

# Strengthening the foundation for consolidation Tackling challenges head on

## Overall Direction of Administrative Policies and Policy Highlights for 2021 of the Macao Special Administrative Region

The world today is encountering profound changes unseen in a century. The global COVID-19 pandemic accelerated these changes. The global economic downturn and sharp drop in international trade and investment have plunged the world into turbulence. The major strategic achievements in China's anti-pandemic work and the long-term upward trend in its economy have created a new development pattern, with the country's overall economic cycle mutually enhanced by the dual domestic-international economic cycle. This year marks the commencement of the country's 14th Five Year Plan, bringing abundant opportunities for the development of Macao.

In 2021, facing the new situation and tasks, we strictly adhere to the principles of "One country, two systems", "Macao people governing Macao" and a high degree of autonomy, uphold the authority of the constitution and the Basic Law, and safeguard the comprehensive jurisdiction of the Central People's Government over Macao, to promote development of the Macao SAR.

On one hand, we continue paying close attention to developments with the pandemic, and make unremitting efforts to prevent its recurrence and stay alert to all potential risks. On the other hand, we converge strengths from all walks of life, strengthen the foundation for consolidation, support merchants and improve people's well-being, tackle challenges head on, revitalise the economy, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), protect local residents' employment, stabilise people's livelihoods, expedite the recovery of economic and social development, promote adequate economic diversification, facilitate public administration reform, actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and participate in the overall national development, to strive to explore new horizons for the development of the Macao SAR.

### Overall Direction and Major Tasks of the Government for 2021

Facing the complex and volatile situation regarding development and major issues, we take a pragmatic approach to coordinating anti-pandemic and socio-economic development work. The overall directions of administrative policies for 2021 comprise: pandemic prevention and control; revitalising the economy; caring for people's livelihoods; promoting economic diversification; facilitating reform; and innovative development. According to the overall direction of administrative policies, the Government's major tasks of 2021 are:

- **Effectively prevent and control the pandemic** – we are safeguarding against and containing the pandemic, to ensure residents’ health and safety, and creating preconditions for restoring economic and social order and development;

- **Expedite economic recovery** – the Government is implementing an aggressive fiscal policy, supporting SMEs, and launching policies and measures to revitalise the economy in accordance with the prevailing situation;

- **Continue optimising work for people’s well-being** – improving people’s livelihoods has always been the focus of the MSAR Government. The Government expedites solving issues of public concern, such as employment, housing, transport, healthcare and education, and strives to provide a favourable and comfortable living environment to enhance people’s sense of satisfaction and happiness;

- **Promote sustainable, adequate economic diversification** – we are maintaining the balance between the recovery and stable development of mainstream industries and promotion of adequate economic diversification. The recovery of mainstream industries is an important task for Macao’s economic recovery, but we must not return to the old development path of over-reliance on gaming tourism while expediting economic recovery. We must promote adequate economic diversification and sustainability;

- **Expedite public administration reform** – public administration reform aims to build a modern, service-oriented Government, to strengthen the service consciousness of civil servants and enhance public administration quality and efficiency. We strengthen civil servant training, nurture and select outstanding talents and provide civil servants with more opportunities for promotion and professional development;

- **Develop cultural education** – we promote Macao’s multicultural character, and encourage the cultural industry to explore the positioning and development direction of establishing Macao as a base for international multi-cultural exchanges and cooperation. We also raise the standards of education in Macao and cultivate a variety of talented people;

- **Safeguard national security and social stability** – the Government reinforces patriotic education, strengthens national awareness and patriotism, maintains social unity, persists in our inclusiveness, and consolidates and passes on our core value of our love for the country and for Macao; and

- **Deepen regional cooperation** – we proactively align with the country’s 14th Five Year Plan, actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the “Belt and Road” initiative, and facilitate the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to integrate into the overall national development plan.

Apart from the above-mentioned overall direction and major tasks, we established ten administrative priorities for this year’s policy address.

## Policy Highlights for 2021

### (1) Normalise pandemic prevention and control

The Government persists with the pandemic prevention strategy of “preventing imported cases and a rebound of the pandemic in Macao”, and normalises pandemic prevention and control through health quarantine at border checkpoints, disease prevention and control, diagnoses and treatments, and community-based prevention. While consolidating the anti-pandemic achievements, we further optimise the epidemic prevention and control mechanism and the major public health response mechanism; block any loopholes; avoid hidden risks; closely monitor the pandemic situation; make good use of digital epidemic prevention technology; continue improving capabilities for prevention, treatment, testing and coordination; ensure sufficient quarantine facilities, medicine and logistics resources; propose a plan for setting up a mobile modular hospital; strengthen the cultivation of healthcare professionals and structure of anti-epidemic teams; strengthen frontline work such as clinical work, healthcare and border checkpoints; learn from experiences of other countries; and establish a region- and risk-specific epidemic prevention management system, to continuously enhance the capabilities for epidemic prevention and control.

We reinforce regional joint prevention and control, especially coordination and collaboration with Greater Bay Area cities and other mainland China regions; plan and construct a sanitation and quarantine station at the Qingmau checkpoint; enhance the entry-exit health quarantine mechanism; strengthen inspection of refrigerated and frozen food to help prevent the novel coronavirus from entering Macao; enhance food safety; prevent the spread of infections; and facilitate vaccine procurement. The vaccines have arrived Macao and we are arranging vaccination services for the public in an orderly manner.

### (2) Expedite economic recovery and revitalisation

With the new development pattern, in which the country’s overall economic cycle is mutually enhanced by the dual domestic-international economic cycle, Macao is situated at the intersection of the two domestic and international cycles, bringing us not only opportunities and advantages, but also missions and responsibilities. We fully leverage Macao’s roles, positioning and our unique advantages, to actively participate in the country’s dual economic cycle. We expedite connecting with markets in mainland China, facilitate convenient flows of people, goods and funds, integrate into the country’s domestic cycle, and leverage Macao’s functions as a bi-directional service platform in the international cycle. We continue strengthening Macao’s functions in the country’s overall economic cycle and the dual domestic-international economic cycle, to contribute to the country’s opening up and high-quality national development while promoting our own economic recovery.

We utilise the leading role of the integrated tourism industry as the pillar for expediting the development of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre. During the new normal with the pandemic, we adjust the tourism master plan to strengthen Macao’s positioning as a regional and international tourist city; extend the tourism industrial chain to boost the development of other

industries including hotels, food and beverage, retail and entertainment; foster synergy between tourism and related industries and deepen crossover of the tourism industry with convention and exhibition, cultural and creative, and Chinese medicine industries; foster the development of smart tourism and quality tourism; encourage the industry to launch more distinctive tourism products; emphasise the healthy image of Macao as a safe city for travel; and expedite the recovery of the tourism industry after the pandemic has stabilised, to boost Macao's overall economic recovery.

To adequately increase public investment, we are increasing investments in infrastructure, to boost investment demand. Based on the aggregate opinions of public consultations, we are considering implementing the construction of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line, focusing on the implementation of transport infrastructure such as the LRT Hengqin Port Connection and the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour route, implementing the expansion of Macau International Airport, and remodelling part of Taipa Ferry Terminal into the second airport passenger terminal; commencing construction of roads and infrastructure in New Urban Zone Area A; and commencing tender procedures for the Government archives project on lot O4 of Pac On Industrial Zone, and the Government offices on lots 12 and 25 of the Outer Harbour new reclamation area. We are expediting these construction projects, to solve the problem of the Government's long-term lease of commercial office buildings.

To improve the business environment, we expedite the review and revision of outdated laws and regulations which hinder economic development. We implement administration reform regarding the one-stop application for licences, and further optimise one-stop investment services. We intensify solicitation of investments, broaden channels for foreign investment to enhance its effectiveness, and introduce projects that facilitate Macao's adequate economic diversification.

To promote stable and healthy development of the gaming industry, we improve gaming legislation, commence preparatory and preliminary work for the new gaming concessions; urge gaming operators to operate in accordance with the law; and continue promoting responsible gaming, and combat illegal gaming.

### **(3) Promote adequate economic diversification**

Based on Macao's development positioning of "One Centre, One Platform, One Base", we fully leverage Macao's unique status and advantages. While strengthening and enhancing the traditional tourism and leisure industry, we actively cultivate nascent industries, promote industrial upgrading and transformation, strive to establish a diverse and competitive industrial structure that dovetails with Macao's actual situation, strengthen the momentum for development and resilience of Macao's economy, enhance competitiveness, and achieve success in adequate economic diversification and sustainable development.

To facilitate repositioning of industrial development, we help enterprises to improve the quality of goods and services, facilitate upgrading of traditional industries, encourage the development of "Made in Macao" products and services; promote industrial transformation and innovation to broaden the scope of development, effectively implement an incentive scheme to encourage business upgrading and development, encourage enterprises' investment projects through bank

loans or financial leasing for upgrades and transformation, promote the development of enterprises to high-end and high value-added industries, and encourage Macao enterprises to develop Macao-branded products and services in Hengqin.

We expedite the development of a modern financial services industry; review and perfect financial laws and regulations, strengthen development of financial software and hardware infrastructure; expedite the establishment of a bond market, develop wealth management services, and expedite the construction of a stock market using Renminbi for settlement, to promote diverse financial services development.

To promote industrialisation of traditional Chinese medicine, we expedite legislation regarding the registration and supervision system for Chinese patent medicine; and enable more Chinese medicine products to be registered in Macao, and processed in Macao and Hengqin, and offered for sale in the Greater Bay Area and, in time, other regions. We leverage the functions of the State Key Laboratory for Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, to support branded pharmaceutical companies with establishing a Chinese medicine base in Macao; comprehensively reform and adjust the positioning and development model of Macau Investment and Development Limited, revitalise its investment projects to improve efficiency, and screen and merge its subsidiaries, to fully leverage the functions of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) as a platform; promote the development and transformation of production based on the achievements in Chinese medical and scientific research in Macao and Hengqin; and explore international markets for Chinese medicine products and services.

To facilitate professional and market-oriented development of the convention and exhibition industry, we attract more large-scale, high quality international conventions and exhibitions to Macao, arrange for enterprises to participate in online-to-offline overseas conventions and exhibitions, to promote the synergy between the convention and exhibition industry and other industries; and launch international exhibition certification and vocational training courses, to enhance the competitiveness of the convention and exhibition industry.

To foster cross-border e-commerce businesses, we introduce renowned overseas e-commerce operators; continue enhancing and implementing incentive measures; assist in enterprise transformation and upgrades; strengthen online marketing capabilities; support organisation of e-commerce, including cross-border e-commerce activities; facilitate Chinese-Portuguese e-commerce, to in turn facilitate trade development; and support young people with exploring the e-commerce market, and develop online products and business models, thus supporting youth entrepreneurship and innovation.

To promote cultural and sport industrialisation, we foster economic development regarding cultural experiences, to facilitate the integration of cultural creativity and technological innovation; foster development of the film and television industry, to enhance the quality and quantity of local film and television productions; create branded cultural events to establish a promotion and marketing platform for the cultural creative industry; promote the diversified development of sports and tourism, while developing the sports industry, encourage organising international sports competitions and branded events, to gradually develop the sports industry chain; and encourage and support gaming operators to organise diverse cultural and sports activities.

To enhance support for SMEs, we optimise services for SMEs; effectively implement various assistance schemes to support SMEs with solving human resources and financial problems; strive to reduce the financing costs SMEs incur from banks; promote innovative development of SMEs; raise management standards and quality of services and products of Macao enterprises; support e-commerce development by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; expedite popularising mobile payments; establish an SME risk fund to support the business sector; and develop a community-based economy, to create a favourable environment for SMEs.

We actively participate in the establishment of an international innovation and technology hub in the Greater Bay Area; perfect technological innovation mechanisms and systems; facilitate integration of the industrial, academic and research and development sectors; and strengthen the technological functions of the Economic Services Bureau, so it can assist in enterprise technological innovation.

We leverage the functions of the task force of the Tertiary Education Council on industrialisation based on research results, to integrate research strength in tertiary institutions and State Key Laboratories; introduce quality research resources; facilitate integration of the industrial, academic and research and development sectors and transformation of research results, to foster industrialisation based on the achievements in scientific research; make the best possible use of the State Key Laboratories in Macao, to develop applied hi-tech industries; promote integrated development of technological innovation with tourism, finance, conventions and exhibitions, and cultural and creative industries, to inject driving forces into development; develop a digital economy and a “Digital Macao”, deploy short-, medium- and long-term plans for establishing a smart community; and expedite 5G applications and promote digitisation of public services.

#### **(4) Continue optimising work for people’s well-being**

We continue optimising work to benefit people’s well-being. The Government’s austerity measures do not affect welfare and livelihood expenditures, especially the basic livelihoods and welfare of disadvantaged groups. We continue implementing existing basic beneficial measures, including the Wealth Partaking Scheme, personal income tax deduction, waiver of real estate stamp duty for residential properties owned by residents, water and electricity fee subsidies, health care vouchers and financial assistance to disadvantaged families registered with the Social Welfare Bureau. Based on the pandemic and economic situation, the Government makes adequate adjustments to or suspends the temporary financial relief measures.

Employment is fundamental to maintaining basic livelihoods. We safeguard prioritised employment for local citizens to maintain a low unemployment rate; continue monitoring the labour market, facilitate job matching; provide residents with more job and promotion opportunities; optimise the imported worker management mechanism; strictly implement the entry and exit mechanism for imported workers; adjust the number of non-local employees on a timely basis, according to the pandemic and economic situation; strengthen supervision of non-resident workers and combat illegal employment; based on the development direction of adequate economic diversification, strengthen occupational and vocational training, to improve workers’ skills and

qualities; assist residents affected by the pandemic with re-entering the job market; expand the target groups for on-the-job paid training programmes; provide retraining to workers affected by the pandemic to strengthen their capability to change jobs; and continue enhancing occupational health and safety.

To ensure the basic living conditions of local residents and orderly implementation of the housing ladder policy, we expedite construction of public housing; establish the mechanism for applying for public housing on a regular basis; amend the supplementary regulations of the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law; and commence the Home-Ownership Scheme housing projects in the New Urban Zone Area A. The tender process for the second round of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing will be conducted in 2021, with the number of housing units no less than the number of housing units that were under construction in 2020. We are commencing the process for detailed assessment of the applications for the first batch of 3,011 Home Ownership Scheme housing units; commencing drafting the law on the Housing Plan for the Sandwich Class based on a public consultation; expediting the design and construction of the housing project for senior citizens at Lot P of Areia Preta based on public opinion; preparing a plan for the provision of smart elderly services; expedite the Venceslau de Morais and Toi San public housing projects; and completing the Mong Ha public housing project.

We improve medical and health care facilities and systems; enhance public healthcare standards; mitigate medical and healthcare issues; enhance community health care services and specialist medical services, catering for the needs of particular groups; facilitate smart healthcare development; strengthen cooperation with medical and health care services in mainland China, expedite cultivation of local healthcare workers; and facilitate the construction of the Islands District Medical Complex and the Public Health Specialist Building.

We launch policies and measures in response to the ageing population; progressively implement measures in the Ten-year Action Plan for the Elderly Services; strengthen the timely support carers of elderly persons by evaluating the effectiveness of respite services; continue reviewing and publicising the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme; and expand outreach specialist medical services to more homes for the elderly, to provide strong protection for senior citizens' health.

We strengthen labour rights protection, commence legislative procedures regarding the Union Law, and conduct a related public consultation; fully leverage the functions of the Standing Council on Social Concerted Action, to promote harmonious labour relations; progressively develop a sustainable social security system with comprehensive coverage, and encourage public participation in the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System.

We protect the rights of women and children, facilitate the implementation of family-friendly policies, and fully realise the short-term measures regarding the development goals of women in Macao.

We protect consumer rights, ensure stable supplies and pricing of basic commodities; proceed with legislation regarding the public wet market management system; strictly follow the Consumer Rights Protection Law; combat price hikes, maintain market order on a level playing field; and create a trustworthy market environment.

## (5) Continue optimising work for people's well-being

Based on our aim to build a modern, corruption-free, just and highly efficient service-oriented Government for the convenience of the public and businesses, we continue expediting reform of public administration and the legal system, continue improving governance of the Macao SAR; promote e-governance as an entry point for public administration reform, facilitate development of digital government, to enhance administrative effectiveness; continue to implement functional restructuring of public departments, review the functions and related legal system regulating public funds, and enhance the management system, to ensure effective use of public funds.

In 2021, we are amending the laws and regulations related to the mechanism for delegating authority. We also streamline administration and delegate power; review the current system for deploying civil servants; improve the ranking systems; facilitate internal transfers, and implement management of government human resources, to enhance governance capacity; enhance the mechanism for nurturing management talents in public administration; continue organising systematic civil servant training; and enhance the professional competence and management of civil servants, especially young counterparts, to cultivate talents who can become leaders and supervisors.

We implement data governance and sharing, expand the scope and functions of the One-stop Public Services Account; optimise the official communication, document and file management systems; and digitise management and movement of documents, to enhance the standard of electronic public services.

We strengthen legislation related to economic and social development and pressing issues regarding people's livelihoods, while facilitating the legislative processes regarding the Trust Law and amendments to the Financial System Act; formulating the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal; amending the Gaming Industry Regulatory Framework; amending Decree-Law No. 122/84/M; improving the systems for public works expenditure, and goods and services procurement; and formulating the Legal System on Immigration Control, Authorisation to Stay and Residence Permits in the Macao SAR, and the General System for Dangerous Goods Control and Supervision.

We optimise the legal system for corporations with public capital; strengthen the restructuring and auditing work of public corporations in which the Government is the major shareholder; discover problems, take corrective actions and ensure accountability in accordance with the law; strengthen supervision of autonomous funds; and reform the funding approval systems and system for disclosure of information of Macao Foundation as well as other autonomous funds.

We deepen legal and judicial cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; jointly establish a mechanism for coordinating public legal services between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao; and strengthen cooperation in notary services between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, to realise electronic cross-border registration by trading companies in the Greater Bay Area.

We respect and safeguard judicial independence, support the establishment of software and hardware of the judiciary, and align with the judiciary's electronic governance work.

We continue reinforcing corruption-free governance; further enhance the mechanism for public monitoring of Government departments; facilitate cross-departmental collaboration in handling



complaints to the ombudsman; combat corruption and bribery in the public and private sectors; persist in resolute investigations and demand for accountability, with zero tolerance of impropriety; strengthen auditing and supervision; expedite the implementation of existing policies; expand the breadth and depth of auditing and supervision; and encourage public departments to optimise the use of public funds, to avoid wastage of public resources, improve performance and enhance transparency.

## **(6) Develop Macao through cultivating and importing talented people**

Talented people are our fundamental resources. While strengthening the cultivation of local talents, we implement more open and scientific policies to attract talented people, and step up efforts to cultivate and import talents to meet the needs of Macao's adequate economic diversification and social development.

Adhering to the principles of “letting Macao thrive through education” and “building Macao with talented people”, we promote talent cultivation and youth education; formulate the Medium-to-Long Term Plan for Non-tertiary Education (2021-2030) and the Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030); progressively facilitate related plans and policies; strengthen teacher training, and continue enhancing teaching quality. Apart from continuing to support the development of non-tertiary education, we strengthen the management of public expenditure on education, to ensure rational and effective use of public funds.

To enhance the quality of tertiary education, we implement the outline plan for medium-to-long-term development of tertiary education, and increase short- and medium-term enrolment of tertiary educational institutions, to promote sustainable development of tertiary education; support institutions with fostering scientific research and development through external cooperation; establish an innovative model for cooperation between the industrial, academic and research and development sectors; establish joint laboratories; and pragmatically facilitate industrialisation based on research results of tertiary institutions and establishment of the University Industrial Park.

We make use of tertiary institutions' experiences and advantages in tourism education and Portuguese language education; and further leverage Macao's functions as a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area tourism education and training base and a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese, to step up efforts in cultivating tourism professionals and professionals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese.

To leverage Macao's function as a patriotic education base for young people, we integrate resources of the community, history and patriotic education, further enhance patriotic education, and foster patriotism of students and young people, to boost their national pride and sense of responsibility.

We develop an innovative mechanism and policies on talent development, to create a more attractive and open environment for talent development; formulate the overall strategy on talent development and the laws and regulations related to importing talented people; launch policies to attract overseas talents to return to Macao; commence a new round of talent importation; and establish an impartial and transparent grading system and mechanism for talent assessment.

To strengthen youth development, we support youth entrepreneurship and innovative development, to create favourable conditions for the growth of young people. We enable young people to learn, work, exchange ideas and knowledge, and live in mainland China, to participate in the overall national development.

## **(7) Promote the development of a smart and liveable city**

We make use of big data and cloud computing to foster smart city development, promote modernisation of the urban governance system and governance capacity; and expedite the development of technology infrastructure such as 5G network and big data centre, to create a favourable environment for developing a digital economy and realising smart governance, smart tourism, smart border crossing, smart transport and smart healthcare.

We will announce Macao's Urban Master Plan (2020-2040) in 2021, and commence detailed planning for all functional zones; draft planning conditions for land lots in New Urban Zone Area A; and commence tender procedures for planning the designs and constructing Home-Ownership Scheme housing, public housing and infrastructure including roads. We also implement urban renewal work in an orderly manner, and expedite the legislative process for the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal.

We implement a development strategy that integrates land, sea and air transport, and strengthen construction of transportation infrastructure facilities. To improve cross-harbour traffic between Macao and Taipa, we are commencing construction of the road networks surrounding the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour route in phases, as well as study the construction and follow up work of the fifth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour route.

We are commencing the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030). Also, we monitor the two bus companies in accordance with the new bus concession contracts; optimise the bus network by reorganising and merging certain bus routes, and implement a "Public Transport First" policy. As a result of the pandemic, the 100 special taxis originally scheduled to commence service in 2020 will commence service in August 2021. We strengthen inspections and regulation of public car parks; and develop accessible and convenient walkways, to encourage green commuting.

We summarise and review the operating experience and deficiencies of the LRT Taipa line, and optimise hardware and software facilities, to provide stable, reliable and safe light rail services. The plan for the LRT east line will be finalised in the second half of 2021.

We establish a new system for the opening of Macao's air transportation market, and aim to commence the related legislative procedures in 2021.

We continue studying marine zoning based on the functions and planning of maritime areas; facilitate the legislative process for enacting the Law on Use of Maritime Areas; amend the by-laws on maritime passenger transportation; and strengthen the administration and use of Macao waters, to expand the living space and scope of development for Macao residents.

To strengthen prevention of and responses to disasters, we continue implementing a series of

flood prevention and drainage plans, and improve flood control and resilience in the Inner Harbour. The flood prevention work along the coast from Fai Chi Kei to Ilha Verde will be completed in 2021. We aim to commence the construction of drainage infrastructure in Praca de Ponte e Horta in the coming year. The rainwater pumping station and box culvert in the northern Inner Harbour is expected to be completed and fully operational before the rainy season in 2021. After completing the report on the simulation-based feasibility study regarding sluices in the Inner Harbour, we are proceeding with the follow-up work.

We intensify environmental protection and waste reduction, and strengthen conservation of the natural environment. We will complete drafting the Environmental Protection Plan of Macao (2010-2020) in 2021. The law on Macao Construction Waste Management System comes into effect in 2021, to regulate the use and charging of landfills, and strengthen the mechanisms for monitoring and penalising illegal disposal of construction waste. We further strengthen plastic restrictions, formulate regulations restricting the import of Styrofoam tableware; and facilitate kitchen waste reduction and recycling.

We are completing the improvement works for the Macao Peninsula Sewage Treatment Plant, and commencing the upgrade of the Coloane Sewage Treatment Plant and preliminary construction works of the Sewage Treatment Plant at the Macao border crossing area of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. The first phase of the Canal dos Patos improvement works is scheduled for completion during the year.

We are expediting equipment installation and trial operation of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, constructing the cross-harbour natural gas pipeline network which connects Taipa and the Macao peninsula, and completing construction of the substation for the third Guangdong-Macao high-voltage electric power transmission channel, which is targeted to commence operations in the first half of 2022.

We make good use of idle land that is lawfully recovered, enhance land resources management and usage efficiency, align with local economic development, and expand open space for the public.

We enhance municipal development, beautify urban areas; construct a round-the-island leisure walkway on Coloane island, in phases; and construct new walking trails, to provide residents with a safe, comfortable and green walking route environment.

## **(8) Establish a base for cultural exchanges and cooperation**

We progressively foster the building of “one base”, set up the Committee for Establishment of a Base for Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation, and proceed with the related planning, arrangements, coordination and facilitation; fully leverage our advantage of multiculturalism, strengthen Macao’s cultural image, deepen the establishment of Macao as a centre for cultural exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, host “Art Macao: 2021 International Art Biennial of Macao”, and expand international cultural exchanges.

Cultural heritage shapes the cultural genome of the city. We implement online promotion and education regarding the conservation of cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage;

enhance the promotion of cultural heritage tourism; create high-end cultural tourism routes; enhance public awareness of protecting our cultural heritage; and facilitate legislation on protection and management of the Historic Centre of Macao.

We make effective use of urban space resources to construct multi-functional cultural facilities; and enrich online resources to promote reading for all.

We merge the Culture Fund and the Cultural Industry Fund, enhance the subsidy scheme, promote culture and creativity, develop exquisite art and cultural projects, support arts talents, facilitate the professional development of art groups; and implement the construction of the black box theatre in Macao Cultural Centre, to provide more activity space for the arts and culture industry.

We support development of sports and emphasise both sport-for-all and competitive sports, nurture young sport talents, support Macao athletes to participate in international competitions; and revise the planning of and optimise selected sports facilities, to facilitate the building of Macao as a healthy city.

## **(9) Safeguard national security and social stability**

To implement the constitutional responsibility in safeguarding national sovereignty, we strive to perfect the legal system and law enforcement system for safeguarding national security, strengthen law enforcement; expedite the drafting of laws regarding the system on confidentiality of the Macao SAR; enhance promotion of national security education to strengthen public awareness of national security; strengthen political and social cooperation and coordination, and a solid patriotic social and political foundation; take every effective measure to prevent infiltration and interference by external forces; and coordinate and rationalise the relations between development and security, to safeguard the overall stability of the Macao SAR and national security.

We continue promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR, make full use of modern media technology and online platforms to enhance legal awareness; and resolve various conflicts and disputes with a judicial mindset and legal means, to promote a rule-by-law administration.

We boost public awareness of the electoral system and clean elections, to ensure a fair, impartial, open and clean election for the seventh Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR.

We enhance law enforcement capability and facilitate civil protection innovation; strengthen the police force through technology and expedite the development of smart policing; implement a new shore patrol model with smart maritime surveillance, to strengthen maritime law enforcement; strengthen cybersecurity protection capability to effectively prevent cyber risks; reinforce regional joint prevention and control with mainland China and neighbouring regions, to strengthen the regional police collaboration mechanism; and combat cross-regional crimes through a Greater Bay Area police cooperation mechanism, to maintain law and order in the Macao SAR.

## **(10) Proactively integrate into the overall national development plan**

The country's 14th Five Year Plan marks an important phase for Macao to integrate into the

overall national development plan, for a new wave of development. We seize opportunities to proactively align with the country's 14th Five Year Plan.

The Government promotes the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin with Guangdong Province and Zhuhai City, to facilitate the development of Hengqin through the joint efforts of Zhuhai and Macao. Based on the planning by the Central People's Government, we are implementing the proposal for development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone. With an open and innovative mindset, we create an innovative cooperation zone which combines the advantages of "two systems", strongly integrates with international standards, facilitates Macao's adequate economic diversification, and serves the country's opening-up.

We deepen cooperation with Hengqin in various aspects including tourism, innovation and technology, and people's livelihoods; encourage the tourism industry to develop more Macao-Hengqin tourism routes and explore tourism products with traditional Chinese medicine and healthcare services; gradually extend public services and social security to Hengqin; expedite the establishment of the Macao New Neighbourhood project in Hengqin, progressively implement arrangements for corresponding social services; and continue facilitating cooperation between Macao and Hengqin.

We pragmatically promote the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, bridge economic regulations and mechanisms of the three places, accelerate flows of resources; support the customs clearance mechanism under the Single Window initiative for trade between mainland China and Macao, and implement the Single E-lock Scheme of Guangdong and Macao Customs, to enhance border-crossing efficiency.

We enhance infrastructure interconnections, foster flows of people in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; gradually perfect the policy regarding motor vehicles with only Macao licences entering and exiting Hengqin; and will commence operations of the Macao border crossing area at the Hengqin Port and part of the phase-two adjoining areas, including the passage for van-type light goods vehicles and their drivers, by the end of 2021. The new Guangdong-Macao border crossing checkpoint (Qingmau Checkpoint) will be inaugurated in 2021. We are conducting a study on allowing Macao vehicles to enter and travel in Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, to further facilitate Macao residents to enter and exit mainland China.

We improve policies and measures enhancing the convenience of Macao residents wishing to work and reside in mainland China; facilitate the mechanism for mutual recognition of vocational qualifications among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; expand the scope of occupation skills under the "One Examination, Three Accreditations" programme, to increase employment choices of Macao residents in the Greater Bay Area; and strengthen cooperation on consumer rights protection in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region.

We implement the financial policies and measures of the Central People's Government supporting the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to facilitate development of a modern financial services industry; continue monitoring the operations of the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation and Development Fund; optimise Renminbi liquidity facilities in the local money market and support steady development of offshore Renminbi businesses; encourage

financial and insurance institutions of mainland China to set up regional headquarters in Macao and explore markets in Portuguese-speaking countries; encourage enterprises in the Greater Bay Area to issue bonds in Macao; implement the cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect pilot scheme to facilitate cross-border investment; and realise interconnectivity of financial product markets between Macao and mainland China, to facilitate cross-border flows and use of Renminbi.

We are establishing a technology and innovation cooperation mechanism; and attract scientific research institutions and technology enterprises to establish their bases in Macao, work on tariff exemptions on equipment for scientific research institutions entering the nine mainland China cities of the Greater Bay Area; and actively align with national science and technology programmes. We are also conducting a study on enabling the national guide fund on the commercial application of technological achievements to set up a venture capital sub-fund in Macao.

We participate in and support the development of the “Belt and Road” initiative, establish key platforms such as the International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum; continue implementing the Arrangements Between the National Development and Reform Commission and the Government of the Macao SAR for Advancing Macao’s Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative; actively participate in the country’s high-level events such as the “Belt and Road” Forum for International Cooperation and China International Import Expo; implement the investment of fiscal reserves with the joint investment platform of Silk Road Fund - Lotus Fund; leverage the bridging role of the returned overseas Chinese in Macao to promote cooperation among countries along the “Belt and Road”; sign taxation agreements with more Portuguese-speaking countries and countries along the “Belt and Road”, and properly manage the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Academy of Macao.

We pragmatically facilitate the establishment of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform; spare no effort in assisting with organising the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; optimise, enrich and leverage Macao’s functions as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries; and foster economic, trade and cultural cooperation and exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, to support the country’s opening up in the new development pattern.

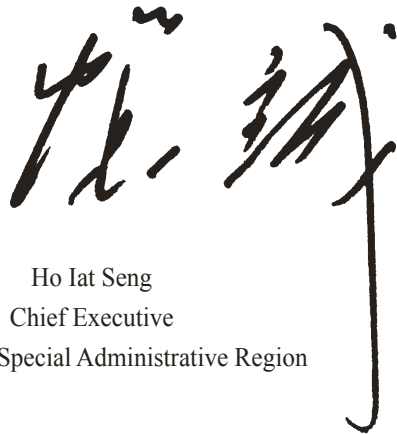
We pragmatically commence and steadily foster cooperation with other provinces in mainland China, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan in culture, tourism, economy and trade, and finance; strengthen cooperation with the PPRD provinces and regions in economy and trade, tourism, Chinese medicine, conventions and exhibitions, and jointly explore markets in Portuguese-speaking countries and the European Union.

## **Conclusion**

Facing the volatile internal and external environment, the impact of the pandemic and our economic restructuring, we should join hands to optimise the construction and development of the Macao SAR.

Macao’s way forward is inseparable from mainland China. With the strong support from the Central People’s Government and Chinese people, as well as the concerted efforts of Macao citizens,

we have full confidence of overcoming the challenges and forging ahead, towards new horizons for the implementation of “One country, two systems” with Macao characteristics.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two main characters: '何' (Ho) and '毅' (Iat Seng).

Ho Iat Seng  
Chief Executive  
The Macao Special Administrative Region