the winner of the seat shall be determined by the open drawing of lots.

The Chief Executive shall appoint seven legislators to the Legislative Assembly within 15 days of receiving the final verified results, as stipulated in Clause 2 of Article 133 of the Legislative Assembly Election Law.

Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election is responsible for promoting, coordinating and supervising the elections of the Legislative Assembly.

The members of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election are appointed by the Chief Executive. The commission has one chairman and at least five members, appointed from among appropriately qualified permanent residents of the Macao SAR. The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau provides support to the commission.

The Judiciary

The courts of the MSAR have judicial autonomy. They are subordinate only to the law and are guaranteed to be free from any interference. The MSAR has a Court of First Instance, a Court of Second Instance and a Court of Final Appeal. The power of final adjudication is vested in the Court of Final Appeal.

The Court of First Instance may, when necessary, establish special courts. The previous criminal prosecution system has been maintained since the establishment of the MSAR.

The MSAR also has an Administrative Court, which is responsible for administrative and tax litigation. Defendants and plaintiffs who find the ruling of this court unsatisfactory can file an appeal to the Court of Second Instance.

Judges at all levels are appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation

of an independent commission composed of local judges, lawyers and prominent members of the community. The Chief Executive appoints the presidents of the courts from among the judges. The President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. Any appointment or removal of the President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record.

The Public Prosecutions Office is independent and free from interference, as defined by law.

The Public Prosecutor-General shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. He or she shall be nominated by the Chief Executive and appointed by the Central People's Government. Other public prosecutors shall be nominated by the Public Prosecutor-General and appointed by the Chief Executive. The structure, powers, functions and remit of the Public Prosecutions Office are prescribed by law.

Relationship between the MSAR and the Central Government

The MSAR is a local administrative region with a high degree of autonomy under the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. No department, province, autonomous region or municipality under the Central People's Government may interfere in the MSAR's internal affairs as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Any person from another province, autonomous region or municipality must apply for an entry permit to enter Macao. If there is a need for central government departments, provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities to set up an office in Macao, they must obtain the consent of the MSAR Government and the approval of the Central People's Government.

The Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's defence and foreign affairs. However, it authorises the MSAR to conduct certain external affairs on its own, under the name of "Macao, China" as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Central People's Government appoints and removes the Chief Executive, principal officials and the Public Prosecutor-General.

Laws enacted by the legislature of the MSAR must be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record. However, such reporting shall not affect the entry into force of such laws.

National laws shall not be applied in the MSAR except as follows, which shall be promulgated or legislated by the MSAR.

The national laws applicable in the MSAR as of 2018 were:

- Resolution on the Capital, Calendar, National Anthem and National Flag of the People's Republic of China;
- Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China;

- Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Consular Privileges and Immunities;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Emblem;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf;
- Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; and
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Immunity of the Property of Foreign Central Banks from Judicial Compulsory Measures.

The MSAR has no jurisdiction over acts of state such as defence and foreign affairs.

Chinese citizens who are residents of the MSAR are entitled to participate in the management of state affairs according to law.

Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR

As a working agency stationed in Macao by the Central People's Government, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR shall, in the light of the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macao people governing Macao", support the SAR Government in administration in line with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and be responsible for liaison between mainland China and Macao.

The liaison office is responsible for contacting the MSAR Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison; contacting and assisting mainland China authorities in managing mainland Chinese-funded organisations in Macao; promoting social and economic exchanges and cooperation between mainland China and Macao; reporting to the Central People's Government the opinions of Macao people about mainland China; handling Taiwan-related affairs in the MSAR; and handling any other matters assigned by the Central People's Government.

In addition, the liaison office shall, through various channels, promote ties with all social segments in Macao, pay attention to development and stability issues, and provide assistance wherever necessary.

Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region

Under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Central People's Government is responsible for handling foreign affairs related to the MSAR. To this end, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the MSAR was established on 20 December 1999.

The duties of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the MSAR are:

1. Handling foreign affairs issues related to the MSAR that are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government;
2. Handling and coordinating affairs related to the MSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences; issues concerning international organisations and associations that establish branch offices in the MSAR; and matters related to inter-governmental conferences to be held in the MSAR;
3. Handling matters concerning the application of international treaties in the MSAR; and assisting with issues concerning the Central People's Government's processing of authorisation for the MSAR Government to negotiate bilateral agreements with foreign countries;
4. Coordinating and handling issues related to the establishment of foreign consular bodies, or other official and semi-official organisations in the MSAR, and dealing with relevant consular affairs; and
5. Handling any other responsibilities assigned to it by the Central People's Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison

The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison took up its role in Macao on 20 December 1999 with the establishment of the MSAR.

According to the Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Macao garrison is responsible for the defence of Macao without interfering in the local affairs of the MSAR. The MSAR Government may, if necessary, ask the Central People's Government for assistance from the Macao garrison in maintaining social order and relieving natural disasters. The Macao garrison has strictly observed the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Garrison Law, loyally fulfilled its duty, strengthened exchanges with various sectors of Macao society, and actively participated in charitable activities.

The Judiciary

The MSAR Government is the executive authority of the MSAR. The Chief Executive is the head of the Government, supported by secretariats, bureaux, departments and divisions.

- Secretariats:** there are five secretariats in the Government, namely the Secretariat for Administration and Justice, the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, the Secretariat for Security, the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, and the Secretariat for Transport and Public Works. Each is headed by a secretary. The secretaries, in the above order of seniority, stand in for the Chief Executive when the Chief Executive is unable to perform his or her duties.
- Bureaux:** units directly under the secretariats, performing designated functions.
- Departments:** units affiliated to the bureaux, responsible for establishing operational procedures.
- Divisions:** units affiliated to the bureaux or departments, responsible for operational duties.

The Government structure includes affiliated units, such as teams and sections.

The principal officials of the Government are the secretaries, the Commissioner Against Corruption, the Commissioner of Audit, and leading police and customs service officials. Principal officials of the MSAR shall be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of Macao and who have ordinarily resided in Macao for a continuous period of not less than 15 years.

The Government is responsible for formulating and implementing policies; conducting administrative affairs; managing external relations as authorised by the Central People's Government under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region; drawing up and introducing budgets and final accounts; introducing bills and motions and drafting by-laws; and designating officials to attend meetings of the Legislative Assembly to listen to opinions or to speak on behalf of the Government.

The Government must abide by the law and be accountable to the Legislative Assembly; implement laws passed by the Legislative Assembly and already in force; present policy addresses regularly to the Legislative Assembly; and answer questions raised by members of the Legislative Assembly.

Secretary for Administration and Justice

The Secretary for Administration and Justice holds authority in areas including:

public administration; civil affairs; legal translation and promotion; legislative affairs and legal administration; civil and criminal records; regulation of the registration and notarisation system; and publication of the Macao SAR Gazette.

In 2018, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, on behalf of the Government, signed the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons Between the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and attended a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), during which China was assessed in the third Universal Periodic Review.

Secretary for Economy and Finance

The Secretary for Economy and Finance is responsible for the Government budget; supervision of industry, commerce and gaming; offshore businesses (except those under the jurisdiction of other secretaries); the currency, foreign exchange and monetary system (including the insurance sector); administration of public finances and the tax system; statistical data; labour and employment; vocational training; and consumer rights protection.

In 2018, the Secretary for Economy and Finance paid official visits to Cambodia (accompanying the Chief Executive), Portugal and Brazil; and signed the Protocol on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income between the MSAR Government and the Government of Portuguese Republic.

Secretary for Security

The Secretary for Security has authority over the internal security of the SAR; criminal investigations; immigration control; supervision of maritime traffic and the application of penalty provisions; civil protection; coordination and management of the prison system; customs affairs as defined in Law No. 11/2001; and the Reformatory for Juvenile Delinquents, as defined in Law No. 2/2007 'Education and Supervision System for Juvenile Delinquents'.

In 2018, the Secretary for Security participated in the 21st Guangdong-Macao Police Working Meeting, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Policing Collaboration Forum and the meeting on preparations for the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture is responsible for education, health, social affairs, culture, tourism, sport, youth affairs, social security, cultural industry and social rehabilitation.

In 2018, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture attended the 71st Session of the World Health Assembly, the first Cultural Forum Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), the 18th Asian Games, the 10th China-Japan-South Korea Cultural Ministers' Meeting, the Global Tourism Economy Forum Macao 2018, the First Forum for Heads of Higher Education Institutions of China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Macao), and the Hong Kong International Tourism Convention.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works is responsible for land regulation; traffic management; aviation and port affairs; infrastructure and public projects; transport and communication; environmental protection; Home-Ownership Scheme housing and public housing; and meteorology.

Commission Against Corruption

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) functions independently. The Commissioner Against Corruption shall be appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive. The commissioner is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The Commission Against Corruption is responsible for tackling corruption and fraud. It investigates, in accordance with the law, corruption and fraud among civil servants and among individuals involved in voter registration and elections. It also promotes the protection of human rights, freedom, legal guarantees, and legitimate rights and interests, and aims to ensure the justice, legitimacy and efficiency of public administration, and investigates corruption in the private sector in accordance with the law.

In 2018, the Commissioner Against Corruption and the CCAC visited the Office of the Ombudsman of Portugal.

Commission of Audit

The Commission of Audit has been set up in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. It functions independently and is not subject to interference. The Commissioner of Audit is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The major duties of the Commission of Audit are to monitor the implementation of the Government budget; to compile an audit report on the overall Government accounts; to monitor the implementation of target departments' budget and the final accounts, as well as the management and expenditure of capital not included in the

budget, together with assessing everything including assets, debts, profits, losses, and accounts, and verifying that all public expenditure is according to the proper purview of audit; and to conduct “value-for-money” assessments, through reviewing efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The following bodies are subject to audit: (1) Those deriving over half their income from the Government; (2) Those with less than half their income from the Government, but subject to audit by written consent.

For public interest, the Chief Executive can issue a written authorisation to the Commissioner of Audit to audit and inspect any person of interest.

In 2018, the Commissioner of Audit attended the 14th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI), and the 10th General Assembly of Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP).

Unitary Police Service

The Unitary Police Service is part of Macao’s internal security system, and it is responsible for the coordination of Macao’s security affairs. It commands and leads police units that now include the Public Security Police and Judiciary Police.

The Commissioner-General is the head of the Unitary Police Service, and he or she is appointed by the Central People’s Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws.

Macao Customs Service

The Macao Customs Service (Macao Customs) has been established in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

It is a public body with administrative autonomy, which is responsible for directing, implementing and supervising customs policies, as well as conducting policing functions such as customs administration and supervision (as specified in Article 1 of Law No. 11/2001).

The head of the Macao Customs, the Director-General, is appointed by the Central People’s Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws (as specified in Clause 6 of Article 50 in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and Article 6 of Law No. 11/2001).

In 2018, the Director-General of the Macao Customs attended the 19th World Customs Organisation Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference and the 132nd Meeting of the Customs Cooperation Council.

Office of the Government Spokesperson

The Office of the Government Spokesperson is responsible for formulating information strategies and coordinating their implementation; ensuring Government communications are coherent and efficient; and fostering the Government's relations with the media and the public, in accordance with the Government's policies, measures and work.

The Office of the Government Spokesperson reports directly to the Chief Executive and operates according to the Chief Executive's guidelines. The office collaborates with the Government Information Bureau when initiating activities. The office is run by a government spokesperson and a deputy government spokesperson.

Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau

The Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau is a public department of the MSAR Government, directly under the Chief Executive.

The bureau's duties include providing scientific background and information to support decisions made by the Chief Executive, the Government's administration and policy making, Macao's role in national cooperation and development strategies. It also coordinates work on major national strategies and national policies related to Macao and regional development, including exchanges, cooperation and development work with mainland China and other regions; coordinates implementation of major policies according to instructions from the Chief Executive, and facilitates policy implementation and other regional development work.

The Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau was formed by a merger between the Policy Research Office and a working team under the Chief Executive Office that was tasked with handling local issues related to mainland China.

Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office

The Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office was established according to Executive Order No. 233/2012. It is responsible for handling protocol and non-foreign policy related consular affairs for the Government.

Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing

The Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing reports directly to the Chief Executive, and it represents the MSAR in Beijing with administrative autonomy.

In 2018, the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing promoted Macao's political, economic, cultural and tourism achievements in the implementation of "One country, two systems" through various platforms and activities.

The office also assisted interactions between the Government and mainland China authorities and between enterprises and organisations in Macao and mainland China, in order to seek mutually beneficial opportunities in development and cooperation. It also assisted Macao and mainland China residents with resolving disputes and difficulties arising from investing, living, studying and travelling away from home. During the year, the office received numerous groups from Macao and mainland China organisations, which facilitated related activities of Macao organisations in Beijing.

For example, the office provided a venue for the Macao Wisdom Center to hold the Beijing and Macao Youth Seminar; participated in the 24th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair and the Public Memorial Ceremony for Ancestor of Mankind, Fu Xi; the Sixth Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo; the Fifth China Science Festival, with the Macao Science Center, and the Sixth China-Eurasia Expo; met with delegations that travelled to Beijing for exchanges regarding information and communication technologies; and arranged for Macao citizens in Beijing to attend the variety show and assembly celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of the Country.

The Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing enhanced its communications with Macao students studying in tertiary institutions in mainland China, particularly in Beijing. It organised various activities to deepen the students' understanding of mainland China and foster their sense of belonging; and participated in and provided assistance for activities organised by Macao student organisations in Beijing. The office also organised a Henan exchange tour for Macao students in Beijing; provided a venue for activities for Beijing (College) Macau Students Association; and organised a sharing session on the national CPC and CPPCC meetings, and a Beijing students' Cantopop singing competition.

The number of followers of the office's Weibo account (<http://weibo.com/draemp>) has increased to more than 860,000 since 2011, while the number of followers of its WeChat account has risen to more than 10,000 since the second half of 2013. Since November 2014, the office's official website has attracted more than 30,000 visitors.

The office made use of the Internet to establish positive interactions with mainland China, Macao and overseas netizens, and showcased Macao's latest developments to the world by widely spreading information about Macao's culture, tourism and news. A platform for effective communication and interaction with the public has been established, to enhance understanding of Macao by local residents and people from

mainland China and overseas, and establish a gateway linking Macao with mainland China.

Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon

The Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon, which represents and supports the MSAR in Portugal and has administrative autonomy, is responsible for safeguarding the MSAR's interests in Portugal.

Regarding regular administrative work, in 2018 the office issued Proof of Life certificates to 350 MSAR Identity Card and Portugal Residence Permit holders who worked or resided in Macao before or after the MSAR was established and are currently residing in Portugal. The office also assisted MSAR residents in Portugal and people who previously worked in Macao with applying for identification documents and verification of working hours.

Regarding promotion of cultural activities, the office was invited to organise a dance team for the Pui Ching Middle School in Macao. The office also participated in the Happy Chinese New Year celebration organised by the Chinese Embassy in Portugal, and assisted the Portugal China Photographers Association with holding its Establishment Ceremony and the First Portugal China Photography Exhibition together with the embassy; and co-organised the New Macao Photography Exhibition and Exchange Meeting with the Photographic Society of Macao.

Regarding student affairs, 345 students registered with the office at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year. In 2018, the office held "learning Portuguese with songs" activities for Macao students enrolled in summer Portuguese language classes organised by the Tertiary Education Services Office. The office also arranged museum visits for Macao students; and celebrations and parties for them on major festive occasions.

Regarding reception and exchange activities, in 2018 the office provided assistance to a delegation led by the Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and former Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah, and the Secretary for Economy and Finance, during their visit to Portugal. It also assisted with activities organised by delegations of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the Monetary Authority of Macao, and the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

The office assisted and received a delegation to Portugal led by the Commissioner Against Corruption; a delegation from the Legislative Assembly during their visit to the Congress of the Republic of Portugal; a delegation from the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and the Environmental Protection Bureau, for business exchanges on Pan-Pearl River Delta Cooperation "9+2" in Lisbon; a delegation from the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park; and a delegation to Lisbon led by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, for participating in the Portugal Young

Entrepreneurs Exchange Tour 2018. The office also organised an innovative youth business exchange session for Macao students.

The office assisted the chairman of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, for the plaque unveiling ceremony of the Belt and Road Business Centre, which was officiated by the Chinese Ambassador to Portugal, Cai Run; co-organised the exhibition “Memories of Moments - Macao and Lusophone African and Asian Regions in Photograph Postcards” with the Cultural Affairs Bureau; provided assistance requested by the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau, in signing an Internship Cooperation Agreement with the Hospital da Luz Lisboa; and signing a cooperation agreement with the Lisbon School of Nursing.

The office held a reception to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR; this was attended by over 300 people.

Regarding the Union of Portuguese-speaking Capital Cities (UCCLA), in 2017 the office became its Vice Chairman, and in 2018 attended the general meeting and Executive Committee meeting of the UCCLA, and international seminars.

Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union

Based in Brussels, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union represents the MSAR, has administrative autonomy, and assists the Chief Executive with economic and trade liaison and cooperation between the MSAR, the EU and related organisations.

In 2018, the office received a delegation led by the head of the Macao Customs for the Annual General Meeting of the World Customs Organization in Brussels, and provided assistance to various MSAR public department delegations visiting Brussels. The office also followed up regarding and provided assistance to the EU-Macao Cooperation Programme.

The office received a student delegation from the Macau Association of European Youth Exchange; an outstanding high school students delegation from the Tertiary Education Services Office; a delegation from the Institute of European Studies of Macau; a delegation from the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park; and a delegation from the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau.

Also, the office was invited by the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom of Belgium to jointly organise the Chinese New Year Reception with the embassy, ambassadors of China to the European Union and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Brussels).

Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World

Trade Organization (WTO) represents the MSAR, promotes and handles economic and trade relations, and cooperation between the MSAR and WTO members.

In 2018, the office received a delegation led by the Secretary for Administration and Justice for a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC); a delegation led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture for the 71st Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization; a delegation led by the Labour Affairs Bureau for the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILO); and a delegation led by the Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau to attend a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan

Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan provides comprehensive services for Macao citizens working, studying, travelling, doing business or living in Taiwan; promotes economic, trade, cultural, education, health, social services exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Taiwan; and enhances crime fighting and judicial support.

Municipal Services

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and handling affairs concerning environmental hygiene and people's livelihoods; formulating, facilitating and promoting civic education within the scope of duties of the IACM; assisting non-governmental organisations and developing community spirit. It resolves practical problems encountered by Macao residents by receiving and handling their requests and complaints concerning their daily lives.

The IACM comprises an Administration Committee, a Consultative Committee and a Supervisory Committee. The Administration Committee is an executive body that supervises the work of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and takes all actions required for the bureau's operation and performance of duties. It holds closed meetings. Public sessions are held every month to listen directly to citizens' queries and suggestions. The IACM management also hosts community seminars in various community centres and districts, with local organisations and district residents invited to attend. Eleven community seminars were organised in 2018, and were attended by 133 associations and organisations and 356 residents.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau was officially established on 1 January 2019, according to Law No. 9/2018.

The Macao Foundation

The Macao Foundation's goal is to promote, develop and implement research relating to Macao's cultural, social, economic, educational, scientific, academic and philanthropic activities, including activities aimed at promoting Macao.

Subsidies and Charity Work

In 2018, the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Macao Foundation reviewed 1,126 sponsorship applications, and approved 896 of them. The Executive Committee approved 65 plans for activities during the year, each with funding that exceeded 500,000 patacas. In total, the approved subsidies exceeded 2.368 billion patacas; most (48.18 percent) were given to support cultivation of talented young individuals.

The Macao Foundation cooperated with Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, Caritas Macau, Macau Deaf Association, and the Macao General Neighbourhood Associations Union in launching the second phase of the Brain Health Action Campaign, Caritas Home Care Service, Climbing Ladder Service, "Listen, Talk, & Care" Scheme, and a care programme for elderly people living alone.

The foundation launched poverty alleviation measures in Congjiang county, Guizhou; and cooperated with China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the Chinese Foundation for Lifeline Express and the China Foundation for Disabled Persons in launching various charity projects in mainland China. The foundation also continued to distribute gift to the needy during the Chinese New Year and the Mid Autumn Festival, benefiting 35,453 people.

Youth Programmes and Scholarships

In 2018, the Macao Foundation completed the first phase of the Thousand Talents Programme, which lasted for three years. A total of 1,291 people were grouped into 44 teams to visit various provinces and cities in mainland China. The programme provided in-depth and multi-faceted field trips, with participation by over 3,300 young Macao students during the three years. The Thousand Talents Programme also launched the School Connection Return Visit Programme. Meanwhile, the "Gathering a Thousand Talents" platform nurtured young talents in Macao.

In 2018, the foundation continued granting scholarships to Macao students. A total of 413 students were awarded tertiary scholarships, while scholarships approved for secondary and primary schools were awarded to a total of 11,021 students, totalling 59.99 million patacas.

For the first time, the Macao Foundation supported needy students from Congjiang

to pursue degree courses in Macao. It also continued approving scholarships for students from countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”, mainland China students enrolled in Macao’s tertiary education programmes, Portuguese-speaking countries, Namibia and Asia, and students recommended by the Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Beijing.

The Macao Foundation also cooperated with the Manpower Development Committee, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), China Space Foundation, Institute of Social Sciences / Oriental Institute of the University of Lisbon, the University of Coimbra and Chinese Culture University of Taiwan in offering a variety of scholarships, in order to facilitate cultivation of talents and promote exchanges and cooperation among various regions in education and academic arenas. A total of 554 students were awarded scholarships, with a total approved amount of over 21.22 million patacas.

The Macao Foundation continued to launch youth programmes. These aimed to promote the core value of love for the country and for Macao, developing professional skills and broadening their horizons. The foundation cooperated with the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR, the Union of Associations of Professional Accountants of Macau, Teledifusao de Macau, China Space Foundation, Macao Daily News, General Association of Chinese Students of Macao, and relevant agencies in mainland China in organising various activities.

History and Cultural Affairs

During the year, the Committee of History and Culture of the Macao Foundation launched two phases of the History and Culture Ambassadors Training Programme, with participation by 372 history and culture ambassadors. The committee also organised courses, field trips and subsidy schemes to train history and culture educators and to enhance students’ interest in history and culture. The programme enjoyed wide acclaim. In all, 55 field trips were held, and 13 schools were subsidised to implement 36 projects, with total funding of 1.13 million patacas.

Promotion of Culture and Art

In 2018, the Macao Foundation solely organised, or organised together with other organisations, about 102 exhibitions, performances, talks and art appreciation activities. In all, eight local artists participated in the exhibitions through the Macao Artists Promotion Programme, while 17 local art groups participated in the Macao Foundation Citizens’ Concert.

The Macao Foundation organised the Succession and Innovation: Macao Performing Arts Talent Exchange Tour to Korea of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles 2018, the First Chinese-Portuguese Literary Translation Awards, and the award

presentation ceremony of the 23rd Book Review Contest for Secondary School Students in Macao.

Academic Research and Publishing

In 2018, the Macao Foundation organised 10 academic seminars and activities, which included the International Conference on the “Belt and Road” initiative and Macao’s Development, co-organised with the Government’s Policy Research Office and Grand Thought Think Tank; the Fourth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Symposium; the Fourth Cross Strait, Hong Kong and Macau Philanthropy Symposium; the Opening Symposium of the 30th Anniversary of Macau Studies; the Macao Social Science Workshop; and an ambassadors seminar series.

The Macao Foundation continued compiling *The Macao Volume of the Chinese Folk and Ethnic Culture and Arts Collection*. *Chinese Quyi Chronicle – Macao Chapter*, *Collection of Chinese Proverbs – Macao Chapter* and the *Collection of Chinese Folk Songs – Macao Chapter* have been granted final approval. The foundation continued preparing for the compilation of *Macao Memories*.

The foundation established the Macao Foundation Collection with the Library of the University of Macau, and edited and published over 26 types of books and journals, with major works including the *Macao Studies Series* and the *Macao Knowledge Series*. The foundation also participated in book fairs held in Taipei, Hong Kong and Shenzhen; and donated books to 53 education institutions in Macao.

Cooperation with Other Organisations

In 2018, the Macao Foundation provided subsidies for the maintenance of the office premises and the rental cost of the quarters for the United Nations International Institute for Software Technology. The foundation also subsidised the Macao Science Center Limited and the Science and Technology Development Fund; subsidised local drivers to take part in local and overseas races through the Sports Bureau.

Office for Personal Data Protection

The Office for Personal Data Protection operates independently under the supervision of the Chief Executive. Its responsibilities are to monitor and coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the Personal Data Protection Act, to formulate confidentiality rules, and to monitor how the act is put into practice.

In 2018, the office received 109 complaints regarding, or reports of, leaks or mishandling of personal data; 39 requests for advice; 605 notifications concerning personal data processing; 25 applications for authorisation of data sharing; and 1,829

legal inquiries. It held or co-organised 28 briefing sessions, 22 seminars and talks, and 57 training sessions (19 classes) on the Personal Data Protection Act. In all, there were 7,416 attendees.

Civil Service System

The general eligibility requirements for civil servants are that they should be permanent residents of the MSAR, aged between 18 and 64; should possess relevant educational qualifications or work experience and be capable of performing the roles required; have no criminal record or other conditions as laid down by law that would render a person inappropriate for the post or job concerned on a full-time or part-time basis; and be of sound health and mind.

Civil servants are recruited either by appointment or on contract terms. The promotion and relocation of civil servants are prescribed by law. Civil servants who breach disciplinary rules may be sanctioned by written warning, fine, suspension, forced retirement or dismissal. Concerning the continued service, appointment and employment of civil servants, under Articles 98 and 99 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao's serving civil servants, including the police and supporting members of the judiciary, remained in employment after the establishment of the MSAR. They may remain in the civil service and retain their seniority with pay, allowances, benefits and conditions of service no less favourable than before. The Government shall pay such civil servants, or their dependents, all pensions and allowances due to them on terms no less favourable than before, and irrespective of their nationality or place of residence.

The Government may employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals previously employed in the civil service who are permanent residents of the MSAR to serve as public officials in Government departments at all levels, unless otherwise prohibited by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Government may also employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals as advisers or to fill professional and technical posts. These persons shall be employed only in their individual capacities and shall be responsible only to the Government.

At the end of 2018, Macao had 31,354 civil servants, of whom 31,084 were recruited locally and 270 from elsewhere. Of this total, 57 percent were male and 43 percent female. There were 21,534 civil servants with tertiary education qualifications, representing 69 percent of the total; 773 of the bureau directors, department heads, division and section chiefs – 95 percent of the total – held tertiary education qualifications.

Civil Servant Training

The objective of establishing the Civil Servant Training Centre under the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau is to build up a team of high-quality civil servants by consolidating training resources, strengthening coordination and planning, and building a more systematic training programme framework according to the development of civil service ranking and duties. Civil servant training comprises both compulsory and elective courses.

To meet the training requirements for promotion in the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants, the Government has included training as an important requirement for promotion of civil servants. There are two types of training courses for promotion: elective and compulsory courses.

Improving Public Services

An appraisal of public services has been implemented by commissioning a third-party academic institution to collect public opinion regarding the overall performance of public services provided by the Government. It will serve as a scientific and neutral reference for evaluating the effectiveness of public departments.

Facilitating Inter-departmental Cooperation and Enhancing the One-stop Service Functions of the Integrated Government Services Centre

In 2018, the Government continued enhancing the inter-departmental cooperation mechanism, including through improving inter-departmental work flows, refining laws, developing an electronic information platform and sharing data for certified documents, to provide better, more convenient and better quality one-stop services.

The Identification Bureau and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) trialled and prepared for “one-window” services in the Integrated Government Services Centre. These will enable residents to complete the applications for various services at one-stop counters. Plus, it will help departments to effectively utilise human resources and develop standardised procedures for providing public services, to establish a solid foundation for optimising and enhancing service quality.

In 2018, 26 public departments provided more than 300 services in the Integrated Government Services Centre. They handled more than 731,000 cases, representing an increase of 13 percent compared with 2017.

E-Governance

The Government advocates the construction of a smart city with smart governance, making use of innovative technology to further streamline administrative procedures and enhance administrative effectiveness. During the year, the Government continued implementing the Macao SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019, to provide solid support to the development of smart governance.

Launching a public consultation on Smart City Strategies and Development of Principal Areas in Macao

Upholding the basic principles of “Putting people first” and “Promoting sustainable city development”, the Government formulated consultation documents on Smart City Strategies and Development of Principal Areas in Macao, which included five objectives for development, seven development strategies, 13 key areas and six pilot projects. The public consultation was held from 17 May 2018 to 30 June 2018, to collect public opinions and draw on collective wisdom in creating a comprehensive final proposal for the blueprint of medium- and long-term development of a smart city in Macao.

Continuing to Implement the Macao SAR Electronic Governance Integrated Plan 2015-2019

The Government continues implementing various tasks in the Macao SAR Electronic Governance integrated Plan 2015-2019, with over 40 tasks mostly completed during the year. By the end of 2018, over 80 percent of the plan was implemented, and the remaining tasks would be implemented by 2019.

Optimising Inter-departmental Service Flows and Internal Administrative Management

The Government finished streamlining the services for approving 45 Administrative Permits/Licences scheduled for the first phase. In 2018, the Government selected and completed streamlining of 10 inter-departmental service procedures, including approval of vehicle advertising, Continuing Education Development Plan, pharmacist registration and licence approval and issuance, to enhance the effectiveness of administration and approval, and create a more favourable business environment.

Refining the Government Portal

In January 2018, the Government launched a brand new Government portal with

improved functions, style and layout, to enable users to read and search for information. Also, based on feedback from residents and departments, the portal has been improved by integrating electronic services of and information on various departments, to enrich public service information and enhance the quality of dissemination of government information and services. Take disaster prevention as an example: the portal centralises and unifies the release of information, so that through the portal residents and civil servants can keep up-to-date regarding information on public services during emergencies.

Facilitating E-governance

The Government actively refines laws regarding e-governance. In 2018, the by-law on handling and managing standardisation of electronic platforms, personal accounts and electronic documents was completed. The restructured Government portal, the Government public service mobile application and the Government public service account will be integrated to provide individualised services via a single account.

The Government continues formulating plans on e-public services, and is gradually digitising public services that are frequently used and of especial importance to the public. In 2018, about 15 services were provided in electronic form for the first time, including on social security and dutiable commodities (levies, exemptions from levies, refunds and enquiries regarding excise duty).

Optimising Infrastructure for E-Governance

In 2017, the Government and the Alibaba Group signed a Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement to Build a Smart City, resulting in the completion of a temporary cloud computing centre in 2018. The Government's cloud computing centre, data resource platform and big data platform are service-oriented, to promote data integration and sharing among public departments and gradually expand the Government's collection of big data, to enhance its application in tourism, transport management, healthcare services and e-governance, in order to tackle issues with data siloing and gradually facilitate the development of Macao into a smart city.

As a core component of smart city construction, the Government consolidates data on the data resource platform, and is forming a centralised Government big data mechanism, to support data sharing.

As the cloud computing centre commences operations, to achieve the strategy of "One Account, One Website", the Government completed the development of a mobile app for an integrated government account, which provides common access to electronic public services, including making appointments for public services, applying for domestic helper quotas and Certificates of Residence, and applying for restaurant licences. It is expected that the integrated account will be expanded to include other services of various public departments in 2019.

Construction of the official cloud computing centre, inside the Pac On Ferry Terminal, commenced in 2018. The core facilities are expected to be completed in 2019, including through construction of the data centre in the ferry Terminal and installation of software and hardware, to prepare for the application of big data in different sectors.

Official Languages

In accordance with Article 9 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, in addition to the Chinese language, Portuguese may also be used as an official language by the executive authorities, the legislature and the judiciary of the MSAR.

Award of Decorations, Medals and Merit Certificates

To commend individuals and organisations for their outstanding performance – in terms of personal achievements, contributions to the community or service to the MSAR – Chief Executive Edmund Ho in November 2001 promulgated By-law No. 28/2001, which established rules for awarding decorations, medals and merit certificates to them. It stipulated four categories of decorations and merit certificates in the MSAR: the Decoration of Honour, Medal of Merit, Medal for Distinguished Services and Certificate of Merit.

As of 2018, the Chief Executive had signed administrative orders to award decorations of honour, medals and certificates to 18 batches of individuals and entities.

Flag and Emblem of the MSAR

The flag of the MSAR has identical patterns and colours on both sides, with the five stars, lotus flower, bridge and seawater design on the front and back. The rectangular flag has a green background and a 3:2 length-height ratio. A white, three-petal lotus flower is in the centre of the flag. Five golden stars, including a larger one in the middle, form an arch over the lotus flower. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes (See Appendix II of Law No. 6/1999).



The Flag of the MSAR

The circular MSAR emblem consists of a narrow green border, a ring of characters on a white background, a green inner circle and elements including stars, a lotus flower, a bridge and seawater. The outer ring of characters lies between the narrow green border and the green inner circle. In the upper half of the ring of characters, 14 Traditional Chinese characters meaning “The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” are set in a standard traditional font, evenly distributed along the width of the arch. The lower portion of each character points to the centre of the emblem. In the lower half of the ring of characters, the Portuguese word “Macao” is printed in a standard font. The letters are evenly spaced, with the upper portion of each letter pointing to the centre of the emblem. Both the Chinese and Portuguese characters are distributed symmetrically on opposite sides of a vertical axis through the emblem. A white lotus flower with three petals is in the centre of the green inner circle. Above the lotus flower, five golden stars, of which the middle one is largest, radiate from the centre of the emblem. The lower points of the stars are directed at the centre of the emblem. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes.



The Emblem of the MSAR

Structure of the Macao SAR Government*



Note:
* This diagram does not cover all entities under supervision and guardianship of the Government.





RELIEF EFFORTS FOR TYPHOON MANGKHUT





On 16 September, Macao was hit by Super Typhoon Mangkhut, which was the most serious natural disaster since Typhoon Hato in 2017. Typhoon signal no.10 was issued and lasted nine hours, which was the longest duration recorded since 1968. As the severe typhoon approached, all government departments, the Civil Protection Action Centre, and all members of the civil protection system joined hands with the public under the leadership of the Chief Executive, to minimise damage and losses through mutual support and efficient response measures.

During the typhoon, the Civil Protection Action Centre received reports regarding 18 people being injured. Five departments under the public security forces evacuated 5,650 residents from flooded low-lying areas.