

by the country in October – the Macao SAR Government continued deepening cooperation with the education sector, and the related departments continued reaching out to local schools to launch publicity campaigns on the Constitution, the Basic Law of Macao and the Law on Safeguarding National Security, to help young students understand the role and significance of the Law on Safeguarding National Security, the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao in safeguarding the long-term prosperity and development of Macao as well as its residents’ peaceful livelihoods.

In April 2023, to mark the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, the Macao SAR Government, together with community groups, launched a multimedia publicity campaign spanning over nine months, to promote a deeper understanding of the Basic Law and the principle of “One country, two systems” among different sectors of the community.

Regarding curricula and teaching materials, the education department has continued promoting the implementation of patriotic education in tertiary and non-tertiary education institutions; compiled and published supplementary teaching materials on *Constitutional Education* and local teaching materials on subjects such as *Morals and Civic Duty*; and introduced supplementary teaching materials on National Security Education, with a view to actively nurturing and enhancing Macao students’ sense of patriotism, and strengthening the younger generations’ sense of identity and belonging to the country.

Continuously Improving People’s Livelihoods and Striving to Ensure People’s Wellbeing



In 2023, the Macao SAR Government continued implementing practical and effective measures to actively respond to residents' various livelihood-related demands and continuously improve people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

Improving welfare facilities and implementing housing policies

In 2023, the Macao SAR Government continued to improve social services and social security, on the basis of maintaining the existing welfare measures. Through Order No. 95/2023, Regulations on Disbursement of the Carers Allowance, which was approved by the Secretary for Social Affairs, the Carers Allowance scheme has been officially converted into a regular measure, and took effect on 1 December. Despite this conversion, the purpose of the Carers Allowance policy remains unchanged – aiming to provide special assistance to people in financial difficulties who require long-term, intensive daily care.

The Macao SAR Government continues improving medical and health services. With the aging population and the prevalence of chronic diseases, Macao residents' demand for specialist medical services continues growing. In the past decade, the number of inpatient admissions at the Conde S. Januário Hospital has increased by 50 percent, and the number of outpatient visits has increased by 40 percent. In related developments, the Public Health Specialist Building of the Health Bureau was unveiled on 27 October 2023, and the Islands District Medical Complex – Peking Union College Hospital Macao Medical Centre began trial operations on 20 December. These developments have effectively responded to the needs for social development, and continued improving measures to ensure residents' healthcare.

In accordance with the Healthy Macao initiative, Law No. 6/2023 – Law on Prevention and Control of Alcohol Consumption by Minors came into effect on 5 November. The new law aims to reduce the risks and harm to health caused by minors' consumption of alcoholic beverages. Restrictions were established on the sale, supply, and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Restrictions on advertisements and promotion of alcoholic beverages were formulated, to reduce external incentives for minors to consume alcoholic beverages.

The Government's fundamental housing policy is to provide and ensure basic living conditions for all residents. The Government actively improved various housing schemes based on social, economic, and population development, by providing housing solutions that meet residents' financial capabilities and housing needs, especially for sandwich-class families and the elderly. Sandwich-class housing and housing for the elderly were provided, to better solve Macao's housing problems.

On 6 November 2023, application was opened for the senior housing complex launched by the Government. According to the regulations on apartment use and management, the apartments mainly target senior residents who can take care of themselves at home. In terms of apartment services, the complex provides clubhouses, emergency support, social care, departmental services and more to support senior residents, in order to enrich their daily lives and increase their participation in community activities. Also, the complex will combine relevant social care resources to provide individual support to senior citizens who require them. Applications for the first phase, of 759 accommodation units, received an overwhelming response. On 10 December, the Executive Council

completed its discussions on the draft by-law, Transfer of Ownership of Independent Units for Home-Ownership Scheme Housing and Sandwich Class Housing, and sent it to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation.

The Government steadily implemented the housing ladder policy. The regular mechanism for applying for public housing operated smoothly, and 95 percent of public housing tenants were granted rent waivers. In 2023, during the second round of Home-Ownership Scheme applications under the second Five-Year Development Plan, 5,415 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units were introduced, effectively resolving the longstanding problem of insufficient supply in this scheme.

Safeguarding local employment and fostering development of vocational skills

During the pandemic, the Macao SAR Government launched a subsidised training scheme as a temporary support measure, for assisting local residents affected by the pandemic to improve their vocational skills and enter the job market, while receiving some financial aid. Since being launched in September 2020, the scheme has been optimised three times to increase the number of participants, broaden the eligibility criteria, relax the registration requirements, and speed up the payment of subsidies to persons who qualified as trainees, achieving the goal of benefiting more residents who were affected by the pandemic.



As of November 2023, the scheme had offered more than 1,210 courses, with enrolment by more than 29,000 participants, 25,800 of whom completed the courses. More than 25,000 participants had received subsidies, totalling approximately 149 million patacas. Regarding the employment-oriented subsidised training scheme designed for the unemployed and college graduates: more than 16,500 people had completed the courses, and more than 3,900 people were successfully employed, accounting for about 24 percent of the people who completed the course. The Labour Affairs Bureau assisted participants to enter the job market.

Throughout 2023, the Labour Affairs Bureau assisted a total of 13,835 local residents with successfully finding employment through various online and offline job matching services. Once the pandemic was over, Macao's overall economy and employment environment continued improving, and the subsidised training scheme was concluded at the end of 2023.

Moreover, in order to continue protecting residents' employment rights and interests, Law No. 5/2020 - Law on the Minimum Wage came into effect on 1 November 2020. According to the law, the amount specified for the minimum wage would be initially reviewed two years after the law took effect. The Government completed the review work in 2023, and adjusted the minimum wage amount through Law No. 19/2023 - "Amendment to Law No. 5/2020 - Law on the Minimum Wage" promulgated on 18 December 2023, and raised the minimum wage amounts for employees, as follows:

- Remuneration calculated on a monthly basis: 7,072 patacas per month;
- Remuneration calculated on a weekly basis: 1,632 patacas per week;
- Remuneration calculated on a daily basis: 272 patacas per day;
- Remuneration calculated on an hourly basis, 34 patacas per hour; and
- Remuneration calculated based on production results, with an average of 34 patacas per hour.

The new law came into effect on 1 January 2024.

Reserving industry talents to coordinate with adequate economic diversification

Through policies to cultivate talent, create incentive measures to attract overseas talented people to return to Macao, and reserve talented people, the Government is committed to retaining talented people, supplementing the resources needed for the development of key industries in Macao, and ensuring the stability and sustainable development of Macao's society and economy.

Law No. 7/2023 - Legal System for Importing Talented People took effect on 1 July 2023, with by-law No. 19/2023 - Rules for Implementing the Legal System for Importing Talented People and by-law No. 20/2023 - Manpower Development Committee coming into effect on the same day. From August onwards, the Macao SAR Government announced the details and application procedures of various programmes for importing talented people in accordance with the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy. By attracting outstanding talented people, we can

enhance the levels of innovation and competitiveness and the international reputation of Macao, build industrial platforms, and facilitate industrial development in Macao. By leveraging the skills and experiences of talented people, we aim to establish Macao's talent system to promote adequate economic diversification.

In 2023, the Government continued implementing the incentive scheme for talent cultivation and accreditation, focusing on the needs of industrial development, and promoted talent training. Eligible applicants who had obtained professional certificates – including in foreign language proficiency tests, industry-oriented certification examinations, the Incentive Scheme for Professional Certification in Modern Finance and the Incentive Scheme for Professional Certification in Information Technology – during 2023 received rewards through the incentive scheme.

The Government continued fostering the development of education. In 2023, several universities in Macao improved their rankings in global higher education ratings. Through the Science and Technology Development Fund, the Government provided key support to projects in three major fields: integrated circuits, biomedicine and digital technology. By 2023, the results achieved by six key research and development projects were successfully transformed into practical applications or cooperation projects, implemented by the industrial, academic and research sectors in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The Science and Technology Development Fund launched an industrial, academic, and research and development matching service, to assist in matching the technological needs of Macao enterprises with scientific research results of academic and research institutions. It also partially subsidised the research and development costs of enterprises that yielded successfully matched projects.

Regarding non-tertiary education: through the integration of public and school resources, the development of vocational and technical education courses to provide the talent required for industrial diversification continued. From deepening Chinese-Portuguese bilingual education to promoting innovative teaching design, the Government aimed to promote students' all-round development and physical and mental health. The results of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2021) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA 2022) were released in 2023, and affirmed Macao's education and student capabilities.

Optimising public cultural and sports facilities

The Macao SAR Government has attached great importance to the physical, mental, cultural and sports development of residents. Regarding optimising facilities: the Lai Chi Vun Shipyard commenced operations in June 2023. Through the restoration and revitalisation of the historical site, a unique cultural landmark has been created, to promote the development of local community and cultural tourism.

Aligning with the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy and actively promoting the establishment of a “Multi-cultural exchange and cooperation base with an emphasis on Chinese culture”, the Government joined hands with six major integrated resort operators, in addition to the Lai Chi Vun Shipyard area, to continue promoting the revitalisation of other historical sites in Macao, aiming to provide residents and tourists with good cultural and recreational experiences during holidays and festivals.



The Black Box Theatre of the Macao Cultural Centre officially opened on 3 July, providing Macao’s artistic youth with an excellent training and performance space, and further promoting the development of youth cultural and performing arts.

The Government strongly supported sports development and enhanced sports facilities, including through the construction of the auxiliary building of the Athletes Training Centre, to further support training and development of athletes. The Macao sports delegation achieved good results in sports events, such as the 2023 East Asian Youth Games, the 19th Asian Games, the Fourth Asian Para Games, and the First National Student (Youth) Games.

Deepening the implementation of e-governance for the convenience of the public and businesses

In 2023, the Government continued deepening the implementation of e-governance for the convenience of the public and businesses, optimised the services and functions of “Macao One Account”, continuously expanded the convenience of the service model, and continuously increased its range of services and functions. The system currently provides 319 e-services and functions, spanning social welfare; employment services; transport and commuting; customs clearance; healthcare; education; culture and recreation; business start-ups, registration and certification; payment for living expenses, and more. There are more than 560,000 registered users, which is close to the entire population of Macao.

Law No. 2/2020 - “E-Government” was revised, to optimise its scope of application, together with the applicability of electronic documents, digital reception procedures, taxation standards for electronic certificates, and electronic notifications, thus promoting the sustainable development of e-government in the Macao SAR.