

housing in New Urban Zone Area A.

During the legislative sessions, legislators gave 316 pre-agenda speeches in plenary meetings, on topics such as housing policy, public transportation, medicine and hygiene, culture and education, employment protection, environmental protection, regional cooperation and the marine economy.

In addition, legislators issued 702 written questions and 89 oral questions, and the Legislative Assembly initiated 10 plenary meetings to address the oral questions.

Consequently, follow-up work was conducted by the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs and the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs, which were proactive regarding major issues and the applicability of relevant laws in public administration. Eight reports were produced, as follows:

- Follow-up on the use of Macao Foundation funds and status of consolidation of autonomous fund subsidies related to education;
- Follow-up on the interim report on the implementation of the MSAR budget 2020 and Q2 PIDDA budget implementation report;
- Follow-up on the 2020 fiscal year Q3 PIDDA budget implementation report;
- Follow-up on the 2020 fiscal year Q4 PIDDA budget implementation report;
- Follow-up on the 2021 fiscal year Q1 PIDDA budget implementation report;
- Follow-up on the contract concessions of gaming operations;
- Follow-up on the procedures regarding skilled immigration and investment immigration as stipulated by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute; and
- Follow-up on the effectiveness of drainage infrastructure during rainstorms and typhoons.

The duties of the legislative authority lie in fully reflecting and hearing various opinions, suggestions and criticisms from citizens, and responding to social needs in a timely manner. During the legislative session, legislators received citizens in-person over 26 times, based on a roster system; and 448 cases of public opinions and suggestions were communicated to the Legislative Assembly via personal visits, phone or email.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly received seven petitions from individuals and groups, and handled them appropriately, considering the actual situations.

CCAC Supports Clean Election and CA Strengthens Exchanges and Cooperation

In 2021, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) dedicated all its efforts to implementing the Government's major policies, focusing on upholding the integrity of elections. The CCAC deployed in advance and invested significant resources to enhance monitoring, to ensure the fairness, impartiality, openness and integrity of the seventh Legislative Assembly Election.

While monitoring the election activities between 8 March and 12 September, the CCAC



commenced promotion of a clean election, provided various platforms and channels for election complaints and reports, and proactively inspected and monitored venues at high risk of bribery, and combated detected illegal activities related to the election. The CCAC carried out 13,089 patrols, and initiated 28 cases (including four for in-depth investigation and two on minor violations).

During the period, the CCAC management team invited all candidates in the direct election to a presentation on the details related to election bribery and special notes for the campaign and the publicity period stipulated in the Legislative Assembly Election Law. After the successful completion of the Legislative Assembly Election, the CCAC promptly investigated and processed the illegal election-related cases in accordance with the law. Comprehensive prevention and combating of corruption before, during and after the election were achieved.

Meanwhile, the CCAC did not slacken work on overseeing the Government's administrative work. In 2021, the CCAC received 1,463 inquiries and 712 complaints and reports (including 179 complaints and reports regarding the election). Among the complaints and reports¹, 119 cases meeting requirements for initiating investigations were transferred to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, including seven co-investigation cases and 28 cases relating to the election; 226 cases were transferred to the Ombudsman Bureau, including 221 for special investigations and five for full investigations; 310 cases without conditions for initiating investigations were transferred to the Complaint Management Centre, and directly closed or referred to authorised departments.

Including cases transferred from 2020, the CCAC concluded 294 cases in 2021. Among the cases concluded by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, 13 were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office; among the cases concluded by the Directorate of Ombudsman Services, there were 26 with requests for follow-ups by relevant departments; and 143 cases that could not be followed up were closed as they were not under the CCAC's purview, or did not have indications of contravention of laws and regulations, or lacked sufficient information.

¹ Some complaints and reports were combined for processing.

The CCAC opened seven co-investigation cases with requests from non-local counterparts. Including transferred cases from 2020, the CCAC co-investigated 16 cases. Among them, seven cases were closed while the other nine cases were still under investigation. The CCAC made three requests for co-investigation to non-local counterparts, one of which was made to the mainland China authority, while the other two were made to the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong.

Regarding promotion and education, the CCAC organised many themed promotional activities to spread the message about a clean election to all walks of life, including a debate contest with the theme “integrity”, the “Clean Election” city orienteering contest to urge public participation, the “Community Roadshow on a Clean Election 2021”, some 50 campus tour exhibitions on a clean election, 32 drama tour performances promoting a clean election, nine clean election talks and various WeChat quiz games.

In addition, the CCAC held 437 talks and seminars, which were attended by 28,720 participants, including civil servants, private sector employees, the general public, young people and students of tertiary institutions, secondary and primary schools and kindergartens. The CCAC also organised the recognition ceremony for the “Dissemination of Integrity in Schools” - Recruitment of Teenage Ambassadors of Honesty and Integrity in Practice Project in Schools, the Local Activity Experience Day for Excellent Teams and the Integrity Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 2021.

Regarding external exchanges, as the pandemic was relatively stable in mainland China and Macao at the beginning of 2021, representatives of the CCAC paid two visits to nine cities of the Greater Bay Area to meet with the Disciplinary Committee and Supervision Committee of Guangdong province and other cities, and visited relevant anti-corruption education bases and other enterprises that are models of integrity.

Even in the face of the ever-changing pandemic, in 2021, the CCAC still attended conferences, seminars and trainings, mostly by online participation. In February, a video conference was held with the Commissioner of ICAC of Hong Kong, Peh Yun-lu, to discuss and exchange information on anti-corruption work in Macao and Hong Kong, and cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Regarding international conferences, the CCAC attended the International Ombudsman Institute Asian Regional Meeting, the International Ombudsman Institute General Assembly, the Asia/Pacific Group of Money Laundering Member Plenary Meeting, and the Asia Regional Council Officer Election of the International Ombudsman Institute, via online participation. On the invitation of the National Supervisory Commission, the CCAC participated in the first Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agency Action Network Conference; and on the invitation of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the MSAR, the CCAC attended the 9th Meeting of States Parties of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

In 2022, the CCAC will continue promoting the importance of probity and honesty to all walks of life, based on the direction for development proposed in the Second Five-Year Plan of the Macao SAR. In line with the policy direction for the Macao SAR to integrate into overall national development, the CCAC will also be proactive in combating and preventing corruption at all levels through innovative, information-based methods. The CCAC will also strengthen supervision of complaints to the ombudsman, and raise public awareness of complaints to the ombudsman through publicity and education.



In 2021, the CA released the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2020 and the second performance report on the Management of Macao Investment and Development Limited.

The second performance report on the Management of Macao Investment and Development Limited revealed that – in order to develop an innovation and entrepreneurship base for young people of Guangdong and Macao; the headquarters of Parafuturo de Macau in Zhongshan; a training and exchange centre for young entrepreneurs from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao; a distribution centre for products from Portuguese-speaking countries; and an exhibition centre for products of Macao characteristics – in October 2016, Parafuturo de Macau proposed the acquisition of the Torch International Conference Centre, despite knowing that the property deed had not been issued.

Subsequently, in July 2018, Parafuturo de Macau formulated a “lease-to-own” strategy, to lease the four-storey Conference Centre for a period of 18 years (with a one-year rent-free period), without having carried out due diligence on the use and operations of the centre and the related legal consequences.

The report also revealed that, in addition to the above series of work targets, Parafuturo de Macau also participated in a special financial services business. In 2017, Parafuturo de Macau invested 18 million patacas in a financial institution to become its shareholder, holding a 15 percent stake. The institution's businesses included establishing a trading platform for companies in mainland China that have assets abroad, and issuing bonds for SMEs in Macao.

Before making this important decision, Parafuturo de Macau did not carry out comprehensive and adequate analysis of both internal and external conditions. At the time of submitting the proposal, the company management was unable to provide the Board of Directors with indications of critical factors such as advantages, disadvantages, risks and prerequisites of the project.

Since Macao's legislation does not stipulate comprehensive regulations regarding transactions

involving financial assets, the Government has established some restrictions on certain aspects related to the nature and functioning of related institutions. Legal regulation is essential for a solid financial infrastructure, however, at present, there is no legislation to regulate the financial market, nor a platform for trading financial assets. Given the lack of a sound supervision system, financial institutions must be more prudent in their actions in order to minimise potential risks.

In addition, being responsible for regional cooperation between Zhongshan and Macao, the decision to choose Parafuturo de Macau to participate in the establishment of a financial institution was inappropriate.

Besides auditing work, the CA also participated in the following activities in 2021:

- In April, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, led a delegation to Beijing for a visit to the National Audit Office, and met with the Commissioner of Audit, Hou Kai, to exchange opinions on audit-related information technology infrastructure, policy implementation for ongoing audits, auditor training, and regional cooperation and promotion of exchanges between audit institutions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- In September, as a member of the China Audit Delegation, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, participated online in the 15th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) held in Bangkok, Thailand. Ho Veng On joined a group discussion with Qin Boyong of the National Audit Office as the key speaker, in which he discussed the functions of government audit work in the national system and modernisation, and learned about the latest experiences of various countries in assisting governments to promote good governance during the “new normal”. It was hoped that through observation and learning, the CA staff would keep their mission in mind, continue striving for improvements, and make great efforts to foster the high-quality development of audit work.
- In October, the CA appointed representatives as observers to participate in the 5th Forum of Audit Institutions with Judicial Insights and the 11th General Assembly of Supreme Audit Organisations of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Alliance in Lisbon, Portugal. The forum focused on ways audit institutions with judicial insight functions and powers could more effectively combat fraud and corruption. The participants agreed on the importance of strengthening exchanges of audit experience, and exploring multilateral cooperation.
- With concern and support from the National Audit Office, the CA appointed two members as observers to regularly attend the working meetings of the National Audit Informatisation and Standardization Technical Committee (SAC/TC341) in 2021. The committee, approved and established by the Standardization Administration in 2008, is a national professional and technical work organisation that carries out standardisation work in audit informatisation and audit-related accounting informatisation and management informatisation. Invited to the committee for the first time, the CA gained an invaluable learning opportunity. Relevant technology and experience would help to improve the institutional system, standard system and operation mechanism, promoting innovation in modes of working, and improving the efficiency of implementing standard systems in future.

In promoting computer-assisted audit, with assistance from the Computer Technology Centre of the National Audit Office the CA completed the upgrade of the “Auditor Office” system, and developed new “Electronic Data-aided Tools”, to facilitate audit supervision of all public sectors according to the law.

According to the Order of Commissioner of Audit No. 2/2019, departments have to prepare and submit designated electronic files related to their account management, and accounting and financial management information for the previous financial year, in accordance with electronic data formats or template forms specified by the CA.

Since several organisations were using the data-aided tools for the first time, in March the CA arranged an introduction session on the “Electronic Data-aided Tools”, focusing on explaining the specific operation of the “Aided tools for export and import of CSV files” and the “Electronic Data-aided Tools”, helping the departments to ensure that their electronic CSV data conforms with the required format and specifications, while deepening participants’ understanding of the system’s features.

Regarding publicity and promotion, the CA continued organising seminars on audit culture, to promote the message of good use of public resources for public department staff, cadets of the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces attending promotion courses, and new government recruits.

Growing Trend of Electronic Judicial Systems and Strengthening of People-oriented Justice

