

Consolidate Development and Enhance Diversification

Policy Highlights of the Macao SAR Government for 2024

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, as well as the 25th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland and the final administrative year of the current Macao administration. The Macao SAR Government shall persistently uphold the spirit of the important speeches and instructions from President Xi Jinping; strictly follow the Constitution and the Macao Basic Law; firmly safeguard the comprehensive jurisdiction of the Central People’s Government and the sovereignty, security and development interests of the country; fully implement the principle of “patriots governing Macao”; and join hands with all sectors of society to achieve greater accomplishments. In accordance with the overall policy direction of “Strengthening Recovery, Fostering Diversification, Improving Livelihoods, and Enhancing Development”, the Government shall consolidate the strong momentum for economic recovery, implement the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy, and achieve progress with appropriate economic diversification in an efficient, effective and pragmatic manner. We shall continue improving people’s livelihoods, further enhance overall quality and standards of governance, expedite the development of a smart and liveable city, and promote sustainable development in various areas. We shall closely cooperate with Guangdong Province, to ensure the completion of the first phase of the development goals for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and we shall actively integrate into overall national development.

Overall Direction and Policy Highlights of the Government for 2024

I. Overall policy direction and major goals of the Government for 2024

The overall policy direction of the Macao SAR Government in 2024 includes: strengthening recovery, fostering diversification, improving livelihoods, and enhancing development.

The major development goals of the Macao SAR include: effectively safeguard national security and continuously enhance law enforcement capabilities in maintaining national security; make greater effort to implement the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy; expedite the fostering and development of major nascent industries to maintain a strong momentum for economic recovery; improve people’s livelihoods; continuously deepen public administration reform; enhance quality and standards of governance; achieve new progress in all areas of the Macao SAR; complete the tasks for the first-phase development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and actively integrate into the overall national development. All sectors of society will jointly demonstrate a harmonious and stable social environment and prosperity, warmly celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the 25th anniversary

of Macao's return to the motherland.

II. Policy Highlights for 2024

1. Firmly safeguard national security and social stability

The Government will firmly uphold the holistic approach to national security, safeguard national sovereignty, safety and development interests, prevent and suppress interferences in Macao affairs by external forces, safeguard against any forces endangering national security through Macao.

The Government will pragmatically expedite legislation regarding safeguarding national security in an orderly manner. We will specifically strengthen the staff recruitment and resource allocation of national security departments based on practical needs. The Government fully supports the National Security Affairs Adviser and the National Security Technical Advisers in performing their duties in accordance with the law and strictly enforces the Law on Safeguarding National Security. The Government will fully implement the provisions regarding oath-taking in the newly revised Law on Safeguarding National Security, further implement the principle of “patriots governing Macao”, complete the amendments to the Chief Executive Election Law and the Legislative Assembly Election Law, and amend the Law on Oath-taking upon Assumption of Office and related regulations.

To deepen patriotic education, the Government will thoroughly study and implement the Patriotic Education Law. We will leverage patriotic organisations' role to promote the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the Law on Safeguarding National Security, to create a favourable environment for respecting, obeying and safeguarding the law. We will continue to bolster our loyalty to the country and to Macao and consolidate our core value of loving our country and Macao.

The Government will strengthen the establishment of an urban security system; intensify smart policing; further enhance the protection and risk prevention regarding cybersecurity; strengthen security protection of key data and infrastructure in Macao; and strengthen the security of Macao waters through technology. The Government will continue optimising the Civil Protection Master Plan and the platform for applications enabling effective overall command during emergencies, and strengthen the emergency response and disaster relief and prevention work of the Civil Protection Centre. We will prevent and combat illegal and criminal activities, and deepen exchanges and cooperation with law enforcement departments in neighbouring areas, to effectively safeguard Macao's overall safety and stability.

2. Further enhance appropriate economic diversification

2024 marks the beginning of the implementation of the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy. Guided by the strategy, the Government will make greater efforts to promote appropriate economic diversification through policy making, manpower and financial resources, and establish a diverse and sustainable industrial structure that dovetails with Macao's actual situation, to foster appropriate economic diversification and quality development.

The Government will strengthen the integrated tourism and leisure industry, in tandem with enriching Macao's contents as a world tourism and leisure centre. We will enhance the promotion of Macao as a tourism and leisure city, deepen tourism crossover synergy, and strengthen joint

development between tourism and other industries such as gastronomy, study trips, sports, technology, culture, conventions and exhibitions, and Big Health through crossover synergy. The Government will support the development of education tourism, cultural tourism, Big Health tourism and sport tourism. The Government will strictly enforce the new gaming laws and regulations, and closely monitor gaming concessionaires' compliance in fulfilling their contractual obligations, to ensure orderly, lawful and healthy development of the gaming industry.

First, fully implement the revitalisation action plans for old areas – The Government will boost economic growth in the community by leveraging the revitalisation of historical and cultural areas; take the lead in engaging the community in revitalising six historical and cultural areas; explore the historical and cultural resources of old areas; establish iconic cultural and tourism attractions; attract more visitors to shop in Macao; and offer visitors unique cultural tourism experiences with Macao characteristics, to foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises within historical and cultural areas and their surrounding regions. Measures such as community festive events and community tourism subsidies will be continued, to enhance the economic vitality of the community.

Second, promote the development of non-gaming elements by gaming concessionaires – The Government will ensure that gaming concessionaires implement their investment plans for 2024 and encourage them to introduce more international branded events; continue enriching local themed entertainment products, develop cross-domain cultural consumption and characteristic experiential events incorporating technological elements; construct high-quality tourism and entertainment facilities to boost the development of non-gaming elements such as conferences, exhibitions, entertainment performances, sports events, cultural arts, health and wellness, theme parks, gastronomy, community tourism and maritime tourism.

Third, explore overseas customer markets – The Government will continue to optimise the scheduled flight networks of Macau International Airport, and strive to develop more direct international flights; leverage the role of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, to enhance and promote convenient transit measures between Hong Kong and Macao, and improve the accessibility for foreign tourists wishing to visit Macao. Taking the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the Government will launch promotional offers covering air tickets, cross-border transportation, hotel accommodation, dining, amusement facilities and tickets for performances, to attract international tourists. We will collaborate with cities in the Greater Bay Area to develop more “multi-destination” tourism products targeting visitors from Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, to facilitate mutual exchanges of regional visitor sources.

The Government will actively promote the development of the four key industries, and gradually increase the proportions of their contributions to the economy.

Facilitating the development of Chinese medicine and the Big Health industry:

- Seize opportunities arising from the opening of the Macao Union Hospital, to promote integration of “medical services + tourism”, provide high-end medical and healthcare services, and gradually expand specialised services including medical cosmetics and Chinese medicine;
- Establish influential technologies and an innovative platform for producing Chinese medicine

using traditional and classical prescriptions;

- Promote industrialisation of Chinese medicine and introduce more Big Health and pharmaceutical companies in order for them to establish bases in Macao;
- Support and encourage the approval of more clinically innovative medicines for sale and use in Macao;
- Introduce high-quality Chinese medicine prescriptions from the mainland's Chinese medicine hospitals;
- Revise the legal system for medical institution licensing, to establish a category of medical institutions that is intermediate between hospitals and clinics; and
- Assist approvals of more Chinese patent medicine products for sale in Macao and production in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, while exploring the mainland China and international markets.

Accelerating the development of the modern financial services industry:

- Prioritise the development of the bond market, expedite the optimisation of the Macao Central Securities Depository, strive for support from the Central People's Government to normalise the issuance of sovereign bonds and local bonds in Macao; and attract more international investors;
- Improve laws and regulations regarding the financial services sector, and expedite the legislation of the Securities Law;
- Promote financial technology innovation, to facilitate modern financial services development, to optimise services for the convenience of the public and businesses;
- Explore the measures for optimising the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme with related authorities in mainland China and Hong Kong;
- Explore the use of tax incentives to encourage asset management companies to establish bases in Macao;
- Consider the introduction of digital currency into the monetary system; and
- Openly and conscientiously develop new financial business structures, and promote the provision of services by licensed new financial institutions to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Macao.

Promoting the development of new hi-tech industries along with transforming and upgrading traditional industries:

- Launch a subsidy scheme for innovative research and development in the business sector;
- Support the establishment of high standard industry-academia-research demonstration bases;
- Fully leverage the role of technology enterprises as innovation leaders, increase investment in scientific research and development, along with the industrial investment fund of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, enhance support for scientific research and

high-end manufacturing, and cultivate and develop the innovative technologies industrial chain;

- Enhance the construction of a digital city, launch digitalisation upgrade support services for small and medium-sized enterprises, and assist in development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through technology; and
- Support promotion of “Made in Macao” branding, and foster the high-quality development of Macao-branded industries.

Promoting high-quality development of the exhibition and convention, and commercial and trade industries:

- Accelerate the market-oriented, professional and international development of the exhibition industry, and consider organising more events showcasing high value-added products from Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Strengthen the synergy between the exhibition industry and other key industries, and strive to host internationally influential exhibitions in Macao; and
- Establish a new Macao-Henqin exhibition platform, to promote the joint organisation of conventions and exhibitions in Macao and Hengqin adopting the “multi-venue event” mode.

Promoting the sustainable development of the cultural and sports sectors:

- Expand sales platforms for cultural and creative products;
- Create more revitalised spaces for historical buildings and support the integrated development of the cultural industry and tourism;
- Launch funding programmes focusing on promoting cultural and creative projects related to Macao’s film and television;
- Foster development of the film and television industry, and establish a website dedicated to Macao’s film and television industry;
- Develop branded art and cultural festivals and events, organise high-standard large-scale sports events, and organise branded sports events with Macao characteristics; and
- Position Macao as a “City of Performing Arts” and a “City of Sports”.

The Government will improve the business environment, assist small and medium-sized enterprises with solving difficulties and problems, and realise innovative development. The Government will coordinate with the banking industry to extend the principal moratorium arrangement and adjustment of loan repayments for small and medium-sized enterprises until the end of 2024; support the launch of one-stop cross-boundary e-commerce service to promote e-commerce development. We will ensure the availability of necessary human resources for economic recovery and innovative development of small and medium-sized enterprises, while prioritising employment for local residents.

The Government will effectively implement the system for import of talented people and optimise programmes for importing talented people.

In accordance with the requirements of the “1+4” strategy, the Government will formulate an appropriate system for indicators of economic diversification.

3. Effectively optimise people’s quality of life

The Government will ensure the ongoing allocation of resources for education, healthcare, livelihoods and social welfare, while adhering to the principle of financial prudence. In 2024, the Government will inject an additional fund of 7,000 patacas per person into the Central Provident Fund System, and continue implementing the Wealth Partaking Scheme.

To ensure prioritised employment for local residents, the Government will urge enterprises operating integrated tourism and leisure business to provide more job opportunities with promising prospects for local residents, launch the “Specialised Employment + Training Programme” and promote on-the-job paid training programmes. The Government will increase the minimum wage and adjust the civil service salaries.

The Government will continue improving labour-related laws and regulations, improve the protection of labour rights, and promote harmonious and friendly labour relations.

The Government will implement the housing ladder policy and expedite construction of public housing. The Venceslau de Moraes public housing project will be completed in the third quarter of 2024. The Home Ownership Scheme housing on plots B4, B9 and B10 in New Urban Zone Area A will be completed in 2024. The drafting of the supplementary regulations of the Legal System for Housing for the Sandwich Class will be expedited. The construction of the senior housing complex will be completed during the year. Vetting procedures and arrangements for moving in will commence in 2024. In accordance with social development, planning and selection of appropriate land, public tenders for private housing sites will be conducted in a planned and timely manner.

The progress with urban renewal will proceed in an orderly manner, in accordance with the related laws.

The Government will optimise the healthcare system and enhance medical services. The Macao Union Hospital will commence operation in phases. The Government will pay close attention to the physical and mental health of residents, continuously perfect mental health services, strengthen the interconnections of the four-tier joint prevention mechanism, and achieve “early diagnosis and timely intervention”.

We will continue to address the issue of the ageing population by strengthening social security and services, striving to ensure that the elderly have a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a feeling of worthiness; keep the aggregate of the pensions and Old Age Allowance above the minimum subsistence index; show concern and care for disadvantaged groups by securing comprehensive assistance; regularise the Carers Allowance, provide 45 additional places for day-care services, and establish an integrated services centre for people with disabilities.

To effectively protect the rights of women and children, the Government will implement five long-term measures concerning the development goals of women in Macao; continue supporting quality improvement of child-care centres, promote family education, and create a favourable environment for childbirth in collaboration with various sectors of society.

The Government will implement the Agreement on Cooperation in Safety Control of Food Products Manufactured in Macao for Export to Mainland China.

To facilitate local sports development, the Government will revise the “Structure and Operations of the Sports Fund” and “The System for the Use of Sports Facilities” by-laws within the year. The Government will also send sports delegations to participate in the National Winter Games, and the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The Government will ensure stable supplies of basic commodities, maintain stable prices and protect consumer rights, to establish Macao as a trusted shopping destination for tourists.

4. Enhance overall quality and standards of governance

The Government will strive to build a professional and efficient public service system for the convenience of residents and businesses. The “Macao One Account” will continue optimising its personalised services for different groups, and launch innovative electronic services such as one-stop birth registration and one-stop marriage registration. A digital commercial service platform will be launched in the first quarter of 2024. We will streamline and digitalise the registration and notarisation procedures. The first phase of the cloud computing centre expansion will be implemented.

We will streamline departmental functions and improve management of department heads and supervisors. We will revise relevant regulations such as the basic provisions regarding the general rules for department heads and supervisors, and strengthen accountability by establishing specific disciplinary systems for department heads and supervisors.

We will strengthen civil servant training by arranging courses on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Law on Safeguarding National Security for civil servants at all levels, to continuously enhance the overall capability and service consciousness of civil servants.

To strengthen legislation in major areas, the Government will scientifically formulate and strictly implement annual legislative plans and initiatives, with a focus on legislation and amendments regarding the economy and people’s livelihoods; continue to advance legislative work in taxation management and public procurement; actively optimise the legal system for public asset supervision; and effectively strengthen supervision of corporations with public capital.

To deepen regional and international cooperation on legal affairs, we will continue promoting integrated development of legal services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, establish and improve the diverse dispute resolution mechanism for arbitration and mediation, and strengthen external judicial cooperation.

We will conduct the sixth-term Chief Executive election in strict compliance with the Basic Law and its Annex I, and the newly amended Chief Executive Election Law, to ensure a corruption-free, fair and just election.

We will respect and uphold judicial independence, and actively support the hardware and software development of the judiciary.

The Government will adopt the policy of zero tolerance of corruption; further enhance anti-corruption awareness; and promote auditing efforts in accordance with the law.

5. Expedite development of a liveable, smart and green Macao

The Government persists in implementing the administrative principle of “Putting people first”, while prioritising environmental protection. We are committed to building a clean and accessible green environment, while continuously advancing the development of a smart city.

To press ahead with detailed planning for various zones in Macao, the Government will commence the second stage of drafting plans for Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2 and Northern District-1; and proceed with compiling the first phase draft of the detailed plan for Taipa Central District-2 in an orderly manner.

Regarding implementation of major infrastructure projects, the Government will continue with constructing road networks and common pipelines in Zone A. The construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge and construction of the bridge connecting Zone A and the Macao peninsula are expected to be completed in the second quarter and fourth quarter of 2024, respectively. The Government will proceed with construction of the southern and northern sections of the LRT East Line; while the Seac Pai Van Line and the Hengqin Line are expected to commence operations in 2024. The expansion and reclamation project of Macau International Airport will commence in the second half of 2024. The construction of various public facilities and office buildings will continue.

To enhance traffic management, the Government will complete the amendments to the Road Traffic Law and its supplementary regulations; maintain the annual vehicle growth rate within three percent; continue monitoring the effectiveness of bus services operating under the new contracts; introduce additional bus payment methods; commence an open bidding exercise for taxi licences at an appropriate time; improve the construction of the walking route network; review and optimise the application procedures and regulations for “North-bound Travel for Macao Vehicles” and the Macao-mainland China mutual driving licence recognition scheme; and enhance interdepartmental coordination to minimise the impact of road construction on traffic and residents.

To expedite smart city development, the Government will encourage public and private institutions to join the “FreeWiFi.MO” programme, and expand the coverage of free Wi-Fi services. By the end of 2024, smart meters will account for about 80 percent of the total number of meters in Macao, and approximately 60 percent of non-residential users’ natural gas meters will be replaced with smart meters. The Macao Smart Go app will be continuously optimised.

We will implement all environmental protection projects and works; promote the second phase of the “Subsidy Schemes for Replacing Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles, and Phasing Out Dilapidated Diesel Vehicles”, phase out public buses of Euro 4 emission standard, and increase the proportion of new energy vehicles to over 70 percent; and prohibit the import of non-degradable disposable styrofoam cups and plates in 2024. The expansion project of the Macao Central Incineration Centre will be completed in 2024. The Government will complete the tendering procedures and contract awarding for the Sewage Treatment Plant on the Artificial Island of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. We will press ahead with construction of the food waste treatment facility; improve the reclaimed water pipeline network; and strive to complete the rationalisation and preliminary project design regarding the use of waters for the ecological island project.

We will perfect our disaster prevention and mitigation system. The first phase of the construction

of the rainwater pumping station and sewers in the southern Inner Harbour is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024. The tender procedures and construction of the Flood Prevention and Drainage at West Coloane (also known as the Two Lakes project) and the project to optimise the Zone A embankment will commence in phases.

We will continue constructing municipal facilities, to create a comfortable community environment suiting leisure activities; and continue with the construction of phase 2 of the green promenade along the south shores of the Macao peninsula and the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experimental Camp, and the sports park.

We will strengthen administration and use of maritime areas; continue to expedite the legislative work for the Law on Use of Maritime Areas; gradually optimise the “Smart Maritime System (Macao Edition)” and complete the study on expanding the disposal area for dredged materials by early 2024.

6. Strengthen talent, culture, education and youth work

In accordance with the needs of the “1+4” industry diversification strategy, the Government will actively implement various talent-related programmes, to cultivate, reserve and recruit talented people. We will launch the Student Popular Science and Technology Education Scheme, Youth Science and Technology Village, as well as talent cultivation programmes related to music, cultural and creative enterprise management, and film and television; and continue the incentive scheme for talent cultivation and accreditation and the Continuing Education Programme (2023-2026), to encourage residents to enhance their competitiveness.

The Government will enrich the contents of “One Base”, build a cultural city and position Macao as a “City of Performing Arts”; enhance the mechanism for protecting World Heritage buildings and sites, expedite restoration of the mansion of the Chio family, the former Iec Long Firecracker Factory site, Lai Chi Vun Shipyard, and buildings within the Patio da Eterna Felicidade, and support regular maintenance by owners of private historical buildings. We will complete the procedures for the fourth batch of the proposed immovable property classification, initiate the classification process for a new batch of entries in the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage and the first batch of the proposed movable heritage classification with significant cultural value of Macao. We will create more revitalised spaces in historical buildings, and develop integrated experiential cultural tourist attractions. The Government will focus on promoting Macao’s film and television industry, cultural performances, and the development of cultural and creative projects related to cultural tourism. We will also enhance the brand value of local performing arts events. We will seek support from relevant departments of the Central People’s Government to initiate performing arts events, in order to position Macao as a “City of Performing Arts” under the “One Base” initiative. The Government will expedite the construction of the new Macao Central Library, and commence operation of the Ilha Verde Library.

We will improve education infrastructure to enhance teaching quality. Regarding non-tertiary education, we will review and restructure the allocation of existing educational resources, and strengthen the implementation of the double-tier monitoring mechanism for the Education Fund. We will revise the Framework of Formal Education Curriculum. To formulate a professional development system for teachers, the Government will provide multi-level professional development activities, including the Thousand Elite Teacher Training Programme and the Mainland China

Outstanding Teachers Exchange Programme. To continuously enhance the quality of higher education, the Government will further expand the capacities of higher education institutions; optimise the administration and curriculum efficiency of higher education institutions, to enhance regional and international competitiveness of higher education in Macao. We will conduct interdisciplinary applied scientific research, and focus on research and industrial applications in areas such as energy, environmental protection, health products and traditional Chinese medicine.

We will perfect the youth policy action plan, to create favourable conditions for the growth and development of young people; continue with the Macao Youth Professional Development Programme; organise participation by outstanding youths in internship programmes offered by international organisations; regularly organise platforms for young people to contribute their opinions and suggestions, to broaden their international perspectives and fully leverage Macao's function as a patriotic education base for young people to continuously foster patriotism among Macao youngsters.

7. Promote high-level Macao-Hengqin integration

2024 is a crucial year for the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. In alignment with the first phase of development goals set out in the master plan, the Government will accelerate the progress of various projects in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, aiming to achieve new breakthroughs in supporting Macao's appropriate economic diversification, promoting Macao-Hengqin integration, and achieving in-depth integration of people's livelihoods, to achieve commendable outcomes on the third anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

We will strengthen coordination in planning, exchanges and cooperation, talent cultivation, and promotion of regional legal affairs. We will continue to enhance the alignment and interconnection of regulations and mechanisms of Macao and Hengqin.

The Government will expedite bridging of policies for Macao and Hengqin, align with Macao's "1+4" strategy and formulate an industrial development plan for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and actively implement the three-year action plan for the development of cultural tourism, conventions and exhibitions, and commerce and trade. We will initiate studies on introducing a new batch of authorisation lists when appropriate, and expedite the implementation of major policies, such as relaxing market access.

The Government will establish a unique industrial development system with Macao and Hengqin characteristics, enhance the infrastructure for industrial development, plan for the development of Macao-branded industrial parks and specialised high-end manufacturing industrial parks for innovative and emerging industries, expand the scope for development for Macao-branded industries; and complete the establishment of a mechanism for assessing the "production supervised by Macao" trademark. We will expedite the development of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Science and Technology Exchange and Cooperation Centre, as well as an innovation and entrepreneurship cluster for technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises. We will launch an action plan to optimise the business environment in order to create a more vibrant and innovative natural environment.

We will further optimise and implement the mechanism for joint investment promotion between

Macao and Hengqin. We will strive to attract more enterprises from Portuguese-speaking countries to set up businesses in Macao; strengthen communications and coordination with mainland China enterprises and mainland China-funded enterprises in Macao, to attract leading high-quality industrial projects to establish bases in Macao and Hengqin. In the area of technology cooperation between Macao and Hengqin, the Government will encourage more projects with industrialisation potential to demonstrate their applications and pilot scale production in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to promote the transformation of ideas into practical applications in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

To facilitate efficient flows of cross-border resources, the Government will promote the flows of people, goods, capital and information between Macao and Hengqin; complete the construction of the second phase of the “first-tier” Hengqin Port and the smart port public services platform, officially launch the “second-tier” tariff area of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone; and strive for the introduction of “first-tier” and “second-tier” tax policies in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone. We will also explore the establishment of a boundary crossing connecting to Macao’s Inner Harbour; further open up the financial services market in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone through the establishment of an electronic fence account; and strive to create an Internet environment akin to Macao within the Macao New Neighbourhood.

The Government will facilitate the participation of Macao International Airport and Air Macao in Macao-Hengqin integration, and the launch of Macao airport check-in services at the Hengqin Port; jointly develop multi-destination tours between Macao and Hengqin; strengthen the cooperation and connections between Macao International Airport and well-known mainland China logistics and cross-border e-commerce enterprises, and facilitate the launch of a speedy customs clearance channel between Macao and Hengqin.

To support and encourage Macao residents to seek employment, set up businesses and live in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the Government will launch and implement policies and measures to support Macao’s young people to work, innovate and operate businesses in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The Government will establish a new batch of youth innovation and entrepreneurship incubation centres in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; continue to launch Macao youth internship schemes; and liaise with relevant mainland China departments to explore establishing innovative educational models for Macao’s higher education institutions in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The first school for Macao children in the Macao New Neighbourhood will officially open in the 2024/2025 academic year.

8. Proactively integrate into overall national development

The Government will implement the Arrangements of Key Projects for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, actively participate in the formulation of special policy plans for the Greater Bay Area; and strengthen cooperation with Guangdong and Hong Kong in quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

We will actively participate in Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) regional cooperation, strengthen cooperation with PPRD provinces in developing markets in Portuguese-speaking countries by organising visits to Portuguese-speaking countries for investment and specialised exchanges;

leverage the existing mechanisms for cooperation with Guangdong, Shanghai and Fujian, as well as task forces for cooperation with other mainland China provinces, regions and cities such as Hainan Province, Chongqing Municipality, Shenzhen Municipality and Foshan Municipality; fulfil Macao's functions to promote economic, trade, and cultural exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Taiwan; and continue to support rural revitalisation in Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province.

We will expand and leverage our functions as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, actively participate in the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), successfully organise the seventh meeting of the Macao-Portugal Joint Committee; and strengthen pragmatic cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in energy, financial infrastructure and the digital economy.

We will utilise Macao's advantages as a key node city along the Maritime Silk Road, actively participate in and facilitate the implementation of the "Belt and Road" Initiative; continue to leverage the strength of overseas Chinese and their families who have returned to Macao, to expand exchanges and cooperation with countries and regions along the "Belt and Road"; leverage Macao's unique advantages to promote international exchanges; strengthen economic, trade and cultural exchanges and cooperation with friendship cities; and leverage the mechanism for cooperation between Macao and Zhuhai as friendship cities, to promote trilateral exchanges and cooperation between Macao, Zhuhai and friendship cities.

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the third anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the year to achieve the first phase of development goals set out in the master plan. In terms of overall work arrangements, we will develop comprehensive plans for these three significant events, ensuring effective coordination with other major activities, and collaborate with various sectors to vividly demonstrate the successful practice of "One country, two systems" with Macao characteristics, to create a favourable external environment that fosters the development of Macao.

Conclusions

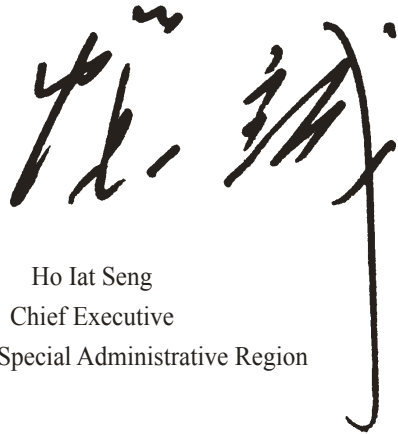
The Government and all sectors of society must remain united and confident, and consolidate our endeavours to overcome challenges to promote diversification. We must find ways to sustain the strong momentum for economic recovery, pragmatically implement the main tasks and key projects outlined in the "1+4" strategy, strengthen and capitalise on our advantages, and enhance the momentum for economic development and comprehensive competitiveness. By further advancing appropriate economic diversification, along with sustainable and high-quality development of Macao's economy, we will create a brighter future for Macao.

We will keep our mission firmly in mind, uphold the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macao people governing Macao" with a high degree of autonomy, and strategies outlined in the report to the 20th National Congress, leverage our advantages, serve our country's needs, actively participate in the country's new development pattern, pragmatically proceed with the establishment of the Intensive Cooperation Zone and better integrate into the overall national development.

The Government will firmly adhere to the principles of serving the public, continue to improve

people's livelihoods, take care of the underprivileged, and proactively address deep-rooted conflicts and issues, to enhance Macao people's sense of satisfaction and happiness.

The Government will continue to persistently uphold the spirit of the instructions from the Central People's Government, seek public consensus, enhance the power of unity and patriotism, and form a strong synergy to promote high-quality development in Macao. We will strive hard for the long-term and stable implementation of the principle of "One country, two systems" to contribute to the realisation of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two main characters: '何' (Ho) and '鏗' (Iat Seng).

Ho Iat Seng
Chief Executive
The Macao Special Administrative Region