

Developing patriotic education and safeguarding national security



The Government strictly fulfilled its constitutional obligation to safeguard national security in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao. The Government completed the legislation on safeguarding national security in early 2009; and formulated the National Security Law, and established the Commission for the Defence of National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region in 2018, to coordinate national security affairs, continuously enhance the legal system related to national security, and formulate and execute the law enforcement mechanisms.

In 2020, the relevant law enforcement work and study on legislation the support safeguarding national security commenced in an orderly manner. The Government also continued raising public awareness of national security through holding an online photo exhibition to introduce national security in schools, and establish a patriotic education base for young people.

Judicial Police forms new department to enhance national security law enforcement

On 23 March 2020, at the year's first plenary meeting of the Commission for the Defence of National Security, the Chairman of the Committee, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, gave important instructions. He required all sectors to continue facilitating development of the national security system, and effectively carry out relevant law enforcement work. Afterwards, the Government amended the

relevant laws and regulations of the Judicial Police, which came into effect on 12 October.

According to the amended laws, the Judicial Police has exclusive authority to investigate crime against national security. Following organisational restructuring of the Judicial Police, guided by the overall national security perspective, one department and six divisions were added. These new units include the Security Department, which is responsible for national security law enforcement, and its four subordinate divisions: the National Security Intelligence Division, the National Security Crimes Investigation Division, the National Security Operations Support Division and the National Security Affairs Consolidation Division. These four divisions perform duties including intelligence gathering and analyses related to national security, case investigations, counterintelligence and counter-espionage, operational support, research on legal system establishment, and providing support for the Commission for the Defence of National Security of the Government and its office in accordance with the law.

In addition, the Judicial Police established the Terrorism Crimes Alert and Investigation Division, which reports to the Director of Judicial Police, to build an anti-terrorism intelligence system, organise relevant intelligence work, and perform duties such as monitoring terrorism activities, issuing anti-terrorism alerts, carrying out anti-terrorism operations, and facilitating joint anti-terrorism operations. The Judicial Police also established the Cyber Security Division under the IT and Telecommunications Management Department, for coordinating incident alerts and emergency responses regarding cyber security, to help construct a better organisational mechanism of cyber security management, thereby safeguarding the frontiers of national security.

The amendments to relevant laws and establishment of new units were important measures for the Government's perfection of the legal system and law enforcement regarding national security, which were conducive to enhancing law enforcement efficiency, thereby achieving the aims of strengthening prevention of and combating crime, and safeguarding social security and legitimate rights of the public.

Protecting cyber security and guarding the frontiers of national security

Given the rapidly changing internal and external security situation, safeguarding cyber security is undoubtedly an important task of the Government in safeguarding national security. To align with the Cyber Security Law that came into effect on 20 January 2020, the Government established the Cyber Security Committee, which held its first plenary meeting on 20 January 2020. The Chairman of the committee, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, clearly requested all committee members to seriously fulfil their duties, assist the Government to continue enhancing the scientific basis and perspective of cyber security policies, to facilitate implementation of policies of the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre and other supervisory authorities, and prompting key infrastructure operators to strictly comply with the statutory cyber security obligations, thereby ensuring the security of information networks of key infrastructure relevant to Macao people's wellbeing, with great effort and normal operation of the relevant facilities.

In 2020, according to the stipulations of Cyber Security Law, Internet operators were required to fulfil their obligations to check and register personal information of users when providing fixed-network and public mobile and wireless communication services. Before the law came into force

in early 2020, all telecommunication providers had already implemented post-registration of user identification upon activation of prepaid cards. In addition, the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre commenced operation during the year, to protect Macao's Internet security through cooperation between participating entities.

In order to strengthen the centre's communications, coordination and technology, and enhance the capabilities of supervisory bodies and key infrastructure operators when coping with cyber security incidents, the Cyber Security Incident Alert and Emergency Response Centre joined hands with government departments responsible for cyber security supervision and 15 other institutions, including the Macao Water Supply Company and Companhia de Electricidade de Macau, to hold the 2020 Cyber Security Drill on 11 December, simulating the response to multiple key infrastructure operators' computer systems being hacked. This was the first cyber security drill since the Cyber Security Law came into effect.

Two approaches to strengthening youth patriotic education

To safeguard national security through orderly progress, it is important to continuously raise public awareness of the concept of national security. In 2020, the Government promoted youth patriotic education through innovative online promotions and the offline patriotic education base, enabling all sectors in society – especially the younger generation – to have a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of national security, thereby recognising their responsibility to the country and society, and make positive contributions.

Since 2018, the Government has been organising promotional and educational activities on national security on the annual National Security Education Day. In 2020, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and disease prevention, the Government adjusted the format of activities, from holding an annual National Security Education Exhibition in the past two years, to holding an online photo exhibition to promote national security in schools. Through an innovative promotional and education model, the Government introduced and presented to the public an overview of national security, the global security situation, as well as Macao's commencement and implementation of an online platform dedicated to national security.

In addition, the youth patriotic education base in Handover Gifts Museum of Macau was inaugurated in December. The permanent "Rooted to China" education exhibition in the base was divided into three main themes: "Chinese culture", "Save our nation from subjugation" and "Chinese modernisation achievements". The first phase was aimed at schools and youth organisations, serving to teach young people about Chinese history and culture, recent success in development of China, and the history of Macao through on-site guided tours and interactive multimedia presentations.

In order to pass on patriotism and fine traditions, the Government continued to strengthen Macao people's sense of responsibility in proactively safeguarding national security. The Legal Affairs Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau jointly held a training programme on law for teachers in June 2020. Seminars for teachers of primary and secondary schools in Macao were organised, to enhance teachers' legal knowledge regarding the Constitution, the Basic Law of Macao, the Law on Safeguarding National Security and preventing juvenile delinquency, as well as to enrich their understanding of the history, spiritual connotations and

laws and regulations related to the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, thereby enabling teachers to better disseminate such knowledge to students in schools and strengthen their concept of nationality.

“Five-rung housing ladder policy” in response to demands for urban planning to create a liveable city



In 2020, facing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government promptly implemented a series of anti-pandemic and relief measures, to protect public health and maintain social and economic stability. Meanwhile, a series of established livelihood-related projects was implemented, to lay a foundation for economic recovery and the long-term well-being of local residents.

Refining housing policies and taking care of the elderly

To rationalise Macao residents’ housing demands in the long run, the Government has proposed a “five-rung housing ladder” policy, and expedited progress with related public consultations, optimisation of the legal system, commencement of planning, and implementation of construction projects.

In 2020, the Government further improved the housing allocation and supply system, based on its original public housing plan. The new Legal System for Public Housing and its supplementary laws and regulations came into effect in August, to establish the mechanism for applying for public housing on a regular basis. During the year, over 2,200 eligible families were allocated public housing units.

Regarding Home-Ownership Scheme Housing: the new round of applications for the Home-