

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

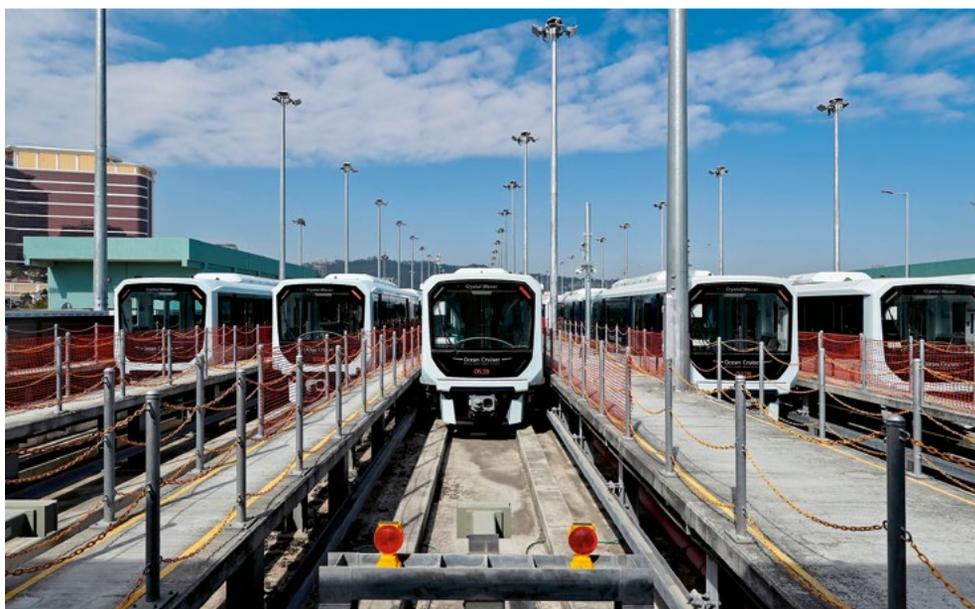
To further improve quality of life and work efficiency, the Government is committed to building a smart city that will benefit the people through the use of big data. In 2019, the Government's cloud computing centre has commenced operations, to provide a solid foundation for developing a safe, stable 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.