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The *Macao SAR Gazette* published an Executive Order, through which Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng appointed Ma Chi Seng, Iau Teng Pio, Pang Chuan, Wu Chou Kit, Kou Kam Fai, Chan Hou Seng and Cheung Kin Chung as legislators of the seventh Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR. On 16 October, 33 legislators were sworn in, with their oaths administered by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, before their four-year term of office commenced.

Safeguarding National Security and Comprehensively Protecting the Safety of Macao



In 2021, public order in Macao remained stable and peaceful, and a comprehensive variety of crimes were stringently combatted. The Government fulfilled its constitutional responsibility to safeguard national sovereignty, safety, and development interests; continued perfecting the legal system and law enforcement system for safeguarding national security; and strengthened law enforcement. Also, the Government enhanced promotion of national security education, to strengthen public awareness of national security; consolidated patriotism as the social and political foundation, through cooperation and coordination; and implemented every effective measure to prevent infiltration and interference by external forces, to fully demonstrate the principle of “patriots governing Macao”, thereby safeguarding the overall stability of Macao and national security.

Continued Perfecting Legal Systems and Law Enforcement Mechanisms

In 2009, the Government of the Macao SAR formulated the Law on the Defence of National Security, and in 2018 it established the Committee for Safeguarding National Security. Subsequently, the Government has continuously enhanced and updated a series of supporting systems related to national security, including the Judicial Organisation Framework Law and the Cyber Security Law.

To more efficiently combat illegal entry and overstaying and prevent crime, the Law No. 16/2021 - Legal System on Immigration Control, Authorisation to Stay and Residence Permits in the Macao Special Administrative Region and the major plan for its detailed execution – By-law No. 38/2021 – came into force on 15 November 2021.

On 3 December, the Executive Council completed the bill on the “Legal System for Interception and Protection of Communications” and submitted it to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation. The bill proposed increasing the number of applicable offences for interception of communications, and adjusting the regulations regarding the methods and contents of interception, to comply with the needs for detecting serious and specific crimes, in order to keep pace with the development of new communication technologies. This was not only one of the tasks for perfecting the laws and regulations for safeguarding national security, but also an important measure to strengthen law enforcement and protection of rights, to safeguard public safety.

In view of the complexity of safeguarding national security, the Chief Executive submitted a report to the Central People’s Government, asking for permission from the Central People’s Government for setting up National Security Adviser and National Security Technical Adviser posts in the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region. With the approval of the Central People’s Government, the MSAR Government diligently acted in accordance with the decision of the Central People’s Government. On 14 December, By-law No. 47/2021 - Amendment to By-law No. 22/2018 on the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region came into effect, explicitly setting up a National Security Adviser and three National Security Technical Advisers in the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The National Security Adviser is responsible for monitoring, guiding, coordinating and supporting the MSAR Government with commencing national security work, and attending the meetings of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security; whereas the National Security Technical Adviser is responsible for assisting the National Security Adviser in implementing the relevant work, giving advice on matters related to the duties and responsibilities of the Office for Committee for Safeguarding National Security, and attending the meetings of the office. The Government passed the amendments to the related by-laws, to provide local legal grounds and assurance for the National Security Adviser and National Security Technical Adviser, as they fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

In conjunction with the Judiciary Police – which is empowered with the functions of national security law enforcement and the establishment of relevant subsidiary units – the designated unit for safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests of the MSAR Government is fully operational, further strengthening the protection of national security and cyber security, and enhancing the ability to prevent and suppress terrorism and high-tech crimes. Perfecting the

legal system and law enforcement mechanism also helps to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of the Central People's Government in Macao, providing stronger protection for the overall security of the country and Macao.

In addition, on 21 June, the MSAR Government amended the “Organisation and Operation of the Unitary Police Service” through By-law No. 20/2021, which includes the establishment of a Department of Computer and Information Technology, and a Department for Studying, Making Plans for and Coordinating Civil Protection Operations. The Unitary Police Service will coordinate the amendments to and enhancement of various specialised contingency plans, in accordance with the framework of the new Civil Protection Master Plan approved by the Chief Executive, in order to be well prepared for emergencies and better protect citizen's lives and property.

In response to the decisions on the amendments to the Law on the National Flag and the Law on the National Emblem, which were voted on during the 22nd session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, the MSAR Government has made amendments and enhancements to Law No. 5/1999 on the Law on Use and Protection of the National Flag, National Emblem and National Anthem, and By-law No. 5/2019 on Provisions Regarding the Use of National and Regional Flags and Emblems and the Instrumental and Vocal Performance of the National Anthem, which came into effect on 27 July, in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao SAR and the principles, legislative intent and related amendments to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Emblem, in order to execute the decision and ensure the accurate and effective implementation of the above-mentioned national laws in the Macao SAR.

The by-law advocates that citizens should use the national flag on appropriate occasions, and specifies that citizens may wear the national emblem on dignified occasions to express their patriotism; perfects the specifications of the national flag and national emblem; enhances the regulations on deploying the national flag during mourning, and lays down the circumstances in which the national flag may be used to drape the coffin of certain persons; improves the regulations on the use of the national flag and national emblem; and improves the regulations on education regarding the national flag and national emblem.

Since the enactment of the by-law, the national emblem has been prominently displayed on the homepages of the websites of the Chief Executive's Office, the MSAR Government Portal, the Legislative Assembly, the Courts and the Public Prosecutions Office, as well as other websites specified by the Chief Executive.

Strengthen Citizens' National Awareness and Patriotism

National security is the responsibility of all citizens. It is important to deepen the awareness and understanding of the importance of safeguarding national security among young people in Macao and different sectors in the community, so that they will voluntarily fulfil their civic responsibilities and obligations in safeguarding national security. Patriotism education and promotion from different perspectives also play important roles in this regard.

The year 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. From 23 June to 15 July, the MSAR Government joined hands with the Information Office of the

State Council and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, to organise a photo exhibition for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China. The exhibition enabled Macao people to revisit the centenary of the Chinese Communist Party's journey as it faced difficulties together with its people, and to commemorate the noble spirit of the revolutionary martyrs, thereby consolidating the social and political foundation of patriotism in Macao, and passing the core values of loyalty to our country and to Macao on to the younger generation.

The 23-day exhibition attracted 43,735 visitors and received enthusiastic responses from all sectors. The overwhelming numbers of bookings for visits by community organisations, private companies, government departments and schools fully reflected Macao people's sense of belonging to the motherland, their pride in being Chinese, and their recognition of the Chinese Communist Party.

In addition, the “National Security Education Exhibition”, jointly organised by the MSAR Government and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, was held for the fifth consecutive year, to demonstrate the latest progress by the country and Macao in improving the establishment of the national security system. The exhibition attracted over 42,000 visitors; plus there were over 330,000 visits to the related website.

In 2021, the “National Security and I” Chinese Essay Writing Competition for secondary school students was held for the first time, with over 4,800 entries, in which students expressed their feelings regarding their responsibilities towards the country and Macao, fully demonstrating young people's strong awareness of national security and their profound love for the country and Macao.

Over the years, the National Security Education Exhibition has been effective in raising awareness of national security among the general public, which further promotes the efforts of all sectors of the community in safeguarding national security, as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of the country and Macau. To complement the MSAR Government's education and promotional campaigns on national security, various government departments, academics and community organisations have been actively organising relevant activities to provide the community with a clearer and more accurate understanding of the meaning and importance of national security-related laws and regulations.

Timely and Precisely Adjusting Measures in Response to Changes in the COVID-19 Pandemic

As 2021 began, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continued causing worldwide impacts. Despite the gradual decline in serious cases and death rates after the emergence of vaccines, some countries and regions with lower vaccination rates still had high numbers of confirmed and hospitalised cases. In order to ensure the safety and health of Macao residents, and facilitate the stable recovery of society and the economy, the Government has been continuously reviewing and improving pandemic prevention work. By implementing appropriate pandemic prevention measures that were consistent with those of the nation through close cooperation, joint pandemic prevention and control, we have overcome the fluctuating pandemic situation.