

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

addition, cases related to various government subsidies were also investigated, to safeguard Macao's public interest.

As regards complaints to the Ombudsman, through its various monitoring methods, the CCAC achieved the objective of encouraging departments to reduce their problems and improve their systems. For cases arising from the arrangements to combat Covid-19 in 2022, the CCAC held meetings with the authorities and made feasible recommendations. Many cases involving delays in the approval of right of abode renewal or applications for acquisitions by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute were also completed. Moreover, the CCAC promptly reviewed progress with follow-up work by departments or entities on the reinvestigation mechanism list ("retrospective reviews"). Most of the departments were positive in seeking appropriate measures to optimise their administrative work, showing the mechanism was being effectively implemented.

In 2022, the CCAC received 1,274 inquiries and 678 complaints or reports. Among the complaints or reports, 103 were filed for investigation and transferred to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for follow-up, including 11 joint investigation cases. A total of 171 cases were referred to the Directorate of Ombudsman Services for follow-up, 169 of which were designated as special investigations, with two were carried out in the form of comprehensive investigations. A total of 322 cases were sent to the Complaint Management Centre because they were not eligible for initiating an investigation, with 193 of these cases archived directly and 129 cases archived after being handled by relevant departments for follow-up work.

Together with the cases carried forward from 2021, the CCAC finished handling a total of 295 investigation files in 2022. Of all the cases completed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, ten were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office and 78 were archived. In 30 of the cases completed by the Directorate of Ombudsman Services, the departments involved accepted comments or promised to take follow-up action. Ten cases were added to the "retrospective reviews" list for reinvestigation.

In 2022, the CCAC opened 11 joint investigation cases in response to requests from overseas counterparts. Together with those carried forward from 2021, there were a total of 20 joint investigation cases in 2022, 13 of which were closed and seven were still being followed up. The CCAC made two requests to overseas counterparts – mainly involving mainland authorities – for assistance in joint investigations.

As regards publicity and education, in line with the goal of "All for Integrity" set out in the Second Five-Year Development Plan, the CCAC constantly carries out various publicity and education activities through various channels and actively implements online promotion programmes. In 2022, a total of 444 seminars, talks and activities were held, reaching 27,124 participants. They mainly targeted public servants; employees of business organisations; young people; tertiary, primary and secondary school students and the general public. The CCAC also introduced a chapter of the "All for Integrity Series" for the general public and public servants, developed new models for cooperation with community groups, improved and expanded the advisory panel on teaching materials on integrity, published "Nothing on the Planet is Trivial" stories on integrity for lower primary students, and launched the "Storytelling by William" project.

In addition, the CCAC repositioned its community office in Taipa to build a base for youth and community integrity education, as well as for multi-media production, to enhance the promotion

of integrity education. As 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the CCAC, the CCAC designed a logo and organised commemorative activities, including “30 Years of CCAC - CCAC Integrity Education Open Day”, to allow the public to better understand CCAC from a new perspective.

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing during 2022, the CCAC took part in conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses that were held online. These were organised by, among others, the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The CCAC also voted in the elections of the Second Vice President and Asia President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI).

In 2022, at the invitation of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region, the CCAC participated via a video link in the 13th meeting of the working group on the review of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the 13th meeting of the working group on corruption prevention held in Vienna, Austria.

In 2023, the CCAC will continue working towards the objectives set out in the Second Five-Year Development Plan, and align with the designated objectives, to take forward its work on integrity – including by continuing to fight against corruption and review relevant laws; strengthening monitoring of disciplinary procedures; promoting the “Integrity Management Plan – Innovation and Continuity”; launching the “All for Integrity Series”: Chapter for the Youth; focusing on the revision of the Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and relevant administrative regulations; and strengthening exchanges with counterparts from other countries and regions, to jointly tackle global anti-corruption challenges and impacts.



In 2022, the Commission of Audit published the audit report titled *Supervision of Financial Support through the Cultural Industry Fund and the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2023*.

From October 2013 to June 2020, the Cultural Industry Fund approved and implemented a total of 316 subsidised projects involving 517,858,773.35 patacas. The audit report titled “Supervision of Financial Support through the Cultural Industry Fund” reviewed the fund’s follow-up supervision of enterprises receiving funding, and reviewed its management mechanism and implementation quality. The audit found that as a result of deficiencies identified in the fund’s mechanism, the fund not only failed to make timely corrections, but allowed regressions to occur. Although those responsible for the fund claimed to have implemented the established mechanisms, but there was no record of any such implementation, it was clear that they had turned a blind eye to many obvious problems and phenomena. Various facts showed that the fund’s management was passive and laissez-faire, which was the main cause of a series of problems. The Commission of Audit believes that to achieve the stated policy objectives with limited public funding, active and good management is required in both the disbursement of subsidies and other areas of work, with particular emphasis on good use of resources and performance.

In accordance with Article 3 of Law No. 11/1999 requiring the fulfilment of auditing supervision over the implementation of the budget of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Commission of Audit completed the Commissioner of Audit’s Report 2021. During the Legislative Assembly’s plenary meeting on 3 November, 2022, the Commissioner of Audit explained in detail the main contents of the report and the details of the implementation.

In addition to auditing, the Commission of Audit conducted the following activities in 2022:

From 7 November to 11 November, Mr Ho Veng On, Commissioner of Audit, went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a member of the Chinese delegation attending the 24th Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. During the meeting, Mr Ho met with the commissioners of audit of many countries and exchanged views on the management and development of the Commission of Audit. Mr Ho participated in various thematic seminars and all activities; and in the group discussions, he joined the group of Portuguese-speaking countries to discuss issues of common interest. The conference adopted a common outcome document, the Rio Declaration, which would propel government audits to new milestones.

As regards training activities, in January, the Commission of Audit and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Audit Research Institute (Zhuhai) of Nanjing Audit University jointly organised their first online training course. They invited Associate Professor Zhu Yi of the Institute to introduce the basic principles of Python and its application in auditing to the staff of the Commission of Audit. About 70 staff members of the Commission of Audit attended the course. Using simple theories and rich examples, the training seminar systematically introduced the basic principles of Python and its applications in auditing, so that the staff could understand the characteristics and applications of big data auditing. The Commission of Audit hopes that through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Audit Research Institute (Zhuhai), exchanges and education on audit work between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao will be strengthened, thereby promoting the capacity building of audit teams and innovation in audit theories.

Moreover, to keep auditors abreast of the latest developments in these areas and enhance their professional knowledge, in 2022 more than 100 auditors attended online courses in areas such as new financial reporting standards, Macao auditing standards, and corporate governance – so that they could gain a better understanding of the development of new financial reporting standards; the implications of the new Macao Special Administrative Region auditing standards requirements for audit practices; the differences between the two sets of auditing standards in Macao at present; as well as the evolution of corporate governance, plus the basics and the contents of the general corporate governance framework, in order to improve business standards and better fulfil social responsibilities.

As regards enhancing computer-aided auditing, in 2022 relevant personnel of the Commission of Audit held regular online meetings with the Computer Technology Centre of the National Audit Office, to exchange views on the operation and maintenance of the “Auditor Office (Macao version)”;¹ and further updated the system after considerable verification in the hope of achieving greater functionality.

In 2022, the Commission of Audit continued organising training activities for public departments, to promote the audit culture and its positive significance, and introduce the importance of good management of public resources, so that the public sector can use government resources wisely and cherish public funds while providing services.

Judicial Transparency Fostered by the Courts of the MSAR, and Smart Prosecution Developed by Public Prosecutions Office

