

Making Progress While Ensuring Stability

Administrative Priorities of the MSAR Government in 2023

The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Macao Basic Law and the fourth year of the current administration. At this new historical turning point, we must diligently uphold the spirit of the 20th National Congress and the spirit of President Xi's series of important speeches, by strictly adhering to the principles of "One country, two systems", "Macao people governing Macao" and a high degree of autonomy. We shall follow the overall policy direction of ensuring economic recovery, promoting diversification, relieving people's difficulties, preventing and controlling COVID-19, and steadily developing. We shall make good use of the Central People's Government's supportive policies and measures, to promote development, coordinate pandemic prevention and control, ensure economic recovery, improve people's livelihoods, expedite adequate economic diversification, pragmatically facilitate the construction of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, steadily deepen public administration reform, and proactively integrate into the overall national development plan. The MSAR Government will unite all sectors of society, work together to overcome difficulties, make progress while ensuring stability, and facilitate ongoing, comprehensive development of the MSAR.

Overall policy directions and administrative priorities in 2023

I. Overall policy directions and major goals of the MSAR in 2023

The overall policy directions in 2023 are: boosting the economy; fostering diversification; relieving livelihood hardships; preventing and controlling COVID-19, and promoting stable and healthy development.

The major targets of Macao's development in 2023 are: gradual economic recovery for stable growth; acceleration of the cultivation and development of major nascent industries; recovery in employment; continuous improvement of the normalised anti-pandemic mechanism; optimisation in people's livelihoods; steady advancement of social security and services; prudent development of various industries in Macao; safeguarding national security and maintaining social stability; and new progress in the development of Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

II. Administrative priorities of the MSAR Government for 2023

1. Expedite economic recovery and facilitate adequate economic diversification

At present, the two major and most pressing tasks for the economy are expediting economic recovery

and promoting adequate economic diversification.

In 2023, in order to accelerate economic recovery, the Government will firstly revitalise the development of the integrated tourism and leisure industry. The Government will implement the resumption of e-travel permits to Macao for mainland residents and visits by tour groups to Macao; enhance and optimise publicity programmes for promoting Macao as a safe tourism city, thereby expanding domestic and overseas tourism markets. Meanwhile, we will further develop “Tourism +”, to promote crossover integration of tourism with catering, big health, technology and events, and facilitate the development of education tourism.

Secondly, we will adopt proactive fiscal policies to expand infrastructure investment. The preliminary budget allocated to the Investments and Development Expenses of the Administration (PIDDA) for 2023 will be 22.3 billion patacas.

Thirdly the Government will support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, and assist them in overcoming difficulties and enhancing their competitiveness. We will continue refining laws and regulations, and optimise investment and business procedures, to create a more convenient and business-friendly environment.

While fostering economic recovery and boosting the overall economy, the MSAR Government will adhere to the “1+4” adequate economic diversification strategy, to optimise the industrial structure. “1” refers to promoting a diverse tourism and leisure development in accordance with the objective of building a world tourism and leisure centre, and improving the integrated tourism and leisure industry. “4” refers to continuously facilitating the development of the four major industries of big health, modern financial services, high technology, exhibitions and conventions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports. The Government will gradually elevate the proportion of the four major industries, and enhance the economic development momentum and comprehensive competitiveness, so as to build a sustainable industrial structure in line with Macao’s actual development. In future, we will strive to achieve a contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately 60 percent by non-gaming industries.

The Government will expedite the establishment of “One Centre” and promote the quality development of the integrated tourism and leisure industry, while constantly enriching the content of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre, and developing and fostering an integrated tourism and leisure industry with a wealth of non-gaming elements. In particular, the Government will fully leverage the benefits arising from world heritage in Macao, and strengthen the development of cultural tourism. We will further expand high-end tourist source markets, and develop exhibitions and conventions, commerce and trade, and incentive tourism. The Government will continue promoting the development of the non-gaming industries led by gaming operators, and strictly monitor the fulfilment of contractual commitments by new gaming concessionaires, with a focus on the development of non-gaming projects, to enrich non-gaming elements and further expand international tourist markets. We will effectively monitor and promote responsible gaming, to ensure healthy and orderly development of the gaming industry in compliance with relevant laws.

The Government will accelerate the development of the “Big Health” industry by strengthening cooperation with Peking Union Medical College Hospital and taking the establishment of a state-

level regional medical centre as an opportunity, to develop regional tumour treatment, medical beauty and other specialist treatment services for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and surrounding regions. The Government will import and cultivate major “Big Health” enterprises and recruit professional talents, while further promoting the development of traditional Chinese medicine industry and the establishment of a testing centre for Chinese medicines. We will effectively implement the Law on Pharmaceutical Activities in the Field of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Registration of Traditional Chinese Medicines, to assist enterprises in registering traditional Chinese Medicines in Macao, and strive for the production of traditional Chinese medicines in the Intensive Cooperation Zone that are registered in Macao, and their entry into mainland China and international markets. In addition, the Government will formulate the application process and management system for the “Products inspected by Macao”, “Production supervised by Macao” or “Designed by Macao” accreditation, and further leverage the functions of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) as a platform, to promote the internationalisation of Chinese medicine with the use of the medical services and medications model.

We will expedite the development of a modern financial services industry. Taking advantage of Macao’s special status and unique advantages, the Government will focus on the development of the bond market, wealth management, finance leasing, Renminbi clearing, private equities and green finance, to perfect the investment and financing ecosystem, improve the quality of modern financial services, and build an external financial service platform that bridges the world and serves the nation’s domestic-international dual economic cycle, and especially a platform for financial services cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries; develop Macao as a Renminbi clearing centre for Portuguese-speaking countries; continue optimising the software and hardware infrastructure of the bond market, initiate liaison with the International Central Securities Depository (ICSD), and launch debt securities-related products and value-added services on a timely basis, to expand the pool of international investors and expedite the introduction of policies for subsidy encouraging bond issuance in Macao; expedite the formulation of the Securities Law and related regulations; refine private equity-related laws and regulations, and promote the development of private equity businesses; strengthen financial infrastructure, and launch the second phase of the Faster Payment System, to strive to complete the establishment of a financial infrastructure data centre; and strengthen financial talent cultivation and import.

The Government will foster technological innovations and the development of the science and technology industry, and facilitate the establishment of the Macao (sub) centre of the National Technology and Innovation Centre of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the National Technology Transfer (Macao) Demonstration Institution. We will also promote the incorporation of the four State Key Laboratories into their restructured system, and take the initiative to undertake national strategic roles in science and technology. The Government will leverage the advantages of “One country, two systems” and as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, to participate in the construction of the technological innovation corridor of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and contribute to strengthening technological cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, while actively building the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Technology Centre, and attracting projects from Portuguese-speaking countries to be implemented in Macao, the Guangdong-Macao Intensive

Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. We will perfect technological mechanisms and systems; facilitate integration of the industrial, academic and research and development sectors; and mobilise foundations, technology enterprises and tertiary education institutions in Macao and the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to establish an industry-academia-research alliance, so as to enhance the transformation of scientific research results. In addition, we will gradually cultivate high and new technology enterprises, and attract both local and foreign high technology enterprises and talents to settle in Macao.

The Government will facilitate the development of the convention and exhibition, and commerce and trade industries. We will continue promoting the market-oriented and professional development of the convention and exhibition industry, with a focus on fostering the development of conventions and exhibitions covering the four major industries and the key industries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Great Bay Area, while jointly introducing international, regional and professional conventions and exhibitions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Great Bay Area with various organisations. Leveraging branded conventions and exhibitions to facilitate the development of the major industries, the Government will fully leverage the functions of the convention and exhibition industry in promoting trade and soliciting foreign investments, and extend the convention and exhibition industry chain. We will also support more large-scale international exhibitions to take place in Macao and promote business and leisure tourism.

Regarding fostering the development of the cultural and sports industries, the Government will effectively implement major cultural industry projects and support the development of cultural and creative enterprises, in order to promote the production and sale of cultural and creative products and services, while facilitating the synergistic development of the film and television industry, the film and television service industry and related industries. To enhance the experience of visitors to Macao's world heritage sites, the Government will utilise the space of historical buildings such as the Mandarin's House, the Dom Pedro V Theatre and the Navy Yard, and introduce resident branded performances that reflect local characteristics. The Government will also fully leverage the role of "Sports +", seizing the opportunity of hosting the 70th Macau Grand Prix and preparing for the 15th National Games, to incorporate a wider range of tourism and cultural elements into various events in order to create attractive branded sports events. We will urge the gaming operators to fulfil their commitments to non-gaming projects, and organise various international cultural and sports events.

To promote industrial transformation and diversification, the Government will support Macao's branded industries, develop high value-added industries, and assist the industries in promoting quality products made in Macao. We will also expand the diamond and gemstone trading and processing business, thereby enabling the jewellery industry chain to gradually take shape; and optimise services for applying for and approving industrial licences.

The MSAR Government will focus on both talent cultivation and import. We will expedite the cultivation of local talented people, and proactively promote the return of local talents who are currently abroad; encourage the design of tertiary education programmes in accordance with the development of industries, and the programmes for joint cultivation between tertiary education institutions and overseas renowned institutions, with a focus on cultivating talented people for industrial diversification; introduce professional qualification examinations to meet the needs

of market development, and include vocational courses and certification examinations covered by subsidies provided through the Continuing Education Programme. On the other hand, the Government will seek to recruit talented people with open and pragmatic attitudes, and strive to import talented people who can help facilitate adequate economic diversification in Macao. We will implement the Legal System for Importing Talented People, launch the electronic application platform for the Importing Talented People Programme, and expeditiously refine the talent demand list and the catalogue of talents in short supply, in order to actively recruit talented people.

2. Enhance infrastructure construction and jointly build a liveable smart city

The Government will proactively implement the detailed planning process. After the completion of the public consultation on the detailed planning draft for Eastern District-2, the plan will be expeditiously announced, while work will proceed on the detailed planning for Outer Harbour Area-1, Outer Harbour Area-2, and North Taipa-1.

To expedite major infrastructure projects in an orderly manner, the Government will further expedite the construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge and the surrounding road networks, the New Urban Zone Area A road networks, and the common pipeline. The projects to construct the bridge linking Hengqin Port and the University of Macau and LRT Barra Station are expected to be completed by the second half of 2023. We will also proceed with the construction of Seac Pai Van line, Hengqin line, and East line, complete the construction of the central laboratory building of the Islands District Medical Complex, and forge ahead with the construction of various public facilities and government office buildings.

Regarding the improvement of traffic management, the Government will initiate the revision to the Road Traffic Law and its supplementary regulations; improve the walking route network, and complete the designs of various pedestrian facilities, followed by the commencement of construction; continue monitoring the effectiveness of bus services operating under the new contracts, and strictly enforce the monitoring of the bus services quality assurance system; assess the demand for new taxi licenses; continue developing related ancillary facilities, to fully leverage the functions of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge; and strengthen inter-departmental coordination, to mitigate the impact of road construction on traffic and the lives of nearby residents.

To accelerate the establishment of smart cities and perfect new infrastructure, the Government will expand the coverage of free WiFi services; install fibre optic systems in all new public buildings; further promote the replacement of electric meters, water meters and natural gas meters with smart meters; build a traffic congestion alert system, and improve real-time traffic management capabilities; further optimise the Macao Smart Go application, to perfect various public transportation systems and travel information; and promote inter-departmental geographic data sharing, to gradually build a service system for spatial data creation, dissemination, and sharing.

Regarding the development of a green and liveable Macao, the Government will adopt a series of measures to control greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the national dual carbon goals, and actively implement the electric vehicle promotion plan, while boosting the penetration rate of electric vehicles even as overall vehicle growth is controlled. Bus companies will be required to phase out the public buses of Euro 4 emission standard, and the proportion of electric public buses will be increased to approximately 70 percent. The Government will further implement the

plastic restriction policy, and prohibit the import of non-degradable disposable plastic knives, forks and spoons during 2023. We will also initiate discussions on the construction of an eco-island; resolve coastal sewage pollution in the Inner Harbour; and ensure progress with the construction of a recycling centre for organic resources, together with various plans and projects related to the “reclaimed water reuse” project.

Regarding strengthening disaster prevention and mitigation to enhance the city’s resilience, the Government will effectively implement the ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation, to protect residents’ lives and property; ensure progress with the construction of the rainwater pumping station in the South Inner Harbour and the sewerage project; complete the preliminary design of the Flood Prevention and Drainage at West Coloane project; and initiate the public tender and construction of the dyke improvement works in Area A. The Ka Ho Reservoir capacity expansion project (Phase Two) is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 or in early 2024. This will be in addition to completion of the Dateng Gorge Hydroelectric Project in Guangxi, thus significantly enhancing the security of Macao’s water supplies. The Government will also fully implement the Legal System for the Control of Hazardous Substances, and begin construction of the permanent storage for hazardous substances.

To increase and optimise municipal leisure facilities, the Government will proceed with the construction of the second phase of the green promenade along the southern shores of the Macao Peninsula and the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experimental Camp, and finish planning the redevelopment of the former Macao (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club and the lot of Lin Fong Sports Centre into sports parks for public use. We will also continue optimising open space for the community and children’s play facilities.

Regarding strengthening the management of maritime areas, we will strive to complete the drafting and the legislative process of the bill on marine zoning based on functions, the planning of maritime areas, and the Law on Use of Maritime Areas. The Government will also join hands with authorities in mainland China to develop a smart maritime system.

3. Take multiple measures to benefit people’s wellbeing

While upholding the principle of financial prudence, the Government will ensure that resources for education, healthcare, livelihoods and social welfare will not be reduced, and carry forward all welfare measures and temporary tax incentives that were implemented in 2022.

To effectively safeguard prioritised employment for local citizens, the Government will ensure steady employment for gaming staff after the new casino concessions are granted, and maintain the proportion of local employees working in the middle and senior management of integrated tourism and leisure enterprises at no less than 85 percent. The Government will continue with the subsidised training scheme, to further assist people who are impacted by the pandemic by upgrading their vocational skills for entering the job market. We will enhance local people’s competitiveness in employment; and initiate a variety of vocational training courses and subjects for vocational examinations, to help Macao residents with strengthening their upward or horizontal mobility in the workplace.

The Government will continue improving labour laws and regulations. The Union Law will be

submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation by the end of the year, and the measures regarding subsidies of remuneration for maternity leave and other laws will be reviewed. We will strengthen the creation of the occupational safety and health system.

The Government will maintain its level of investment in public housing, and implement the five-rung housing ladder policy, to help people from different walks of life to purchase their homes. Also in 2023, we will expedite the public housing construction project in Venceslau de Moraes and Area A; carry out the review and allocation of regular family application for public housing, accelerate the construction of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing units in Area A; and commence a new round of application procedures for Home-Ownership Scheme Housing. In the first half of 2023, the study on the plan for Sandwich Class Housing on the site on Avenida Wai Long and the related legal system will be completed, and the corresponding construction and access system, plus conditions of use and sale of the housing units will be established. The Government will complete the construction of the housing project for senior citizens at Lot P of Areia Preta; and will plan and select suitable land for private housing for public tendering.

We will implement urban renewal work in accordance with the law; expedite the legislation of the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal; proceed with construction of interim housing; and create favourable conditions for urban renewal.

To improve healthcare services, the Government will uphold the principle of “putting prevention first and providing sound healthcare”, and promote continuous development of Macao’s healthcare system. We care for the physical and mental health of the residents, and will provide mental health-related services through the joint mechanism of “four-level joint prevention and four-service linking network” of the World Health Organization, and build a protective network for caring for people’s lives. We will continue promoting the application of Chinese medicine in community healthcare services and enhance the professional standards of Chinese medicine services in Macao.

To strengthen social services, the Government closely monitors the aging population, and will strengthen elderly services and promote smart elderly services; complete the construction of senior citizen housing on schedule. We will optimise the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme to further expand the range of target beneficiaries. In 2023, about 300 new quotas for rehabilitation services will be added. An additional month of allowances will be disbursed to eligible families, in response to the pandemic. The Government will actively support the development of women’s and children’s affairs, perfect and facilitate the implementation of family-friendly policies, continue supporting the development of family life education, and promote the development of child-care services; regulate the price marking methods of public wet markets to enhance price transparency; and implement the Registration System for Establishments of Takeaway Foods, to strengthen inspections and protect consumers’ rights and interests.

The Government will improve the standard of education and steadily facilitate the market-oriented development of higher education; facilitate the orderly development of institutional quality audit in higher education institutions, to enhance quality and competitiveness; gradually expand the sources of international students, expand the scale of higher education, and speed up talent cultivation to assist the development of the MSAR. We will also enhance the quality of non-tertiary education and support the diverse development of students; continue improving the teaching and learning environment for basic education by planning and constructing eight schools and one education

centre on lots B1 and B2 of the New Urban Zone Area A; and enhance the professional competence of teachers and related teaching staff. We will continue implementing the pilot project on Smart Teaching; launch a science popularisation and education scheme for students, to promote science and technology education in primary and secondary schools; and continue supporting local students with pursuing further studies in top universities around the world.

We will strengthen youth work from a strategic perspective. The Government will publish the Social Survey on Macao Youth Indicators 2022, and implement a professional development programme for young people of Macao, to provide professional experience opportunities for Macao's working youth; and fully leverage the functions of youth organisations to enhance the political engagement ability of young people. The Government will help young people and students to pursue employment, education, entrepreneurship and exchanges and cooperation in mainland China – especially in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

We will expedite the construction of One Base. We will organise Art Macao: 2023 International Art Biennial of Macao; and support local arts organisations and workers with applying for the China National Arts Fund, to boost the popularity of Macao's creative works. We will publish the Annals of Macao - Geography, and commence the compilation of the Annals of Macao - Law and Politics; and promote digital upgrading and transformation of cultural and museum facilities. The Government will also launch two subsidy schemes for the revitalisation and maintenance of historic buildings; enforce the Cultural Heritage Protection Law; and properly protect and utilise our cultural heritage. We will build a “city of reading”, and introduce reading space enhancement and incentive measures for children and teenagers, to cultivate a lifelong reading habit.

To support the development of sports, we will actively participate in the preparation of the 15th National Games. We will enhance athletic team building and training, to create a favourable environment for the development of elite athletes. We will facilitate the planning and restructuring of various sports facilities; support organising sport for all activities; and facilitate building Macao as a healthy city.

4. Deepen public administration reform and continuously improve governance capacity

The Government will properly define its rights and responsibilities and optimise the allocation of functions; continue reviewing the disciplinary system for department heads and supervisors of public departments, and introduce new mechanisms at both physical and procedural levels, to improve accountability; review the functions of project teams in the government structure and implement necessary restructuring; and continue optimising the internal division of labour and allocation of functions at the departmental level.

The Government will commence revising the laws and regulations related to e-governance; offer one-stop integrated services based on the “Macao One Account 2.0”; and expand, in phases, the cloud computing centre, to gradually improve the level of data development and utilisation. The Government will start issuing the next-generation Macao identity cards in the fourth quarter of 2023; and will also optimise registration and notary procedures; strengthen data interconnection; and facilitate electronic registration for motor vehicles, civil registration and property and business registrations.

To improve the efficiency of internal management of public departments, the Government will re-establish a unified personnel management system for civil servants. We will also improve the horizontal mobility of civil servants, strengthen cross-departmental cooperation and facilitate coordinated and efficient operations by government agencies.

We strive to build an efficient civil servant team for the people. The civil servant entrance examination will be conducted in an orderly manner. We will improve civil servant training. The Government will organise exchange seminars for civil servants from Macao, Zhuhai and Hengqin; explore the establishment of a system for assigning civil servants to internship programmes in the Greater Bay Area and other parts of mainland China; and continuously strengthen civil servants' sense of responsibility, together with their awareness of serving the people, communication and collaboration, fairness and integrity, and innovation.

The Government will effectively implement the principle of “patriots governing Macao”; perfect the electoral system and carry out the work on amending the Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly; and strengthen education and training for civil servants on patriotism and their national security awareness. In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law, a series of commemorative and legal awareness activities will be held.

The Government will coordinate and expedite all legislative work, actively implement the projects scheduled in the legislative plan for the year, and prioritise the legislative amendments related to people's livelihoods and the economy, to provide legal support for promoting economic recovery, and protecting and improving people's livelihoods. We will also actively facilitate the optimisation of the legal system for monitoring public assets, to ensure rational use of public funds.

To facilitate regional and international legal cooperation, the Government will foster integration and development of legal services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and establish and improve diverse dispute resolution mechanisms. We will also expedite the negotiations regarding and signing of judicial assistance protocols with Portugal, Brazil, the Philippines and Vietnam.

We will respect and uphold judicial independence, and actively support the construction of software and hardware for the judiciary. The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will carry out its work related to anti-corruption, complaints to the Ombudsman and integrity education in accordance with the law. The Commission of Audit will make progress in building collaboration mechanisms, managing audit projects, devising innovative methods for audit organisation and utilising audit data.

5. Persistently safeguard national security and maintain social stability

To persistently safeguard national security, firstly, we will improve the legal system for safeguarding national security. The Government will make considerable efforts to push forward the second reading of the amendments to the Law on Safeguarding National Security, and make progress with the revision of supporting legislation in an orderly manner. Second, the Government will implement enforcement mechanisms to safeguard national security, make every effort to facilitate the physical operations of the Office of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the

Macao Special Administrative Region, and fully support the National Security Adviser and National Security Technical Advisers in fulfilling their duties according to the law. Third, we will strengthen national security law enforcement; optimise intelligence and law enforcement; strengthen the ability to identify and respond to security risks and threats in various areas; and actively prevent, suppress and penalise according to law any activities that endanger the stability of the country and Macao.

To maintain consistent alertness in the police force: First, we will strengthen the police force through technology. We will comprehensively promote the development of smart policing; improve the overall deployment of CCTV cameras; strengthen cyber security supervision; and enhance cyber security alertness and protection capabilities. Second, we will promote civil protection reform. The Government will implement the new Civil Protection Master Plan, promote smart civil protection, and continue improving the functions of the application platform enabling effective overall command during emergencies. Third, we will systematically prevent and strictly combat all kinds of illegal and criminal activities.

6. Steadily advance the construction of Hengqin, and better integration with national development

The MSAR Government will work closely with Guangdong province to expedite, step by step, the legislation for the Cooperation Zone. We will continue communicating with the relevant national ministries; facilitate the implementation of hierarchical management supporting regulatory measures and tax policies; facilitate prompt implementation of major supportive measures, such as the special measures for relaxing market entry requirements of the Cooperation Zone, and the catalogue of encouraged industries; and explore the ways to establish an international Internet cross-border data management system. The Government will accelerate the formulation of plans for the development and investment companies in the Cooperation Zone; and facilitate the launch and implementation of the list of the first batch of authorised items; take the lead in establishing a legal system and mechanism deeply integrated with Macao in civil and commercial areas, such as market supervision, commercial registration, intellectual property rights, cross-border practices, and commercial dispute resolution, providing legal protection for the development of the Cooperation Zone.

We will focus on industries with precise efforts; focus on facilitating Macao's industrial diversification; scientifically study and identify segmentation of the Cooperation Zone; expedite the introduction of a series of high-quality and precise industrial policies; leverage Macao's unique advantages arising from being a free port with international access to the world and the Cooperation Zone's advantages in space and talents, to facilitate efficient and convenient flows of people, goods, funds and information in Macao and Hengqin. We will also study ways of lowering enterprises' operating costs and people's cost of living in the Cooperation Zone; provide a hub platform for mainland China enterprises to go global, bring in international enterprises, and form a new model to promote the synergy between industries with "Macao platform + international resources + Hengqin space + shared results".

To promote high-quality development of modern financial services, we will accelerate the launch of policies on financial services industries, such as wealth management and green finance; support the development and public listing of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises; fully cooperate with the national financial authorities, to implement the plan for the establishment of an

electronic fence system in the Cooperation Zone; build crucial financial infrastructure; explore the coordinated development of onshore and offshore businesses with the implementation of risk control. The Government will promote cross-border transfer of green finance assets, to further open up the capital connection channels with Macao. With reference to the cross-border financial cooperation mechanism, the Government will explore ways to jointly establish a financial supervision committee in the Cooperation Zone, and establish a sound coordination and communication mechanism for tools to supervise innovative pilot financial services projects.

We will make great efforts in developing advanced technology. We will actively facilitate the implementation of semiconductor chip manufacturing projects; commence an exercise to invite investment in the Metaverse industry; expedite the establishment of industrial structure and agglomeration of enterprises; facilitate the construction of the Hengqin Advanced Intelligent Computing Permanent Base; promote the computing platform as a project for creating scientific devices; cooperate with the Cooperation Zone to help Macao researchers to apply for national science and technology programmes; and support researchers working on projects in Macao to conduct joint research and development in the Cooperation Zone, and to transform their achievements.

The Government will facilitate the development of the “Big Health” industry, integrate the advantages of traditional Chinese medicine in Guangdong and Macao, and strengthen cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine between the two places. We will optimise the development model of Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park); expedite the implementation of several healthcare projects; focus on the development of Chinese medicine using traditional and classical prescriptions, Chinese medicine, testing and certification, transformation of pilot testing, production and manufacturing and other business formats.

To strengthen the cultural tourism, convention and exhibition, and trade and commerce industries, the Government will promote in-depth cooperation between Macao and Hengqin in cultural innovation, convention and exhibition, consumption, Big Health and other industries; jointly build the brand of Macao-Hengqin tourism; expedite the construction of the crossing area and extension area for Macao’s cultural, tourism and exhibition industry; and organise the High-quality Consumption Exhibition and Hengqin Global Bay Area Forum.

To create a favourable environment for living and working akin to Macao, we will complete the establishment of Macao New Neighbourhood project, develop plans for allocation and sale of residential units, and simultaneously build livelihood facilities for the people. We will accelerate the implementation of Macao standard public services and welfare systems in Hengqin; continue to deepen exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Hengqin in education, healthcare, culture and other social and livelihood areas; and assist Macao residents with seeking employment opportunities in the Cooperation Zone. We will launch special internship programmes on advanced technology for Macao young people; establish policies to facilitate cross-border practices so Macao medical workers can work in the Cooperation Zone; and strive to launch the policy that enables medicines and medical devices that are legally used in Macao to be also used in the Cooperation Zone.

To deepen regional cooperation, the Government will implement the Arrangements of Key Projects

for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in 2023, implement various project plans, and actively participate in the formulation of various policies and plans. We will facilitate cooperation between Guangdong and Macao. Meanwhile we will study the establishment of specialised cooperation mechanisms with Hainan and Chongqing; actively participate in pan-Pearl River Delta cooperation, and encourage Pan-Pearl River Delta local governments and qualified enterprises to raise financing through Macao bond market, and strengthen cooperation with Pan-Pearl River Delta; implement Beijing-Macao, Shanghai-Macao, and Sichuan-Macao cooperation; and participate in supporting Jiangxi's rural revitalisation work. We will actively participate in the Belt and Road initiative, and pragmatically facilitate the establishment of One Platform.

7. Make unrelenting efforts to prevent and control the pandemic COVID-19 and safeguard strengthen the anti-pandemic system

The MSAR Government will continue aligning with the national prevention and control policies to safeguard the health and lives of Macao people, and create favourable conditions for normal operations of society and economic recovery.

We will consolidate our experience of the “18 June” pandemic prevention and control, to enhance our pandemic prevention and control capability; optimise pandemic contingency plans; steadily improve regional joint prevention and control, and constantly improve the pandemic prevention system; and continue to promote COVID-19 vaccination, mainly targeting the elderly, children, and booster shots. To improve infectious disease prevention and control facilities, the Public Health Specialist Building will commence operation in 2023. This meets World Health Organization standards, and will be equipped with 80 high-standard isolation wards to provide support in prevention and control of infectious disease outbreaks.

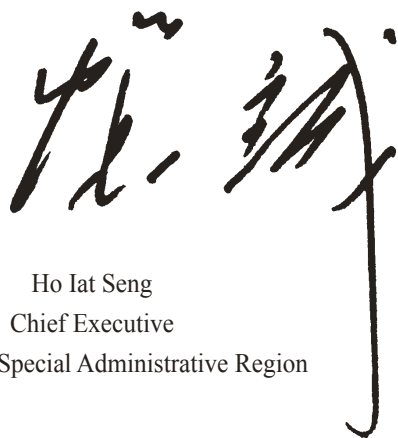
Conclusions

Currently, we are facing a complex and ever-changing internal and external development environment, and dealing with the difficult tasks of economic restructuring and transformation. Today, however, the scale and level of Macao's overall economic development, the financial situation of the MSAR Government, and the strength and foundation of Macao industry or enterprises, are unparalleled in history. We must move on with full confidence, join hands and unite to overcome difficulties and challenges, blaze a new trail of adequate economic diversification, and open new horizons for Macao's development.

The MSAR Government will seize the opportunities arising from national development; leverage Macao's unique positioning and advantages; unswervingly expedite Macao's adequate economic diversification; actively participate in the new national development plan; pragmatically promote the construction of the Cooperation Zone; and achieve better development of Macao on the broad stage of national development.

We shall take into account the actual situation in Macao; thoroughly study and implement the report of the 20th National Congress and the spirit of President Xi's important speech; strengthen our confidence in the principle of “One country, two systems”; leverage the advantages of “One country, two systems”; adhere to a general approach of making progress while ensuring stability;

and jointly promote the great cause of “One country, two systems” in Macao in the new era, to break new ground and make new achievements!

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Ho Iat Seng
Chief Executive
The Macao Special Administrative Region