

The exhibition received an overwhelming response from all sectors of the community since its opening. The rich exhibition content attracted participation from the general public, as well as from community organisations, youth associations, schools, public departments and public and private institutions. By the closing of the exhibition on 15 May, over 58,000 visitors had attended the exhibition, reaching a new record high, and the related website had recorded over 380,000 page views, demonstrating the solid foundation of patriotism in Macao.

Government departments, schools and community groups have been proactively promoting a variety of activities to raise awareness of national security among Macao residents, especially young people, and strengthen their sense of identifying with and belonging to the motherland and Macao.

Diligent Fulfilment of Legislative Function; Supervision of the Budget and Public Finances



During the first session of the seventh Legislative Assembly (from 16 October, 2021 to 15 October, 2022), a total of 41 plenary meetings and 176 committee meetings were held, with 19 laws, one resolution and 14 simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

Legislative function:

In line with the administrative principles of e-governance and environmental protection, Law No. 19/2021 on amending Law No. 16/96/M – Vehicle Licence Tax, dated 12 August was passed, realising paperless tax logos and e-monitoring of vehicle licence tax payments. Law No. 20/2021 on amending Law No. 3/1999 – Publication and Format of Laws and Regulations was passed, changing the official means of publication of Macao SAR Gazette from printing to digital. Law No. 5/2022 – Submission of Legal Procedure Documents and Electronic Payment of Procedural Costs was passed, marking the dawn of digitisation of legal proceedings. Law No. 6/2022 – Electronic Display of Documents Necessary for Driving Vehicles was passed, providing more convenient

digital services to drivers.

To ensure transparency and effectiveness in communicating information for tax purposes, Law No. 1/2022 on amending Law No. 5/2017 – Legal System on Communicating Tax-related Information was passed, revising the requirements regarding information sharing on request and automatic sharing of financial account information, to further align with the latest international standards.

Regarding education and public hygiene, Law No. 2/2022 on amending Law No. 9/2006 – Fundamental Law on Non-tertiary Education, and Law No. 10/2017 – Tertiary Education System were passed, integrating the Higher Education Fund, Education Development Fund and Student Welfare Fund into an autonomous fund, thereby streamlining confirmation of legal persons and responsible entities in the educational sector, adjusting the applicability of the Academy of Public Security Forces for the tertiary education system, and waiving the financial restrictions regarding scientific research expenses for specific public tertiary institutions. Law No. 13/2022 on amending Law No. 5/2011 – Law on Smoking Prevention and Control was passed, stipulating a series of regulations on e-cigarette control to better safeguard public health. Moreover, Law No. 9/2022 on amending the list of infectious diseases as appendix to Law No. 2/2004 – Law on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Communicable Diseases was passed through emergency procedures, classifying Monkeypox as an infectious disease, to facilitate the use of appropriate prevention and control measures to prevent the import and spread of the disease.

As regards combating illegal activities and safeguarding public safety, Law No. 3/2022 on amending Law No. 3/2010 – Prohibition of Illegal Accommodation was passed, to enhance related supervision and increase protection for property owners, in view of the novel operating model of illegal guesthouses.

Law No. 12/2022 – Legal System on the Control of Hazardous Substances was passed, stipulating the overall system supervising and preventing potential major accidents arising from owning, manufacturing, selling, transporting, storing or using hazardous substances. Law No. 14/2022 – Legal System on Lifting Equipment Safety was passed, institutionalising and normalising the management of lifting equipment, introducing a repair and maintenance system, and clarifying the duties and responsibilities of various entities. Law No. 10/2022 – Legal System on Interception and Protection of Communications was passed, improving the covert telephone surveillance system in the criminal prosecution process, and introducing targeted protection and independent regulation.

In late July, in response to the pandemic and the new era of digitisation, the Legislative Assembly held its plenary meeting via video conferencing for the first time in history, and discussed and passed the bills amending the 2022 Government Budget and the list of infectious diseases as appendix to Law No. 2/2004 – Law on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Communicable Diseases. The bills were passed in support of the MSAR Government's swift implementation of financial assistance measures to ease livelihood hardships, as well as allowing the inclusion of Monkeypox in the official list of infectious diseases.

Lastly, in line with the launch of a public tender for casino concessions, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 7/2022 on amending Law No. 16/2001 – Gaming Industry Regulatory Framework, thereby refining the regulation of gaming operation scale, revising the number of concessions, and enhancing the various responsibilities of concessionaires.

All the above 13 laws were submitted by the Government.

Fulfilment of supervisory function:

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Legislative Assembly performed its supervisory duties regarding the government budget and public finances. This included passing Law No. 17/2021 and Law No. 18/2021 to amend the 2021 Government Budget, passing Law No. 21/2021 – 2022 Government Budget (the Budget was amended via Law No. 4/2022 and Law No. 8/2022, to reflect a series of financial assistance measures implemented by the Government to support the public in response to the impact of the pandemic), deliberating on the Government's reports on implementing the 2020 Budget and on the Audit Report on the General Accounts 2020, and listening to and discussing the 2022 Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive.

With regard to tax affairs, Law No. 11/2022 on amending Regulations on Tourism Tax was passed, to align with Law No. 8/2021 – Law on the Operation of Hotel Premises that was already in effect, by reorganising the list of hotels and catering venues in hotels covered by tax collection and administration, clearing defining the targets of tourist tax collection, and adjusting the scope of exemptions and tax classification.

Moreover, to enhance interactions between the administrative and legislative functions of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Executive's questions and answers sessions were held in April and August. The first session covered questions to the Chief Executive regarding public administration and issues of general public concern, including the new round of financial assistance measures, promotion of employment, tourism development, urban planning, development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, medicine and education. The second session focused on measures for public benefit, preparations for economic recovery, development of emergent industries, review of pandemic prevention and control, public housing planning and building, and public administration reform. Hence, the Legislative Assembly continued demonstrating its functions of communicating public demands and resolving issues about people's livelihoods.

To better fulfil its duty of listening to and collecting the opinions of legislators, the Government held a consultation meeting and a briefing meeting for legislators on the Legal System for Publicly-funded Corporations and the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030). To enhance mutual interactions and understanding between the administrative and legislative functions, during the legislative session, legislators visited by invitation the New Urban Zone Area A, to observe its development; and the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge, to witness progress with construction work. The legislators also paid an observation and research visit to Hengqin, to gain a deeper understanding of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone.

During the legislative session, legislators gave 377 pre-agenda speeches, covering the safeguarding of national security, housing policy, public transportation, medicine and health, culture and education, employment protection, energy saving and environment protection, regional cooperation, pandemic prevention and control, and economic recovery. Moreover, legislators submitted totals of 756 written questions and 82 oral questions to the Government, and the Legislative Assembly held eight plenary meetings for these enquiries. Lastly, 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 actively followed up regarding and prepared five reports on the following important administrative matters: planning and construction related to disaster prevention and reduction; interim report on implementation of the 2021 Government Budget; report on implementation of the 2Q21 and 3Q21 Investment Plan Budgets; report on implementation of the 4Q21 Investment Plan Budget; progress with construction of the new prison, and its construction expenses; report on implementation of the 1Q22 Investment Plan Budget; and seaworthiness of fishing boats and development of the fisheries industry.

It is the Legislative Assembly's responsibility to listen to and fully reflect different views, suggestions and criticisms from the public, and make prompt responses regarding public aspirations. During the legislative session, legislators received members of the public in-person through a duty roster system over seven person-times, and there were 155 cases of expression of opinions and suggestions via in-person visits, telephone calls or email by the public to the Legislative Assembly. Moreover, six petitions were presented to the Legislative Assembly by local residents or groups, and these were all appropriately handled by the Legislative Assembly, with due consideration of the facts.

Commission Against Corruption Practically Discharges its Duties while Commission of Audit Emphasises Sensible use of Public Funds



The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) practically performed its duties in 2022. In terms of anti-corruption work, the CCAC actively carried out various investigations within limited timeframes, and solved several bribery cases. For the first time, the CCAC overcame problems regarding the different legal requirements of Hong Kong and Macao concerning bribery offences committed by private enterprises, and successfully joined forces with overseas counterparts to fight corruption across jurisdictional boundaries. The CCAC also solved vote-buying cases involving more than 200 voters, and cases involving violation of confidentiality in private enterprises. In