

Steady Progress with Urban Construction to Jointly Build a Liveable City

During 2023, the Macao SAR Government achieved progress in urban development, to provide residents and tourists with a safe and liveable environment. Regarding urban planning and maritime area management, detailed planning commenced for various districts, including Eastern District-2, Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2, Northern District-1, and Taipa Central District-2. Draft bills on marine zoning based on functions and planning of maritime areas, and the Law on Use of Maritime Areas were submitted to the Central People's Government, seeking advice in accordance with the law. A 50-day public consultation on the draft bills commenced on 29 December 2023, which serves as a key reference for the Government to regulate and manage the 85 square kilometres of waters under Macao's jurisdiction as designated by the Central People's Government.

In recent years, urban development and maritime construction in Macao have led to an increased demand for disposal of dredged materials. With the support of the Central People's Government, the MSAR Government and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment signed a cooperation arrangement for managing the disposal of Macao's dredged materials in the Pearl River Estuary, establishing a cross-regional mechanism for the disposal of Macao's dredged materials, and facilitating the development of Macao's maritime projects.

As part of the MSAR Government's efforts to move ahead with major public works projects, the steel deck construction and installation work for the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge has been completed, bringing the project to the final stage of construction, which is scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2024. On 16 December 2023, the Public Works Bureau called for submission of names for the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge. In addition, the first phase of the Islands District Medical Complex was completed, and there was satisfactory progress with the construction of road networks and common pipelines in New Urban Zone Area A.



The LRT Barra Station and the main structural work for the Seac Pai Van Line were completed. The extension of the LRT Taipa Line to Barra Station came into operation on 8 December 2023, connecting Taipa and the Macao peninsula through the first cross-harbour section of the LRT. The main structural work of the Hengqin Line was completed in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The expansion of and land reclamation for Macau International Airport have received written approval from the Central People's Government. The Sociedade do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L. is currently revising the project plan for the airport's exclusive area and land reclamation work. A preliminary survey has commenced. There is good progress with the construction of the two Government office buildings on Lot 12 of the Outer Harbour new reclamation area.

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Macao Cross-Border Cargo Transfer Terminal and the overpass connecting the University of Macau and the Hengqin Port were completed and put into operation. The superstructure work for the Venceslau de Morais public housing project was completed in the second quarter of 2023, and more than 5,600 social housing units were to be completed in Morais and New Urban Zone Area A.

The Government is striving to build a comprehensive transport network through the construction of the railway, pedestrian and road networks, to develop a safe, green and efficient land transport system providing convenience and accessibility, thereby facilitating urban development and supporting Macao's integration into overall national development.

The walking route network includes multi-dimensional pedestrian facilities at major road sections and junctions, coordinating with existing pedestrian facilities. The lifts at the pedestrian bridge on Avenida do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues and the diagonal crossing facilities at Avenida do Almirante Lacerda have been put into use. Construction of the pedestrian bridges at Avenida Marginal do Lam Mau and Praca Orquideas has commenced, and construction of the pedestrian bridge at Avenida Marginal Flor de Lotus in Taipa commenced in the fourth quarter of 2023. The plan for Phase 1 of the pedestrian bridge at Avenida Marginal do Patane has been finalised.

Regarding the optimisation of environmental management, energy conservation and carbon reduction, in 2023 the Government launched the Electric Vehicle Promotion Scheme and the second phase of the Subsidy Scheme for Replacements of Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles, and expanded the scope of the target beneficiaries, which is expected to help with further phasing out polluting old motorcycles and diesel vehicles, thus expediting the dual carbon goals. By the end of 2023, there were 8,263 electric vehicles in Macao, which reduced the proportion of public buses meeting Euro 4 emissions standard or below to approximately 42 percent. The new energy public buses used by the two bus companies accounted for about 64 percent of the total number of public buses in operation. In addition, effective from 1 January 2023, the Government banned the import of non-degradable, disposable plastic knives, forks and spoons. Construction of the food waste treatment centre commenced in the second half of 2023.

In line with the national dual carbon goal, in December 2023 the Environmental Protection Bureau announced the Long-term Carbon Reduction Strategy of Macao as the blueprint for the region's carbon reduction efforts. This proposes "actively implement carbon reduction measures in various areas in phases" as the general direction of Macao's long-term carbon reduction development, with the overall goal of "reaching peak carbon emissions by 2030, and making it a priority for the electricity and land transport sectors to reach near-zero emissions by 2050."

Regarding the development of reclaimed water reuse, the Government has formulated technical regulations for reclaimed water distribution in the public water supply and residential buildings, and related reclaimed water quality standards. The Government also expedited the application for water use for the eco-island, in accordance with comments from related ministries of the Central People's Government regarding the phased implementation of the ecological island project.

To foster the development of a liveable city, the Government has continued developing open space for the public. In 2023, the Government optimised the open space and children's playgrounds in the Northern District; and in the third quarter of the year commenced the design of enhancements of leisure areas at Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral, Rua Central De Toi San, Rua da Missao de Fatima and Rua de Lei Pou Chon.

In addition, work has begun on planning the construction of a sports park at the original site of Macao (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club. The sports park will comprise three main buildings together with a standard athletics field, seating areas and various small urban plazas, creating a quality venue for recreation, family, and sports activities in the densely populated North District.

Legislation Covering National Security and Livelihoods in Response to Development Needs



During the second session of the seventh Legislative Assembly (from 16 October 2022 to 15 October 2023), 34 plenary meetings and 171 committee meetings were held, with 22 laws, one resolution, and three simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

Fulfilling legislative functions

Regarding safeguarding national security, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 8/2023 on