

# **OVERVIEW OF THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN 2019**

The People's Republic of China celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2019. This great year also marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region; President Xi Jinping's visit to Macao to officiate at the celebration ceremony; and the successful election of the Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government.

The MSAR Government upholds the administrative principles of pursuing people-oriented development and sharing our achievements, continues expediting urban development, promotes stable economic growth, and optimises livelihood policies and measures. The Five-Year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region was implemented satisfactorily, with a completion rate of 90 percent. To further align with the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Government has prepared an annex on the foundations of Macao's first five-year plan, to deeply integrate Macao's five-year development plan into the construction of the Greater Bay Area, and refine in detail its policy administration.

The Government has also established a task force focusing on innovation, technology and development of a smart city, to coordinate work on technological innovation and building a smart city; and the Government's cloud computing centre has commenced operations. The ten-year Macao Disaster Prevention and Reduction Plan (2019-2028) has been released and implementation has commenced, to improve Macao's responses to emergencies as a safe city. The Government also granted two gaming enterprises an extension of two years of their casino concessions or sub-concessions, to create a favourable situation for the launch of the next phase of work regarding gaming.



## President Xi raises four aspirations during the 20th anniversary of MSAR



On 20 December 2019, the Macao Special Administrative Region celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment, in the presence of President Xi Jinping, who visited Macao and attended a series of celebratory activities. During the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Macao's Return to the Motherland cum Inauguration Ceremony of the Fifth Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, President Xi delivered a keynote speech and raised four aspirations. He strongly believed Chinese people, including Hong Kong and Macao citizens, have the wisdom and capability to better implement the principle of "One country, two systems" by refining the systems and achieving better governance.

President Xi Jinping and his entourage landed at Macau International Airport in the afternoon on 18 December, and were received by Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Mrs Chui, who both went on board the airplane for a greeting. Upon disembarking, President and Mrs Xi (Madame Peng Liyuan) received welcoming flowers from a primary school boy and girl from the Workers' Children High School, and shook hands with principal officials of the MSAR Government while walking down the red carpet. President and Mrs Xi waved to the crowd, which comprised about 400 university, secondary and primary school students, waving national flags, MSAR flags and silk flowers.

President Xi made a short speech before leaving the airport apron. He expressed his delight about again visiting Macao, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Handover, and extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Macao on behalf of the Central People's

Government and all ethnic groups of the motherland. He pointed out that Macao had made proud achievements and progress over the 20 years since its reunification with the motherland, which are facts that Chinese people and the Central People's Government take pride in. He also said the MSAR Government had diligently followed the principle of "One country, two systems", and the conclusions regarding all its features serve as lessons meriting attention. President Xi said that it took everybody's effort to paint the bright future of Macao. During his stay in the following few days, he would be happy to exchange ideas on topics of mutual concern with all walks of life in Macao, he added.

## **President Xi visits Macao and recognises the SAR's achievements in urban development**

In the morning of 19 December, President Xi, accompanied by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, visited the Areia Preta Integrated Government Services Centre in the Northern District, and inspected various service zones, taking a closer look at the public services concerning people's livelihoods and warmly interacting with residents.

First, President Xi was given a briefing by the Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan, and then visited the Identification Services Bureau service area to watch a demonstration of the self-service machine, and listened to staff explaining the specifications and functions of old and new versions of Macao resident identity cards and passports at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex. During the visit, President Xi talked to some residents in the service queues, and checked whether the application service was convenient for them. At the Social Security Fund service area, President Xi listened to a briefing on Macao's social security system for the elderly, and cordially interacted with some senior citizens who were among the service users.

President Xi then headed to the Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School, to meet primary students who had written letters to him earlier. He visited the students' exhibition and popular science projects, and sat in on a demonstration history lesson. He expressed his expectations that the MSAR Government and all schools will shoulder the responsibility of patriotic education, and his wish that the young people of Macao will become pillars of Macao and the country.

Afterwards, President Xi proceeded to the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex beside Nam Van Lake, to see an exhibition on the platform development and another on the commercial products of Portuguese-speaking countries. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, gave an introduction of the construction of the platform. President Xi recognised Macao's successful fulfilment of its functions as a service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and specifically noted the high development potential of Portuguese-speaking countries.

President Xi also communicated in Putonghua with 11 overseas students, from Malaysia, Korea, Cape Verde, Brazil and Portugal, to learn about their schooling in Macao, and expressed his wish that they study happily and effectively and seize good opportunities in future to apply what they have learned. President Xi also visited an exhibition centre, focusing on Macao's urban development and construction. He recognised Macao's success in urban development since the Handover, and expressed his expectations for Macao's future.

## Five highlights of “One country, two systems”

At a welcome dinner hosted by the MSAR Government in the evening of 19 December, President Xi pointed out that the past 20 years since Macao’s Handover had seen the city’s fastest economic development and biggest improvement in people’s livelihoods, as well as the strongest shared national pride and dignity among Macao people.

President Xi praised the Government and the whole community for their commitment to the principle of “One country, two systems” and its implementation which is integrated with Macao’s actual situation, leading to five major achievements in “One country, two systems”, namely: “Loyalty to our country and to Macao” has become the core value of society of Macao; a firm adherence to the Constitution and the authority of the Basic Law; smooth running of an executive-led administration; proactive integration of Macao’s development with the country’s overall development plan; and the Macao SAR has become more inclusive and harmonious, enhancing its social solidarity. The implementation of “One country, two systems” with Macao characteristics will see even greater success, and Macao people will be able to make even more contributions to realise the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation, President Xi added.

## President Xi puts forward four aspirations at the inauguration of the new-term MSAR Government

At 10am on 20 December, the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Macao’s Return to the Motherland cum Inauguration Ceremony of the Fifth Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region commenced, with an atmosphere of grandeur, at the Macao East Asian Games Dome. Mr Ho Iat Seng, the Chief Executive of the fifth Macao SAR Government, made his oath of office, administered by President Xi. President Xi subsequently administered the oaths of office, led by Mr Ho Iat Seng, of the principal officials and the Prosecutor General of the fifth Government. Afterwards, members of the Executive Council were sworn into office, with their oaths administered by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

President Xi, in his keynote speech, summarised Macao’s successful implementation of “One country, two systems” with “four important lessons”, and raised four aspirations.

First, he urged Macao to keep abreast of the times, and further improve public governance by adapting to the new dynamics and requirements of modern social governance. Tasks included: pressing ahead with public administration reforms to raise effectiveness; making the rule of law the guiding principle in public governance and constantly improving the underlying legal systems; and harnessing technology to expedite the development of a smart city, foster scientific decision-making, and enable precise social governance and highly efficient public services.

Second, President Xi urged Macao to break new ground and press ahead with sustainable economic development. Macao should develop holistic long-term plans, keeping in mind the goal of becoming “One Centre, One Platform and One Base”; focus on key projects conducive to economic diversification and integrated with Macao’s practical conditions, and support the projects with government policies as well as human and financial resources; and seize opportunities arising from national strategies such as the “Belt and Road” initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, fully demonstrating Macao’s strengths and thereby enhancing

competitiveness. President Xi drew special attention to the development of Hengqin, urging the Macao SAR to fully collaborate with Zhuhai in developing the area, which could provide space for – and inject fresh impetus into – Macao’s long-term development.

Third, President Xi hoped that the MSAR Government would continue putting the people first, and further improve their well-being by enhancing public infrastructure related to transportation, energy supply, environmental protection, information exchange and urban security, addressing the people’s needs and social development requirements, thereby improving the living environment and raising the quality of life. President Xi also urged the Government to actively respond to people’s concerns regarding housing, healthcare and support after retirement, and pay more attention to helping and supporting the underprivileged. It is important to continuously raise the standards of education and build an education system that meets high standards, thereby creating even better conditions for the growth of the young.

Fourth, President Xi hoped that Macao would persist in its inclusiveness and further promote social cohesion and stability. He urged Macao people to uphold the core value of loving the country and Macao; build the broadest consensus for social development; and strengthen community organisations by preserving the good tradition of social unity and negotiated agreement in the city; manage social conflicts to safeguard social harmony; and demonstrate Macao’s advantage as a focal point of Chinese and western cultures by promoting international arts and cultural exchanges.

## **Striving for change and innovation with concerted efforts to paint a bright future for Macao**

At his inauguration speech, Mr Ho Iat Seng, the Chief Executive of the fifth Macao SAR Government said the new administration will build on its successful experience in “One country, two systems” over the past 20 years, to further implement “One country, two systems” with Macao characteristics that match Macao’s actual situation.

Macao’s achievements in the economy and construction during the past 20 years have provided a solid foundation for its future development. The strong aspiration for development and good way of life among the Macao people is giving the city a powerful impetus for growth. Against the huge national backdrop of deepened reform and a fully extended opening-up policy, the “Belt and Road” initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is providing Macao with substantial development opportunities. Fostering the building of “One centre, one platform, one base”, strengthened regional cooperation – especially the innovative mechanism for joint development of Hengqin together with Zhuhai, as well as the diversification of Macao’s economy, have set the fundamental orientations for Macao’s future development. The role of Macao as a bridge between China and the west, in particular between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, with its varied cultural colours, has given the city a unique advantage in development.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng believed that with the support and guidance of the Central People’s Government, as long as Macao properly grasps its development foundation as well as its development momentum, orientations and opportunities, and presses forward with innovation and development with concerted efforts, the city is destined to see even brighter prospects, and the mission of “One country, two systems” will see even more glorious success. Macao is sure to be developing and prospering hand in hand with the motherland, realising the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

## Ho Iat Seng elected Chief Executive, aiming to reform and innovate



While 2019 marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the fourth-term SAR Government actively prepared for the Fifth Chief Executive Election. On 25 August, the former president of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, was elected the Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government, winning 98 percent of total votes.

The Chief Executive Election concluded smoothly, realising the full implementation of the principles of “One country, two systems”, “Macao people governing Macao” and a high degree of autonomy, and laying a solid foundation for the prosperity and stability of the SAR. Under the leadership of the Central People’s Government, Macao will open a new chapter for its development.

### Election commenced in accordance with the law

On 4 February 2019, Chief Executive Chui Sai On issued the Executive Order No. 54/2019 in accordance with the Basic Law of the MSAR and the Chief Executive Election Law, to set 16 June 2019 as the date for the election of the members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, officially initiating the Fifth Chief Executive Election.

The president and members of the Electoral Affairs Commission of the Chief Executive Election were sworn in on 13 February, to proceed with the work for the Fifth Chief Executive Election in a fair, impartial and effective manner according to the law. The five members of the Electoral Affairs Commission were the judge of the Court of Final Appeal, Song Man Lei (President); the deputy public prosecutor, Chan Tsz King; the judge of the Court of Second Instance, Tong Hio Fong; the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, Kou Peng Kuan; and the director of the Government Information Bureau, Victor Chan.

The election of the members of the Fifth Chief Executive Election Committee was held on 16 June. In all, 350 candidates ran for the election. Out of 5,735 eligible voters, 5,001 cast their votes, representing a voter turnout rate of 87.20 percent, which reflects the active participation and support of voters from all sectors in this election, as well as the recognition of the current electoral system.

As the election results were verified and announced by the Court of Final Appeal and the qualifications of members of the Election Committee in other sectors were confirmed, the list of all members was published in the *Macao SAR Gazette* on June 24.

In accordance with the Basic Law of Macao, the Chief Executive of MSAR is elected by the Election Committee, a body representative of the broad community, in a fair, impartial and open manner, and appointed by the Central Government for a five-year term. The number of members of the Election Committee increased from 300 to 400, while the number of Election Committee members required for nominating Chief Executive candidates increased from 50 to 66 at the 27th Session of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People's Congress on 30 June 2012. During the past 20 years, the Chief Executive Election Law has been twice amended, to enhance the representativeness of the Chief Executive Election Committee.

In accordance with the Chief Executive Election Law, the Chief Executive Election Committee comprises 400 members from four sectors: Sector 1 (Industrial, Commercial and Financial) takes 120 seats; Sector 2 takes 115 seats, 26 of which are for the Cultural sub-sector, 29 for the Educational sub-sector, 43 for the Professional sub-sector and 17 for the Sport sub-sector; Sector 3 takes 115 seats, 59 of which are for the Labour sub-sector, 50 for the Social Services sub-sector, two for representatives of Catholicism, two for Buddhism, one for Protestantism and one for Taoism in the Religious sub-sector; and Sector 4 takes 50 seats, 22 of which are for representatives of Legislative Assembly members, 12 for Deputies of the Macao SAR to the National People's Congress, 14 for representatives of members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Macao, and two for representatives of municipal organisations.

Apart from the six representatives from the Religious sub-sector in Sector 3 and the 50 representatives from Sector 4 selected in accordance with their respective rules or by consultation, the remaining 344 members from the seven sectors or sub-sectors are elected.

## Ho Iat Seng announces he will run for election

After the Election Committee was formed, the Chief Executive Election proceeded in an orderly manner. According to Executive Order No. 94/2019, the Fifth Chief Executive Election Day was set on 25 August, 2019. The nomination period for election candidates ran from 8 to 23 July. According to the Chief Executive Election Law, any candidate shall obtain not less than 66 nominations from members of the Election Committee.

The former President of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, announced he would run for the election and presented his election platform during a press conference on 18 June. Supported by his own motto, "New role, new responsibilities, new achievements", he put forward his plan for "Better livelihoods and diversified development". Although according to the law, members of the Legislative Assembly are allowed to remain in their positions until elected as Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng disclosed at a press conference that he did not want to do things sloppily, and had therefore

commenced the legal procedures to resign as member and president of the Legislative Assembly.

Ho Iat Seng and his campaign team submitted his nomination form to the Electoral Affairs Commission on 22 July, and was accepted as a candidate of the Chief Executive Election by the Electoral Affairs Commission three days later. He had obtained a total of 379 nominations from the Chief Executive Electoral Committee and became the sole candidate to the Fifth Chief Executive Election.

## **Unity and Efforts, Change and Innovation**

The election campaign period ran from 10 to 23 August. On the first day of the campaign, the Electoral Affairs Commission held a session for the person accepted as a candidate for the Chief Executive Election, to give a presentation on the election platform and take part in a question-and-answer session. Ho Iat Seng introduced his election platform, titled “Unity and Efforts, Change and Innovation”, with the theme “Consolidate a Steady Momentum of Success and Maintain Overall Harmony”, which included five main sections: improving public governance, promoting diversified economic development, optimising the effectiveness of people’s livelihood projects, intensifying personnel training, and building a cultural cooperation base.

The Chief Executive Election was held at the Macao East Asian Games Dome on 25 August. Each of the 400 members of the Chief Executive Election Committee cast their votes. Of the total ballots cast, 392 were valid, seven were blank and one was ruled to be invalid. Ho Iat Seng won the election with 98 percent of the total votes available, and became the Chief Executive-elect of the fifth MSAR Government.

Ho Iat Seng thanked the Election Committee members for their trust and support, and appreciated the suggestions and advice shared by people from all walks of life during the election process. He promised he would make every effort to advance the principles of “One country, two systems”, “Macao people governing Macao”, and a high degree of autonomy. He would unswervingly carry out his duties and governance functions in strict accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law, combine his efforts with those of people from a variety of social strata and all walks of life, and implement his election declaration and policy platform as set out in his campaign in a spirit of reform and innovation, in order to serve the people, Macao, and the country.

## **Smooth transition as Ho Iat Seng appointed by the Central Government**

The day after the election, the Chief Executive of the fourth MSAR Government, Chui Sai On, met with Ho Iat Seng and congratulated him on being elected as Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government, and said he would instruct his administration to provide full support and cooperation with various resources including software and hardware, for Ho to organise a new government, while the current government would continue maintaining sustainable and stable development of society, so as to create a harmonious society for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR and for the new government.

According to the law, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published the announcement of the Court of Final Appeal regarding the Chief Executive Election results, to confirm Ho Iat Seng as the elected candidate. Two days later, the State Council decided to appoint Ho Iat Seng as the Chief Executive

of the fifth MSAR Government. He was sworn in on 20 December 2019, for a five-year term.

On 10 September, Mr Ho Iat Seng and wife, Ms Cheng Soo Ching, went to Beijing to receive the Order of the State Council confirming the official appointment. On 11 September, they met with President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. President Xi said that during the past 20 years, under the leadership of the two chief executives Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Fernando Chui Sai On, the Macao SAR has united people from all walks of life and demonstrated to the world a successful practice of the “One Country, Two Systems” with Macao characteristics. He hoped that Ho would show awareness of the overall development and great foresight, and accurately grasp Macao’s situation and the country’s strategic development needs, to continue the successful implementation of “One country, two systems”.

On the same day, Premier Li Keqiang handed Ho Iat Seng a decree for the appointment at Zi Guang Ge of Zhongnanhai in Beijing. Li said that the appointment represented the central government’s trust and concern regarding Ho and Macao residents’ great hope and expectations for him.

Ho Iat Seng thanked the central government for his appointment, and said he was honoured at his appointment to the position entailing great responsibility, and was unwaveringly committed to the implementation of the “One country, two systems” principle under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Central People’s Government.

## Consolidating the Foundation for Economic Development and Nurturing the Emergence of Various Industries



In 2019, Macao was faced with increasing uncertainties in the internal and external environments and downward pressure on the economy. Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) for the year was 434.7 billion patacas, representing a 4.7 percent contraction in real terms from the previous year. The GDP per capita was 645,438 patacas.

The Government persisted in focusing on economic development and people's livelihoods as our core administrative values in the area of economy and finance, along with improving our quality of development and strengthening regional cooperation as the core principles, striving to maintain Macao's sustainable economic development and social stability. With stable employment during the year, the unemployment rate remained low at 1.7 percent. The median monthly salary of the employed population was 17,000 patacas, up by 1,000 patacas year on year; while the median monthly salary of employed local residents was 20,000 patacas.

### **Maintaining healthy development of mainstream industries**

The Government strengthened the regulation and promoted healthy and orderly development of the gaming industry. We approved a two-year extension to the casino concession contracts and sub-concession contracts of two gaming enterprises, so that all gaming concessions will expire in 2022, creating a better situation for the next phase of work.

The Government improved legislation to strictly control the number of gaming tables and strengthen the supervision of gaming operators and promoters. In August 2019, regulations were introduced regarding the requirements for ensuring gaming promoters show their identification information on transaction receipts and in casinos. We also strived to promote responsible gaming. In addition, we urged gaming operators to fulfil their social responsibility, including by increasing the procurement of products and services that are designed and made in Macao, and injecting more non-gaming elements into the industry. We also promoted integrated development of the gaming and non-gaming industries.

The Government adopted a tourism development model which centres on tourism and leisure, making the best use of integrated resort facilities and international entertainment and festive events, and deepening the development of Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy. We strived to promote the history and culture of Macao, and demonstrated our unique cultural tourism content, to guide tourists to engage in in-depth travel. We also made good use of pier facilities, explored new ferry routes, and launched the Macao Cruise route.

### **Nurturing the emergence of various industries**

In 2019, the Government continued implementing policies and investing resources to support the growth of industries such as conventions and exhibitions, cultural and creative industries, traditional Chinese medicine and specialised financial services. We promoted quality enhancement of the convention and exhibition industry, with conventions as the priority, and continued optimising the one-stop service for convention and exhibition bidding and support. We also leveraged "Convention Ambassadors" networks, to attract large-scale quality conventions to Macao, expanded the types of exhibitions and conventions, optimised supportive services, and encouraged merchants participating in conventions and exhibitions to shop and dine in local neighbourhoods, to enhance

the effectiveness of the events. To strengthen external exchanges, the Government also organised delegations to participate in international and regional conventions.

We pressed ahead with the development of the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park. The cooperation platform for the industrial, academic, and research and development sectors became fully operational. We have established bases for innovation incubation that integrate research and development, business headquarters and trade, with a total of 159 registered enterprises. A total of 76 enterprises have established offices in the park, including 39 Macao enterprises that were cultivated through the industrial park platform.

The key pilot projects of the healthcare sector that have been selected as “national incubators” are among the carriers that transform research results products, through cooperation between the industrial, academic, and research and development sectors. The construction and preparation work progressed smoothly, and was completed and available for inspection by the end of 2019.

The GMP Pilot Scale Production Line has passed China’s and the EU’s GMP accreditation standards. A technology research and development team and a scientific research service team were established in May, to help Macao enterprises develop new products and upgrade the quality of those that are already on the market. Building on the Guangzhou-Macao, Sichuan-Macao and Fujian-Macao Chinese medical cooperation, the Government continued exploring opportunities for further cooperation with other regions, such as Jilin and Guizhou.

We promoted international trade in Chinese medicine products and culture. With Portugal and Mozambique as entry points, we strived to establish an international exchange platform for young Chinese medicine practitioners. The first batch of two Chinese medicine products registered in Mozambique are already available for sale in the local market, while more products are now awaiting for approval for sale. With the experience gained in Mozambique, in 2019 the model for international promotion of medicines and talent cultivation through medical treatment services was extended to Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, such as Cape Verde, for the first time.

In 2019, the Government continued fostering cultural and creative industries and launched various subsidy schemes. We provided support services for cultural and creative enterprises – such as work space, business training, organising exhibitors and networking – to foster incubation of the industry. The Cultural Industry Fund has approved a total of 147 million patacas for subsidising 82 projects. The total investment in these projects was 523 million patacas.

Moreover, the Specific Financial Support Programme for the Growth of Creative and Cultural Enterprises was launched in August, to assist micro-enterprises in acquiring business installations, manufacturing and production, launching promotional activities and registering intellectual property rights. In all, 49 projects have been selected to receive subsidies totalling 9.28 million patacas.

During the first phase of the Community Cultural and Creative Production Subsidy Scheme, exhibitors were assisted with participating in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Public Cultural and Tourism Products Sourcing Fair, and an exhibition on the fair’s achievements was held in the Macao Polytechnic Institute. In the second phase, subsidies totalling nearly 8.4 million patacas were provided to 28 projects.

Regarding specialised financial services, the Government refined the related laws and

regulations. The legislative procedures of the Legal System Governing Financial Leasing Business and the Tax Concession Incentive Scheme for Financial Leasing were completed. Studies were underway to amend the Interest Subsidy Scheme on Bank Loans to Enterprises. We also optimised the business environment, to attract large-scale lease finance companies to establish their bases in Macao, and facilitated the establishment of a Renminbi settlement platform for trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, to provide financial services for trade and investment enterprises and projects of Portuguese-speaking countries, and countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”.

In 2019, for the first time, the Central People’s Government issued sovereign bonds in Macao; and this was the first year the Meeting of the Central Banks and Financiers of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries was held in Macao. A cross-departmental working group was set up by the Monetary Authority of Macao to follow up on and coordinate research and related work on the establishment of a capital market in Macao. Moreover, Macao and other Greater Bay Area cities jointly signed the Framework Cooperation Agreement on Financial Conflict Resolution between Guangdong and Macao, to foster the co-ordination of soft financial infrastructure within the Greater Bay Area and promote the establishment of a financial services cooperation platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

## **Supporting development of SMEs and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship by young people**

The Government attached great importance to the sustainable development of SMEs, persisted with the principle of integrating support and cultivation, and continued optimising various financial and administrative support measures, to support their innovative development.

We promoted the application of information technology in SMEs, enhanced cooperation with e-commerce operators in mainland China, and developed and explored e-commerce markets in Portuguese-speaking countries. We continued fostering the “Scheme to Assist the Re-branding of Time-honoured Local Shops”, after the completion of the assessment of the first batch of 12 “Time-honoured Local Shops”, to strengthen the competitiveness of these local shops.

We have recently launched Catastrophe Insurance for Small and Medium Enterprises, the Catastrophe Insurance for Small and Medium Enterprises Funding Scheme, and the Import and Export Credit Insurance Scheme, to provide SMEs with a wider range of insurance protection. We also facilitated a new round of business invitation exercises for the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) in Hengqin, to explore greater scope for developing Macao enterprises.

We continued implementing the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme and upgraded the functions of the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre. Study and exchange tours to the Greater Bay Area were organised for young people in Macao, to help them seize opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. The requirements for participation in the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur and Innovation Exchange Programme were broadened, to allow more young people to participate in study and exchange tours to Portuguese-speaking countries and develop their networks. In 2019, dialogue sessions between young people and the Secretary for Economy

and Finance or the directors of various bureaus were organised, in addition to participation in community activities for young people, to strengthen the mechanism for communications with young people.

## **Continuing deepening regional cooperation and actively participating in construction of the Greater Bay Area**

To further align with the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Government has formulated an annex to Macao's Five-year Development Plan, based on its initial plan, to deeply integrate the construction of the Greater Bay Area into our five-year development plan. This will align with the national master plan, whilst incorporating it within our annual policy administration.

In addition, the Symposium on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Symposium on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area co-organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government were held in Macao, Hong Kong, and Japan.

We implemented a series of cooperative projects between Guangdong and Macao. Based on the project arrangements highlighted in the Framework Agreement on Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, we strengthened cooperation in areas such as developing cross-border infrastructure and facilitating customs clearance, fostering cooperation in modern service industries, developing a quality living circle, and promoting education and youth exchanges.

We also facilitated the construction of the Guangdong-Macao Special Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and continued fostering cooperation with Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhongshan and Jiangmen.

We supported active participation by businesses and the public in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and provided services to facilitate registration by trading companies in the nine cities of the Greater Bay Area. We also upgraded the functions of the representative office of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute in Guangzhou, arranged visits to organisations and enterprises in Greater Bay Area cities and launched related follow-up work, to foster connections and provide necessary assistance. We continued soliciting investments and working on promotion, to attract quality business operators to establish bases in Macao.

To promote cooperation with the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Changjiang economic belt and the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region, in November 2019 we signed the Arrangements for Establishing the Mechanism of the Shanghai-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference to establish an official mechanism for cooperation with Shanghai, facilitated planning of the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Park, fostered cooperation on environmental protection and infrastructure industries between the PPRD provinces and regions and Portuguese-speaking and European Union countries, and cooperated with Jilin province in developing the Chinese medicine industry.

## Short-, medium-, and long-term policies for building a safe and liveable city



### Deepening long-term mechanisms to improve people's well-being and build a healthy, safe and liveable city

In 2019, the Government adhered to its policy-making principles of pursuing people-oriented development and sharing our achievements, and continuing to deepen the formulation of the social security system and various long-term mechanisms related to people's livelihoods. The Government provided comprehensive support and multi-level coverage, and integrated short-, medium-, and long-term policies to improve livelihoods, promote equality, and optimise various policies and measures for people's well-being.

### Consolidating the two-tier social security system, and providing more stable social security

The Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System came into effect in 2018, marking the official establishment of the two-tier social security system. In 2019, the Government continued to actively introduce and promote the system to the public, encouraging more employers and employees to jointly establish better retirement benefits, or participate in the individual provident fund scheme, to better prepare for ample retirement protection.

By 2019, a total of 195 employers had joined the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, and more than 50,000 residents had joined the individual provident fund scheme. In 2019, the Government injected 7,000 patacas from its fiscal surplus into the provident fund account of each eligible Macao resident, benefiting a total of 377,000 people.

For those who are covered by the social security system, the Government raised the pensions and disability allowances to 3,630 patacas per month from January 2019, an increase of about 5.2 percent. Other benefits were also adjusted according to a similar rate. In August 2019, a new measure of automatic withdrawal of funds was introduced, saving senior citizens the effort required for the withdrawal procedures of the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System every year.

In 2016, the Government finished injecting a total of 37 billion patacas into the Social Security Fund. In 2019, the bill on consolidating the financial resources of the Social Security Fund was formulated. After meeting the basic reserve requirements, three percent of the central budget balance by the end of every fiscal year is designated for the Social Security Fund, to provide fundamental financial support for the fund's sustainability. To continuously improve residents' retirement protection, a feasibility study was carried out regarding the establishment of an indexation adjustment mechanism, and on more scientific methods for adjusting the pensions and other benefits under the social security system.

### **Continuing supportive measures for the underprivileged and upholding the principle of sharing development and prosperity**

For the relatively underprivileged groups in society, the Government strictly implemented medium-to-long-term plans for several social assistance and social services – including old-age protection and rehabilitation services, as well as maternal and child services. The Government upheld its principles of sharing development and prosperity by enhancing universal welfare measures, such as the Wealth Partaking Scheme, injecting funds into Provident Fund Personal Accounts, birth allowance, the Continuing Education Programme, water tariff subsidies and electricity bill subsidies.

In terms of improving the social service system, the Government established a professional accreditation and licensing system for social workers, to facilitate professionalisation of social workers and protect the rights of social service users.

In 2019, the Government continued optimising various social assistance and welfare measures, to maintain the standard of living of underprivileged households. In terms of family and community services, the Government conducted a comprehensive review and report on the implementation of the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence. The Government implemented the plan concerning the Development Goals of Women in Macao for 2019-2025, to facilitate the work of the task force on women's development goals.

In terms of services for children and youth, the first phase (2018-2019) of the Child-care Service Plan 2018-2022 has been completed. Notably, this included the gradual adjustment of the proportion of full-day and half-day classes of child-care centres, in order to meet the needs for child-care services for two-year-olds. The Government also promoted self-assessments and carried out third-party assessments of subsidised child-care centres, unified the enrolment schedule for subsidised child-care centres, and introduced a registration system, to shorten the time parents must wait to receive the results of applications for enrolment in these centres.

In terms of services for the elderly, a total of 91 mid-term measures (2018-2020) for the Ten-year Action Plan for the Provision of Services for the Elderly have been completed by the end of 2019. The introduction of home care services aimed to provide seamless support services for

the elderly, such as those who are living alone, physically weak or suffering from dementia. The introduction of the Climbing Stairs Service also assisted senior citizens living in old buildings to participate in community activities. In the fourth quarter of 2019, another nursing home was set up in Taipa, increasing the total number of subsidised places in homes for the elderly to about 2,400. The Government also supported 17 subsidised homes for the elderly, and day care centres for senior citizens, in purchasing, renting and testing innovative Gerontechnology equipment.



In terms of rehabilitation services, 120 mid-term measures (2018-2020) of the Ten-year Development Plan for Rehabilitation Services have been implemented by the end of 2019, including actively following up regarding early intervention services, and completing the plan and study on providing more appropriate support for children and their families. The Government also launched the Pilot Financial Support Scheme for the Acquisition of Assistive Equipment for the Disabled and the Assistive Equipment Resources and Barrier-free Homes Improvement Scheme.

## **Balancing development of land, housing and infrastructure, to pragmatically promote the development of a liveable city**

Living in a decent home is everyone's wish. It is also one of the priorities of the Government when promoting a liveable city. For many years, in response to the public demand for housing, the Government has adopted a pragmatic attitude and adhered to its public housing policy - "Public housing as the core supplemented by the Home Ownership Scheme". In 2019, the Government completed the amendments to the Legal System for Public Housing and the mechanism for applying for public housing on a regular basis, and commenced a new round of applications for Home-Ownership Scheme housing at the end of the year. Meanwhile, the Government waived rent for

public housing tenants for the whole year, for the fifth consecutive year, and provided temporary housing subsidies to eligible families on the waiting list for public housing.

In 2019, a total of 12,268 families rented public housing, and a total of 185 tenants whose income exceeded the statutory cap ended the tenancies of their own volition. As for Home-Ownership Scheme housing, the Government continued the screening and allocation of housing units. These included one-bedroom Home-Ownership Scheme housing units of Ip Heng Building, the allocation of which was completed in 2019. The Government expedited the title deed assessment process for appointed buyers of Home-Ownership Scheme housing, and commissioned private notaries to assist in title deed processes, thus boosting processing. By 2019, title deed processes for households on the waiting list for the 19,000 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units had been completed for all buildings other than Bairro da Ilha Verde Building and Fai Ieng Building.

In response to the medium- to long-term housing demand, the Government made good use of the new urban reclamation areas and existing land to increase housing supply, especially public housing, and construct public facilities. The Government completed reclamation of the New Urban Reclamation Zones A and E1, and commenced design work for the four Home-Ownership Scheme lots and one public housing lot in the first phase of Zone A. Construction of the Mong Ha Public Housing project has resumed. A feasibility study on public housing projects on Avenida Wai Long, Taipa, was completed, and site formation is about to commence.

The Government is committed to ensuring a rational supply of public housing, whilst promoting the sustainable development of the real estate market through varied means. In terms of regulations, the property tax rate for leased properties was adjusted in 2019, to encourage an increased supply in the real estate rental market.

The sustainable development of the real estate market cannot be achieved without rational land resources. The Government has always been committed to balancing the supply and rational use of land. In 2019, the Government continued recovering idle land in accordance with the law, to increase land reserves. By September 2019, land grants for 77 plots of land with a total area of over 670,000 square metres had been revoked, while 23 plots of land with a total area of 230,000 square metres had been resumed.

In terms of urban planning, the Government coordinated the plan for future urban development from a more macro perspective, by specifying the principles, concepts, values, functional setup and overall direction. The Government also promoted the preliminary plan for Macao's urban development master plan, to achieve balanced, sustainable development of the city.

In 2019, the Government established Macau Urban Renewal Limited, to focus on implementing urban renewal work. The Government also began registering eligible applicants for purchasing replacement housing according to the law, conducted a public consultation on Legal System Governing Urban Renewal, and listened to public opinion on major issues such as the property rights percentages of redeveloped buildings.

Decent and liveable housing requires suitable software and hardware facilities. The Government is committed to improving medical, security and environmental software and hardware facilities, and promoting smart services, to provide a safe, healthy and convenient living and development environment for residents.

## Improving healthcare services and prioritising prevention to strengthen the elements of a healthy city

In 2019, the Government continued upholding the principle of “Improve medical services and prioritise prevention”, to inject new impetus into the long-term development of the medical and healthcare system, and strengthen the elements of a healthy city, to enhance public health. To optimise the primary healthcare services network, the Government expanded investment of resources, and enhanced cooperation with non-profit medical institutions and private medical institutions.

In terms of prevention of infectious diseases, the Government has established a mature and sound public health emergency response and infectious disease prevention mechanism. The China International Emergency Medical Team (Macao) passed World Health Organization (WHO) accreditation, and plays an active role in improving public health emergency responses in Macao.

Meanwhile, the Government continued strictly enforcing various measures to safeguard against infectious diseases, and sent officers to give seasonal flu vaccines to specific groups of people, and expanded free vaccination to all residents of Macao. Priorities in receiving the measles vaccine were given to people or domestic helpers who take care of infants and young children under the age of one, pregnant women and medical staff, and rubella vaccine top-up was given to eligible residents, to promptly halt the spread of infectious diseases in the community.

In response to the medium- to long-term demand for healthcare services in Macao, the Government has established the Macao Academy of Medical Specialists and conferred fellowships, and spared no effort in facilitating the revision of the Legal System for Professional Qualification and Licensing for Medical Workers, so the medical system can meet international standards. The Government also commissioned academic institutions to carry out a feasibility study of universal medical insurance, to foster the long-term sustainable development of the medical system.

In terms of infrastructure, construction of the main structure of the Islands District Medical Complex (general hospital, auxiliary building, and general administration building) commenced in October 2019, and is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022.

As for healthcare services, the Government’s priorities included medical services for the elderly. The Government expanded outreach specialist medical services, commenced operation of the new Ka Ho Rehabilitation Hospital, provided an early surgery arrangement for senior citizens suffering from severe cataracts, and subsidised fitting of removable dentures for senior citizens with financial difficulties.

The Government continued implementing various healthcare measures for women and children, to maximise the functions of the Children’s Comprehensive Assessment Centre, and shortened waiting times for assessment and rehabilitation.

Regarding medium-to-long-term disease prevention, the Government has expanded the age group for colorectal cancer screening, and carried out screening for those at high risk of lung cancer, to improve the chances of cure. The Government continued implementing protective measures under the Law on Smoking Prevention and Control, implemented a smoking ban in all casinos, and began an investigation on tobacco use. We also established a system for monitoring data on alcohol use, carried out public consultations on regulating under-age consumption of alcohol, and intensified

efforts to build Macao as a healthy city.

The Government has actively responded to the new demands for cross-border medical services arising through the “Belt and Road” initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. We plan to construct a health centre in Hengqin to serve Macao citizens. The Government also assists Macao residents who live in Hengqin and hold mainland China residence permits to take part in Zhuhai’s basic medical insurance programme, with subsidies on medical insurance fees for eligible children, primary and secondary students, and senior citizens. Also, interactions with Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen were strengthened, to improve the healthcare and well-being of Macao citizens in the Greater Bay Area.

### **Building a safe city by strengthening emergency responses**

The Government implements the administrative principle of “Putting people first”. With the public interest in mind, we strive to build a safe city to ensure national security and regional stability. Immediately after the establishment of the Commission for the Defence of National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region in 2018, the Chief Executive instructed the public security forces to coordinate or undertake follow-up work on supporting legislation. There was good progress with this work. In June 2019, the Government announced the Cyber Security Law, which came into effect on 22 December 2019, and helps to improve Macao’s ability to prevent and respond to cyber security issues, and better safeguard national security and the safety of Macao.

To better prevent crime and promote community security, the Government has set up the Video Surveillance System in Public Spaces in various districts of Macao. The first three phases, involving 820 cameras, became operational in 2016 and 2018. The fourth phase, involving the installation of 800 cameras focused on secluded locations with potential safety risks, commenced in February 2018, and will be completed in the first quarter of 2020.

After the impact of Typhoon Hato in 2017, the Government took recommendations from the Expert Group of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction and enacted the Civil Protection Fundamental Law. After detailed consultation and discussion, the bill passed its first reading at the Legislative Assembly on 10 June 2019, and entered the second reading. The bill proposes a number of reforms to Macao’s civil protection system, to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

The Government has further optimised the emergency support mechanism, to strengthen our disaster prevention and mitigation abilities, and completed the amendments to departmental contingency plans. The Government has continued improving the functions of various subsystems of the application platform that enables effective overall command during emergencies. At present, there are 17 emergency shelters, and four meeting points and emergency evacuation points.

To alleviate flooding in low-lying areas of the Inner Harbour, work on constructing a rainwater pumping station and box culvert in the northern Inner Harbour has commenced, whilst flap valves have been installed on the existing sluices. Work is underway on constructing sluices in the Inner Harbour, and the first phase of public display and opinion collection has commenced regarding the feasibility study for the master plan.

To ensure the safety of electricity and water supplies, the Government expedited construction of the third Guangdong-Macao electric power transmission channel. Currently, more than 60 percent of the electric cables have been installed. We have also enhanced power substations, to improve electricity supplies in low-lying coastal areas. Macao's fourth water supply pipeline from Zhuhai has commenced operations. We have expedited the construction of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, and commenced work on expanding Ka Ho Reservoir.

The ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028) has been released, and implementation has commenced. This includes 37 binding and anticipated goals, to enhance the contingency management system and the overall capability for implementing contingency measures.

### **Optimising information technology to promote smart living**

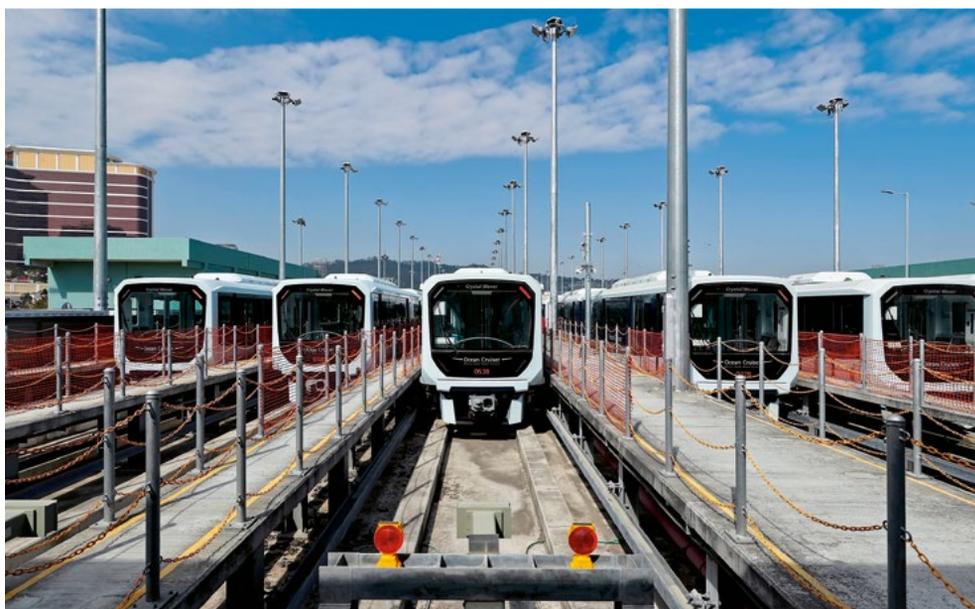
To further improve quality of life and work efficiency, the Government is committed to building a smart city that will benefit the people through the use of big data. In 2019, the Government's cloud computing centre has commenced operations, to provide a solid foundation for developing a safe, stable smart city. To support the development of communications and information technology, the Government facilitated legislation regarding the Convergence of Telecommunication Networks and Services System, and commenced preparations for rolling out a 5G network.

The Government promoted mobile payment for people's convenience in their daily life. In the first three quarters of 2019, the transaction volume of mobile payments greatly increased, to 6.4 times the total transaction volume of 2018. Also, the Government is committed to optimising the development of smart tourism, and improving the accuracy of real-time statistics and forecasts of tourist flows through various technologies, to enhance the effectiveness of tourism management.

We also facilitated smart transport, and integrated advanced software and hardware technologies to enhance transport effectiveness. Regarding medical services, the Government developed the second phase of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System. We are moving towards integration of cloud computing, big data, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT), to develop into a smart city.

### **Consolidating transportation management to establish an accessible city**

The Government is highly concerned regarding optimising the transport experience for residents and visitors, and integrating various approaches to create an effective, efficient and convenient green commuting environment. We strengthened the regulation of bus companies, optimised bus routes and bus stop networks, and enhanced the Bus Travelling System. The amended Legal System Governing Taxi Services came into force in June, and played a significant role in greatly reducing illegal activities involving taxis. We continued increasing the number of taxis, which reached 1,800 by the end of 2019, representing an 84 percent increase compared to 980 taxis in 2010.



To support the commencement of operation of the LRT Taipa line, the Government formulated the Light Rapid Transit System Law and established Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation Limited, thus creating favourable conditions for the operation and development of the LRT system. We will also expedite the construction of LRT A-Ma station and its transport interchange, in preparation for extending the LRT service to the Macao peninsula.

The Government continued improving the walking route environment and expediting the design and construction of various pedestrian systems, including the skyway from Rotunda do Estadio to the LRT Stadium station, which was almost fully completed and will commence operation in tandem with the opening of the LRT.

We implemented the Master Development Plan of Macau International Airport and expedited the airport expansion. A new cross-border passenger flight between Taipa and Humen was launched.

## **Improving environmental protection measures and promoting green development**

The Government deepened green education, advocated green living and promoted public awareness of environmental protection, to achieve harmonious development between mankind and nature.

We implemented the Environmental Protection Plan of Macao (2010-2020), formulated strategies on controlling noise pollution sources, and promoted the use of natural gas and electric vehicles, to effectively control the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions and ensure that PM2.5 concentrations in Macao could meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

We enhanced urban greenery, built green open spaces, strengthened conservation of mangroves, and actively explored the potential for establishing green belts with mangroves.

We have stepped up efforts to reduce waste at source. To minimise the negative effects of plastic bags on the environment, the law on Restrictions on Using Plastic Bags came into effect in 2019. We have also begun planning to establish a centralised food waste processing facility, facilitated the expansion and upgrade of the Macao Central Incineration Centre, commenced optimisation of the Macao Peninsula Sewage Treatment Plant, and commenced a trial operation for regional transfer of scrapped vehicles to mainland China.

## Kou Hoi In Elected New President of the Legislative Assembly



During the second session of the sixth Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2018 to 15 October 2019, a total of 52 plenary meetings and 220 committee meetings were held, with 25 laws, one resolution and 19 simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

During the session, the then president of the Legislative Assembly Mr Ho Iat Seng renounced his roles as member and president of the Legislative Assembly at the plenary meeting on 5 July 2019, in order to run for the election of the fifth-term Chief Executive of the MSAR. A special election was held by the Legislative Assembly on 17 July 2019, in which the members elected Kou Hoi In as the president of the Legislative Assembly. During the plenary meetings held on 30 July and 7 August 2019, Chan Hong and Ho Ion Sang were also elected as the first secretary and second secretary of the Executive Board, respectively. The by-election of the vacant member of the Legislative Assembly was held on 24 November. Elected member Wang Sai Man was sworn in and inaugurated on 16 December.

## Fulfilment of legislative function

In regard to public administration and the judicial area, the Legislative Assembly passed: Law No. 14/2018 on Public Security Police Force, thereby refining the nature, duties and authority of the department to better fulfil the internal security requirements of Macao; Law No. 16/2018 on Adjustment of the Minimum Salary Point of Pension and Gratuity, to demonstrate care for low-income civil servants and their dependents; Law No. 18/2018 on Amendments to General Rules for the Public Administrators of Macao, to clarify the civil service system code, thereby facilitating current department administrative operations and management; and Law No. 4/2019 on Amendments to Law No. 9/1999, the Judicial Organisation Framework Law, thereby optimising the system for trials in court, and modifying the judicial composition and personnel system.

In regard to economic development and transportation, the Legislative Assembly passed: Law No. 12/2019, the Law on Commercial Registration of Vessels, thereby updating and enhancing the system for registering the legal status of vessels, to maintain the safety of both maritime activities and exchange of vessels; Law No. 6/2019, the Legal System Governing Financial Leasing Business and Law No. 7/2019 on the Tax Benefit System for Financial Leasing, thereby delineating relatively relaxed regulatory requirements and tax incentives in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Macao in the financial leasing industry, and foster the development of the financial service industry; Law No. 15/2019 Law on Implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for International Trade in Rough Diamonds, in order to keep in line with the standards of international trade of rough diamonds, thereby promoting economic development oriented to high-end industries; and Law No. 18/2019, the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Law, to specifically regulate the LRT system, thereby meeting the needs of the future operation and management of the LRT.

Regarding housing and environment, the Legislative Assembly passed: Law No. 2/2019 Tax Concession Scheme for Building Redevelopment and Law No. 8/2019 Urban Renewal Temporary Housing and Replacement Housing Legal System, encouraging eligible owners of aged properties to opt for redevelopment with reduced reconstruction costs and eased burdens, while helping to meet the housing needs of real estate owners affected by urban renewal by providing an additional option to renting or buying a residential property; Law No. 17/2019 on the Public Housing Legal System, in order to refine the allocation and leasing systems of public housing so that resources are fairly distributed; and Law No. 9/2019 on Amendments to Law No. 8/2014 on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Noise, and Law No. 16/2019 on Restrictions on the Provision of Plastic – the former adequately relaxes the restrictions on making noise in public areas, according to the practical needs of urban development, and the latter achieves plastic waste reduction at retail level through economic means.

Regarding regulation of industry and responsible gaming, the Legislative Assembly passed: Law No. 3/2019 on the Legal System Governing Light Vehicle Rental, to regulate taxi services, thereby safeguarding the legitimate interests of passengers and drivers; Law No. 5/2019 on the Social Qualification System for Social Workers, to govern the professional accreditation, licensing and disciplinary system of social workers, thereby enhancing the public acceptance and recognition of social workers; and Law No. 17/2018 on Amendments to Law No. 10/2012. Regulations on Entering, Working and Gaming in Casinos, thereby forbidding related workers to enter a casino and gamble during off-duty hours, in order to minimise any negative influence the development

of gaming industry might bring to its practitioners.

Regarding labour and social security, in view of the economic development of Macao, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 11/2019 on Amendments to Law No. 7/2015 on the Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Employees in the Property Management Services, in order to increase the minimum wage of these employees; and Law No. 14/2019 on Consolidation of Financial Resources of the Social Security Fund, in order to ensure sustainability of social security, thereby establishing a regular fund allocation mechanism.

Regarding online security, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 13/2019, the Cyber Security Law, to rule cyber security work by law, thereby preventing and reducing the adverse impact of cyber attacks on society.

In order to implement the Basic Law, the Legislative Assembly passed: Law No. 13/2018 on Amendments to Law No. 3/2004, the Chief Executive Election Law, in order to introduce representatives from members of the city's municipal organs into the Chief Executive Election Committee, whilst making corresponding adjustments to the seat allocation of Sector 4 of the Election Committee; and Law No. 1/2019 on Amendments to Law No. 5/1999, the Law on Use and Protection of the National Flag, National Emblem and National Anthem, thereby ensuring that the related national law can be properly implemented in the Macao SAR.

Lastly, regarding the fulfilment of international duties, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 15/2018 on Abolishment of the Legal System of Offshore Services and Law No. 10/2019 on Amendments to Law No. 17/2009 on Prohibiting the Illegal Production, Trafficking and Consumption of Narcotics and Psychoactive drugs. The former promotes tax transparency and tax fairness by repealing the issuance of offshore business licences, the related system as well as tax incentives for offshore organisations; the latter expands the scope of drug regulation to cover 21 additional substances, thereby keeping up with international anti-drug efforts.

All these laws were proposed by the Government.

## **Fulfilment of supervisory function**

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Legislative Assembly performed its supervisory duties regarding the government budget and public finances. This involved passing Law No. 19/2018 on the 2019 Government Budget, deliberating the Government's Reports on Budget Implementation for 2017 and the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2017, and listening to and discussing the 2019 Policy Addresses delivered by the Chief Executive.

During the legislative session, legislators raised 673 written and 87 oral questions, and called for 10 plenary meetings regarding the oral questions. The legislators gave 296 pre-agenda speeches, covering housing policy, public transport, health and medicine, economy and culture, technological education, public administration and social security.

Moreover, the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs and the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs strived for progress with important issues regarding public administration and the

applicability of related laws, and compiled 13 reports. Lastly, during the session, the legislators visited the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) in Hengqin, and the LRT Depot Operations Command Centre, to better understand the implementation of related government policies and carry out closer monitoring.

Other responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include listening to and fully reflecting different views, suggestions and criticism from the public, and making prompt responses regarding public aspirations. During the session, residents were personally received by legislators over 30 person-times through the roster system for receiving public visitors. The Legislative Assembly also received 116 submissions and recommendations via in-person visits, telephone and email. The Legislative Assembly received 12 petitions from citizens and groups, and handled these appropriately.

## CCAC focuses on combating and preventing corruption, while CA upgrades its audit systems



In 2019, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) fulfilled its duties in accordance with the law, and upheld the principles of emphasising both combating and preventing corruption. Regarding anti-corruption, the CCAC cracked down on corruption in the public and private sectors with determination and pragmatism. As for complaints to the ombudsman, the CCAC stringently monitored the operations of public departments, and the issues of great concern to society, and investigated and made recommendations on administrative infractions or misconduct. The CCAC also actively participated in the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, enhanced the professional ability of staff by participating in international and

regional conferences and trainings, and launched comprehensive integrity education and promotion activities, with the aim of expanding community relations networks and gaining public support in building a corruption-free society.

In 2019, the CCAC received 584 complaints and reports, and 1,089 inquiries of various kinds. By the end of the year, 111 anti-corruption cases and 473 complaints to the Ombudsman were filed. Including cases transferred from 2018, the CCAC concluded 752 cases in 2019, of which, 15 were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office, two were transferred to other departments, and 170 were closed. The Directorate of Ombudsman Services revealed 76 cases of administrative infractions or misconduct, and made recommendations to other Government departments. In all, 489 cases were closed during the year.

In 2019, 319 anonymous complaints and reports were received; 213 of these cases were closed due to failure to obtain essential information for further investigations, as a result of complaints and reports being anonymous.

Regarding promotion and education, the CCAC continued organising various promotional and educational activities for different sectors of society. In 2019, the CCAC organised 458 talks and seminars, which were attended by a total of 27,272 participants. These events mainly targeted civil servants, members of community organisations, private sector employees, young people, and secondary and primary school students.

During 2019, the CCAC held the “Creative and Honest New Generation” Collage and Colouring Contest for Parents and Children, and a roadshow to exhibit the winning works. “Discretion”, a series of teaching materials on integrity education for senior secondary students, was also published.

The two CCAC branch offices, at Areia Preta and Taipa, continued their promotional functions in the community, along with receiving complaints and reports. They received 537 complaints/reports, requests for assistance and simple inquiries during the year.

Regarding external affairs, the CCAC organised delegations for the following visits and events:

- Visiting the Supervisory Commissions of Guangdong Province, Chongqing Municipality and Zhongshan Municipality;
- Visiting the Department of Public Security of Zhejiang Province, and Zhejiang Police College;
- Attending a joint conference in Guangzhou with the Guangdong Supervisory Commission and the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), to discuss the cooperation of building a corruption-free society in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- Attending the 10th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) in Vienna, Austria;
- Attending the 7th ICAC Symposium in Hong Kong;
- Attending the 2nd Istanbul International Ombudsman Conference and the 16th Asian Ombudsman Association General Assembly Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey;

- Joining the national delegation to participate in the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Conference in Vienna, Austria;
- Attending the 5th Singapore Gaming Regulation and Crime Seminar in Singapore; and
- Attending the 22nd Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering Annual Meeting in Canberra, Australia.

Also, the CCAC received delegations from Hong Kong ICAC; Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong; Casino Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Singapore; National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of East Timor; and Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission, to exchange experiences and discuss the direction for developing mutual cooperation.

The CCAC will support the administrative principles of “Unity and Efforts, Change and Innovation” of the fifth Government, and plan the long-term development of corruption-free governance and the internal structure and staffing of the CCAC; strengthen the law-abiding awareness of staff related to the civil service; continue with integrity education for Macao people; explore continuous cooperation and linkage between the CCAC and the Commission of Audit on supervisory work, in order to strictly process and follow up regarding citizens’ complaints about public administrative departments, and prosecute and punish civil servants who violate the law, to maintain and promote government integrity and fairness.



## Audit Reports

In 2019, the Commission of Audit (CA) released two audit reports: the performance report on the System for Recruiting and Selecting Civil Servants, and the Commissioner of Audit’s Report 2018.

The performance report on the System for Recruiting and Selecting Civil Servants evaluated the reforms of the systems for recruiting and selecting public servants that were implemented by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau until October 2018, and made recommendations

based on executing and managing centralised tenders carried out under the 2011 System and the standardised management tenders carried out under the 2016 System.

The Report reviewed the evolution of the system for recruiting and selecting civil servants, and revealed that three systems were implemented from 2011 to 2017 by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), during which the related law was revised once, and the by-law was abolished once and revised once, confusing both recruiting departments and candidates. The problems of time-consuming procedures, wrong allocation of personnel, repeated applications and high costs were still inherent in the systems.

From 2012 to 2014, the System for Recruitment adopted in 2011 involved 5,503,127.90 patacas for recruitment. The System for Recruitment adopted 2016 involved a total of 31,637,009.45 patacas for the recruitments of three ranks of civil servants. The credible recruitment system could not achieve its original efficiency as a result of the improper arrangements, waste of resources and impact on normal operation of the recruiting departments, the formulation and execution of the recruitment system, recruitment costs and efficiency.

## Exchanges and Visits

On 28 March, a delegation headed by the Commissioner of Audit of the National Audit Office, Hu Zejun, visited the Commission of Audit, meeting with the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, and attending a seminar with the CA staff. Ms Hu heard a presentation on the application of database technology in performance audit, and the system renewal plan aligning with the Budget Framework Law. Ms Hu met with more than 80 CA staff, to exchange views on the application of the software system “Auditor Office” (AO System) in Macao, graduates’ sharing of experiences of joining the National Audit Office training, full coverage of the audit and main focuses on mega data of the National Audit Office, the development of the 3rd phase of the Gold Audit Project, and the working requirements for young cadres from the National Audit Office.

In May, members of Instituto Rui Barbosa visited the CA and met with the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, and the president of Instituto Rui Barbosa, Ivan Bonilha, to exchange views on the CA’s development and its promotion of good governance.

From 5 June to 7 June, representing the CA of the Macao SAR, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, attended the 6th Conference of the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries in Praia, capital of Cape Verde, as an observer. Mr Ho exchanged views with delegations from various places, and introduced Macao’s situation in the sharing session.

From 23 September to 28 September, at the invitation of the National Audit Office, Mr Ho attended the 23rd Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INCOSAI) in Moscow as a member of the Chinese delegation, accompanying the Commissioner of Audit of the National Audit Office, Hu Zejun, to meet with the Commissioners of the other countries and exchange views on management and development of audit departments.

On 6 November, Mr Ho led a delegation to Huizhou, Guangdong Province, to attend the 6th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Audit Conference 2019, organised by the Audit Office of Guangdong Province, and exchange views on ways in which audit assists the development of Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area with the leading inspector of the National Audit Office International Cooperation Department (Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office), Zhou Wenhua; the Director of Audit of Hong Kong Audit Commission, John Chu; and the Secretary of the Audit Office of Guangdong Province, Lu Rongchun. The Director of Audit Bureau of the Commission of Audit of Macao (COAOM), Charles Neoh Hwai Beng, presented a paper entitled “A brief discussion on how audit can contribute to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”.

From 21 November to 22 November, at the invitation of Tribunal de Contas de Portugal (Portuguese Court of Audits), Mr Ho led a delegation to Lisbon, to attend the 1st joint seminar of EUROSAI and EUROSAI and a series of activities celebrating the 170th anniversary of Tribunal de Contas de Portugal cum 630th anniversary of Casa dos Contos.

### **Upgrade and Modification of the “AO System”**

With the promulgation and enforcement of the Budget Framework Law, the MSAR implemented a new public accounting system, and the CA updated the Order of Commissioner of Audit in accordance with the new system, to effectively collect audited accounts and financial information. Since the original audit system could not meet the requirements of audit under the Budget Framework Law, the CA and the Computer Technology Centre of the National Audit Office signed a memorandum of cooperation to meet the developmental needs, fully authorising the centre to supervise the upgrade and modification of the “Auditor Office” software system (AO System). The work commenced in accordance with the plan.

In response to the new public accounting system, and to support e-governance, which is an administrative principle of the MSAR, the CA created computer-aided tools for various Government departments.

### **Staff Training**

To enhance auditors’ professional knowledge, in 2019, the CA organised the Training Course on Theory and Practice of Engineering Management with the Macau Society of Registered Auditors; the Advanced Course in Administrative Procedures, the Introduction Course to Obtain Goods and Provision of Labour Services, the Introduction Course to Public Finance Management System and the Advanced Course to Public Finance Management System with the Legal and Judicial Training Centre; and sent auditors to Nanjing to attend the Intermediate Training Course in Computer Audit organised by the National Audit Office, updating their audit knowledge and hence improving their auditing.

### **Promotion and Publicity**

Regarding promotion and publicity, the CA continued organising talks on auditing culture, to promote efficient utilisation of public money, for cadets of the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces attending promotion courses, new government recruits, community organisations and public departments. During the year, 31 talks were held, and were attended by a total of around 920 participants.

## Courts upholding fair judiciary and Public Prosecutors safeguarding the rule of law



### Numbers of cases admitted by the three-tier court system

2019	Court of Final Appeal	Court of Appeal	Base Court (including the Examining Magistracy)	Administrative Court	Total
Cases admitted	144	1,362	20,547	222	22,275
Cases concluded	172	1,491	20,720	206	22,589
Cases pending	48	596	12,384	119	13,147

The majority of the cases in the three-tier court system were criminal cases and criminal labour cases, which totalled 7,438 (excluding Examining Magistracy cases). Ranking second were civil and labour cases, which totalled 4,665. There were also 460 administrative cases, and 9,712 other cases.

### Law promotion and legal consulting services

To strengthen the promotion of the law and foster transparency of the judicial system, starting from 9 October 2013, the court issues press releases about typical concluded cases, and publishes them on the websites of the court and the Government Information Bureau. Various media may republish and report on these cases, which can hopefully promote legal awareness and law abidance

in society, and inform the public regarding the judicial approaches and methods for settling various disputes. As at the end of 2019, an accumulated total of 645 articles had been released, 90 of which were released in 2019.

Summary of consulting services provided by the Base Court in 2019:

2019	Criminal Courts	Civil Courts	Small Claims Court	Total
Total number of inquiries	2,284	4,487	1,695	8,466
Number of cases	2,475	4,163	1,695	8,333
Number of cases directly handled by the information centre	2,402	3,790	1,695	7,887
Number of cases transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office	68	319	-	387
Number of cases transferred to other departments	5	54	-	59
Number of telephone inquiries	527	836	-	1,363

## Legal assistance and enforcement

Regarding delivery of judicial writs and assistance in investigations and evidence collection in civil and commercial cases, in 2019 the Court of Final Appeal received 170 judicial writs from mainland China courts, and delivered 61 judicial writs to mainland China courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

In 2019, the Court of Appeal received 23 requests for reviewing and endorsing judgments made by mainland China courts or arbiters; four judgments endorsed by the Court of Appeal were sent to the Base Court for enforcement.

## Declarations of assets and interests

In 2019, the Court of Final Appeal followed the stipulations in Law No.11/2003, which had been amended according to Law No.1/2013, in the process of receiving individuals for the declaration of assets and interests. It opened 177 individual dossiers, received 1,970 documents for the declaration of assets and interests that involved 1,676 people, and sorted and updated the contents of the individual dossiers according to the law.

According to the stipulations in the aforementioned Law No. 11/2003, the Office of the Court of Final Appeal has uploaded Part IV of the disclosure document of asset declaration to the website of the Courts of the Macao SAR, ensuring it is available in the public domain as required by law. In 2019, the disclosure documents (Part IV) of 366 individual dossiers involving 276 people were published online. There are a total of 3,122 accumulated disclosure documents, involving 749 people.

## Summary of the work by and outlook for the MSAR courts

Mr. Sam Hou-fai, the President of the Court of Final Appeal, delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Judicial Year 2019/2020, giving a comprehensive summary of the work of the courts of the Macao SAR throughout the past 20 years following Macao's return to the motherland, as follows:

1. Ensuring normal and efficient functioning of the new judicial system - During the initial period after the Handover, apart from guaranteeing the independent and normal functioning of the judicial bodies, the judicial system also ensured a smooth transition in the judiciary. Moreover, the Government persisted in reforms and innovations, and providing timely responses to cope with the challenges posed by rapid social development.
2. Strictly fulfilling the constitutional responsibilities conferred by the Basic Law - The three tiers of courts of the Macao SAR have admitted a large number of cases related to the interpretation and application of the Basic Law, dealing with issues concerning the fundamental rights of Macao residents, land, permanent resident status, residence permits, housing allowances, the principle of equality, grading the effectiveness of International Conventions in Macao, and the implications of by-laws and the law-making power of the Chief Executive. In particular, the issue concerning the legality of the "by-laws", which affects the effective functioning of the political system, was fundamentally resolved.
3. Promoting judicial reform and enhancing judicial efficiency - The numbers of judges and judicial clerks were increased, to alleviate the manpower shortage in the courts; also, judicial reform was promoted, to increase judicial efficiency.
4. Safeguarding judicial independence and upholding a fair judiciary.
5. Strengthening communication with the public and promoting judicial transparency - Constant and extensive use of Chinese in judicial activities, setting up information counters for courts, launching court websites, and promptly publishing important judgments are platforms for the public to better understand the law and the courts, as well as to assist parties involved in litigations.
6. Consolidating judicial cooperation and promoting judicial exchanges. Judicial exchanges can mainly be driven on two levels. At the international level, communications with the judicial bodies of Portuguese-speaking countries and regions, as well as those of Asia-Pacific countries, have been consolidated. At the regional level, exchanges between the judicial bodies of the four cross-strait regions are crucial. Above all, taking part in exchanges with mainland China and related training courses have strengthened the judges and judicial clerks' understanding of China's historical, cultural and national situation, and increased their knowledge of the Constitution and the Basic Law. In terms of judicial cooperation, the courts participated in promoting various negotiations on judicial matters and judicial cooperation between the MSAR Government and other countries or regions. The courts had effectively implemented the agreements and arrangements that were already in force.

President Sam Hou-fai suggested that concerted efforts are required, to further improve the following aspects of the judiciary:

1. Improve the legislative framework and enhance judicial efficiency through the following measures:
  - Seek a breakthrough in judicial efficiency by reforming the litigation system;
  - Establish a diverse dispute resolution mechanism, to address the issue of disputes in Macao being usually resolved through a single channel;
  - Resolve contradictions between the drastic increase in legal proceedings and limited judicial resources, particularly by developing a mediation system other than arbitration through legislation, which suits the actual situation in Macao; and
  - Investigate the possibility of transferring some of the cases admitted by the courts to other departments, to reduce the burden on the courts.
2. Make progress in external judicial cooperation:
  - Strengthen judicial cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries;
  - Enhance judicial cooperation with countries along the “Belt and Road”, particularly Southeast Asian nations;
  - Enhance judicial cooperation in criminal matters with countries whose nationals commit most crimes in Macao; and
  - Resolve legal conflicts and overcome legal obstacles encountered in the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area through innovation.
3. Improve court facilities and address the longstanding shortage of office space in the judiciary.



The operations of the MSAR's Public Prosecutions Office in 2019 are summarised as follows:

1. Fulfilled duties according to the law, and combated crimes. Maintained fairness, justice and public order to uphold the rule of law;
2. Strictly safeguarded national land resources in the Macao SAR, and the public interest; protected the legitimate rights of workers and other legal entities, in accordance with the principle of legality;
3. Provided professional opinions on the MSAR's legislation and law amendments, and regional and international judicial assistance agreements from the perspective of prosecutorial functions of the procuratorate, according to the rule of law;
4. Provided professional opinions to cross-departmental working committees from the perspective of prosecutorial functions of the procuratorate, in accordance with the law;
5. Strengthened the technical and administrative support of the Office of the Public Prosecutor-General, and judicial work of the Public Prosecutions Office; and
6. Strengthened the Public Prosecutions Office's information technology infrastructure for case management, thus deploying scientific means for improving the efficiency of prosecutions and convenience in judicial matters.

In 2019, the number of criminal cases initiated by the Public Prosecutions Office was 14,923, 3.5 percent more than the 14,418 cases in 2018. The number of cases concluded by the Examining Magistracy was 15,444, representing an increase of 6.86 percent; the number of prosecutions was 4,128, 3.19 percent less than the cases in 2018; the number of cases filed was 10,982, representing an increase of 10.86 percent; and the number of cases reopened due to discovery of new evidence was 246, representing a decrease of 6.46 percent.

Based on the above statistics, the case conclusion rate of the Examining Magistracy was 6.86 percent higher in 2019 than during the previous year. This reflects the fact that the magistracy had stepped up efforts to admit new cases and clear old cases.

The statistics indicate a 3.19 percent decrease in the number of prosecuted cases, and an increase of 10.86 percent in the number of filed cases. An analysis of the data reveals that the three major reasons for cases being filed were failure to identify offenders after investigations, victims of reported non-public crimes no longer wishing to hold the purported offenders accountable, and insufficient criminal evidence. Hence, it was not possible for legal proceedings to continue for the cases that were filed.

In 2019, the top five types of crimes with high numbers of investigations were:

1. 5,027 theft, robbery and property damage cases (up 1.8 percent year on year);
2. 1,824 fraud and extortion cases (up 23.01 percent year on year);
3. 1,456 offences involving physical assault (down 6.61 percent year on year);
4. 1,126 crimes related to traffic accidents (down 2.34 percent year on year); and
5. 1,022 illegal immigration and immigration-related crimes (up 11.69 percent year on year).

In addition, the Public Prosecutions Office initiated relatively high numbers of investigations of the following crimes:

- 853 cases of illegal gambling and related crimes (up 4.41 percent year-on-year);
- 529 cases of forgery (up 3.93 percent year-on-year);
- 383 cases of crimes against personal freedom (up 16.06 percent year-on-year);
- 306 crimes against public authority (down 22.53 percent year-on-year); and
- 292 computer crimes (down 17.05 percent year-on-year).

During the year, the Public Prosecutions Office initiated investigations of 48 money laundering cases, four percent less than 50 such investigations in 2018; and 209 investigations of drug-related crimes, 10 percent more than 190 such investigations in 2018. These figures revealed success in prevention of money laundering in 2019. However, there was an increase in the number of drug-related crimes. In recent years, especially, foreign criminal syndicates have manipulated teenagers and people with financial difficulties, so they have committed drug trafficking in Macao. The upward trend requires attention.

Each year since 2015, the Public Prosecutions Office has referred an average of over 4,000 prosecutions to the Base Court. In 2019, among the ongoing criminal case trials and executing cases, the judicial officers of the criminal division of the Public Prosecutions Office admitted 74 judicial appeals lodged upon the first instance, and 440 replies to appeals.

The judicial officers of the Civil Labour Division of the Public Prosecutions Office also handled litigation regarding civil cases and civil labour cases, and carried out pre-litigation procedures for specific cases according to the law, to fulfil the responsibility of upholding and monitoring the impartiality of the judiciary.

When processing labour cases, in order to promptly protect the rights of the relatively disadvantaged working class to the greatest extent, the Public Prosecutions Office aimed to first pursue mediation to resolve disputes for civil labour cases, in accordance with the Labour Procedure Code; in 2019, the Public Prosecutions Office was involved in 618 cases in the Labour Court, as follows:

- 408 newly initiated cases involving labour accidents and occupational diseases; 396 cases were successfully mediated, and 39 cases required litigation due to failure to agree on mediation; and
- 210 ordinary labour litigation cases were newly initiated; 215 cases were successfully mediated, while further litigation was required for four cases.

During 2019, 611 workers were involved in the successful mediation procedures conducted by the Public Prosecutions Office, and 43 workers were involved in the cases initiated following failure to achieve mediation.

In addition, to protect the interests of minors and disadvantaged groups and the public interest, the Public Prosecutions Office admitted civil cases involving minors, missing persons and incapacitated persons. In 2019, the office investigated 53 maternity or paternity cases, and initiated

117 court actions for minors (16.42 percent less than the 140 such actions in 2018); and processed 618 proceedings concerning interdiction, disqualification, custody, litigation fees, bankruptcy, mandatory property inventories and settlement of unpaid taxes on behalf of the Finance Services Bureau (representing an increase of 9.57 percent over 564 proceedings in 2018 ).

Also, the Civil Labour Division of the Public Prosecutions Office initiated 1,267 civil and labour pre-suit cases (administrative cases) in 2019, 2.34 percent more than the figure of 1,238 cases in 2018, prior to commencing civil and labour legal proceedings.

During the year, the Public Prosecutions Office also followed up 234 cases of claims involving land concessions forfeited by the Government, 444.19 percent more than the figure of 43 cases in 2018.

In 2019, the Office of the Administrative Court at the Public Prosecutions Office received 95 judicial appeals, 13 litigation cases and 15 cases involving urgent procedures. Meanwhile, the Public Prosecutions Office participated in 99 litigation procedures and completed 559 pleadings.

The Office of the Administrative Court at the Public Prosecutions Office followed up 81 cases of claims involving land concessions forfeited by the Government, compared to only one claim in 2018. The office also processed three cases involving claims related to public projects undertaken by the Government.

In 2019, the Public Prosecutions Office before the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal participated in 1,395 criminal, civil and administrative proceedings of the Court of Appeal, in the Court of Appeal. They issued 1,446 opinions on appeals and replies to appeals, handled 158 cases of the Court of Final Appeal, and issued 107 opinions on appeals and replies to appeals.

The Public Prosecutions Office before the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal processed 107 cases related to land concessions, issued 101 opinions on appeals, processed 23 cases related to public projects, and issued 24 opinions on appeals.