

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-

Ownership Scheme Housing has successfully concluded. The Legislative Assembly passed the amendment to the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, to optimise the application process and the mechanism for resale of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing. Penalties have been introduced for tenants who reside in their housing unit for less than 183 days a year, with the aim of fulfilling the purpose of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing units for helping Macao residents to solve their housing problems, and avoiding investment activities related to Home-Ownership Scheme Housing.

To ensure public housing supply is timely in meeting demand, the Government continues implementing the construction of Venceslau de Morais, Toi San and Mong Ha public housing projects. Open tenders for the pile foundation and basement work for the B4, B9 and B10 Home-Ownership Scheme Housing lots in Area A (3,011 units) were completed in 2020, and construction work commenced during the fourth quarter. Site formation of the public housing projects on Avenida Wai Long was also completed, followed by the compilation of building plans for the public facility buildings, the first phase of the public housing project and infrastructure construction. Invitation of tenders for the first phase of slope design and construction has also commenced.

To improve the living condition of mobility-impaired elderly people living in walk-up buildings, the Government has proposed to construct apartments for the elderly and continued to facilitate relevant preparatory work. We are collecting opinions from different social sectors, and on the other hand, planning for the construction of housing for senior citizens, and allocating land to expedite project implementation.

The Government is also committed to satisfying the housing needs of people whose income exceeds the ceiling for public housing application, but face difficulties in the private housing market. In 2020, the Government commenced a public consultation on the housing plan for the sandwich class. After the responses have been collected, a summary report will be released as soon as possible.

Besides housing, the Government also attaches considerable importance to the needs of the elderly and the underprivileged, especially elderly people with special care needs. In 2020, the Government set up two additional elderly day care centres, completed construction of a multi-service centre for the elderly in Praia do Manduco, prepared for the establishment of the first multi-service centre for patients with dementia, and launched the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme in November.

## **Urban construction commences, to help build a full-featured, liveable community**

During the year, in response to society's progress and residents' aspiration for a better life, the Government has completed the drafting of the Macao Urban Development Master Plan (2020-2040) and the related public consultation. The Government listened to the opinions from all sectors of society, and consolidated and analysed the views or suggestions collected during the consultation period. Related legislative work has commenced.

The master plan was drafted based on the Macao Special Administrative Region Urban Development Strategy (2016-2030). It proposes major urban planning concepts focusing on land use, space allocation, residential land, economically important industries, transportation, environmental protection, public facilities, infrastructure, cultural heritage, urban scenery, urban renewal, and disaster prevention; and integrates and utilises social resources to build a liveable

community. Also in 2020, the Government completed the Urban Planning Study of New Urban Zone Area A, to review and refine the original planning of New Urban Zone Area A and formulate guidelines for urban design. Moreover, the report on the consultation regarding the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal was completed. This system will facilitate ongoing promotion of orderly community revitalisation and renewal, to improve residents' quality of life.

Regarding progress with transportation infrastructure construction, work on the pile foundation for the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge commenced in August 2020. The public consultation on the LRT East line was completed during the year, while the project to connect the Macao peninsula and Sai Van Bridge along the LRT Taipa Line began at the end of the year. The construction of A-Ma transport interchange, and the preliminary design of the LRT Hengqin Line in connection with Taipa were completed, following by the commencement of construction of the Seac Pai Van line.

Construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge commenced in March 2020, and the tender invitations for construction of the peripheral transport network will be conducted in phases in accordance with the bridge's construction schedule. The special report on the fifth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour passage, which will be a tunnel, is currently being reviewed by central government ministries.

To ensure proper and timely land development in Macao, the Government successfully recovered, according to the law, over 40 lots with a total area of more than 319,300 square metres of land, by the end of 2020. Among the land concessions being revoked, three have been reused for public facilities, including a government office building that has been completed and put into use, one building that is under construction, and one piece of land for a temporary fire station. The area of these three pieces of land recovered totalled approximately 6,400 square metres.

With the aim of optimising the environment, the Government adopted a two-pronged approach involving environmental protection and urban planning. Environmental pollution control was strengthened, and a series of construction projects were implemented, including a project regarding disposal and transportation of construction waste and marine clay to the landfill, and expansion of the incineration centre. Also, the preliminary design of the centralised food waste processing facility was completed at the end of 2020. On the other hand, environmental optimisation and improvement works in old districts have commenced. Idle land plots are being used to create more quality outdoor activity space. The construction of a green promenade along the south shores of the Macao peninsula commenced in 2020, and will be implemented in phases.

## Exercising authority according to law, the Legislative Assembly passes 25 laws

During the third session of the sixth Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2019 to 15 October 2020, a total of 35 plenary meetings and 159 committee meetings were held, with 25 laws, one resolution and 13 simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

Given the postponement of the legislative assembly's work in 2020 due to the impact of the