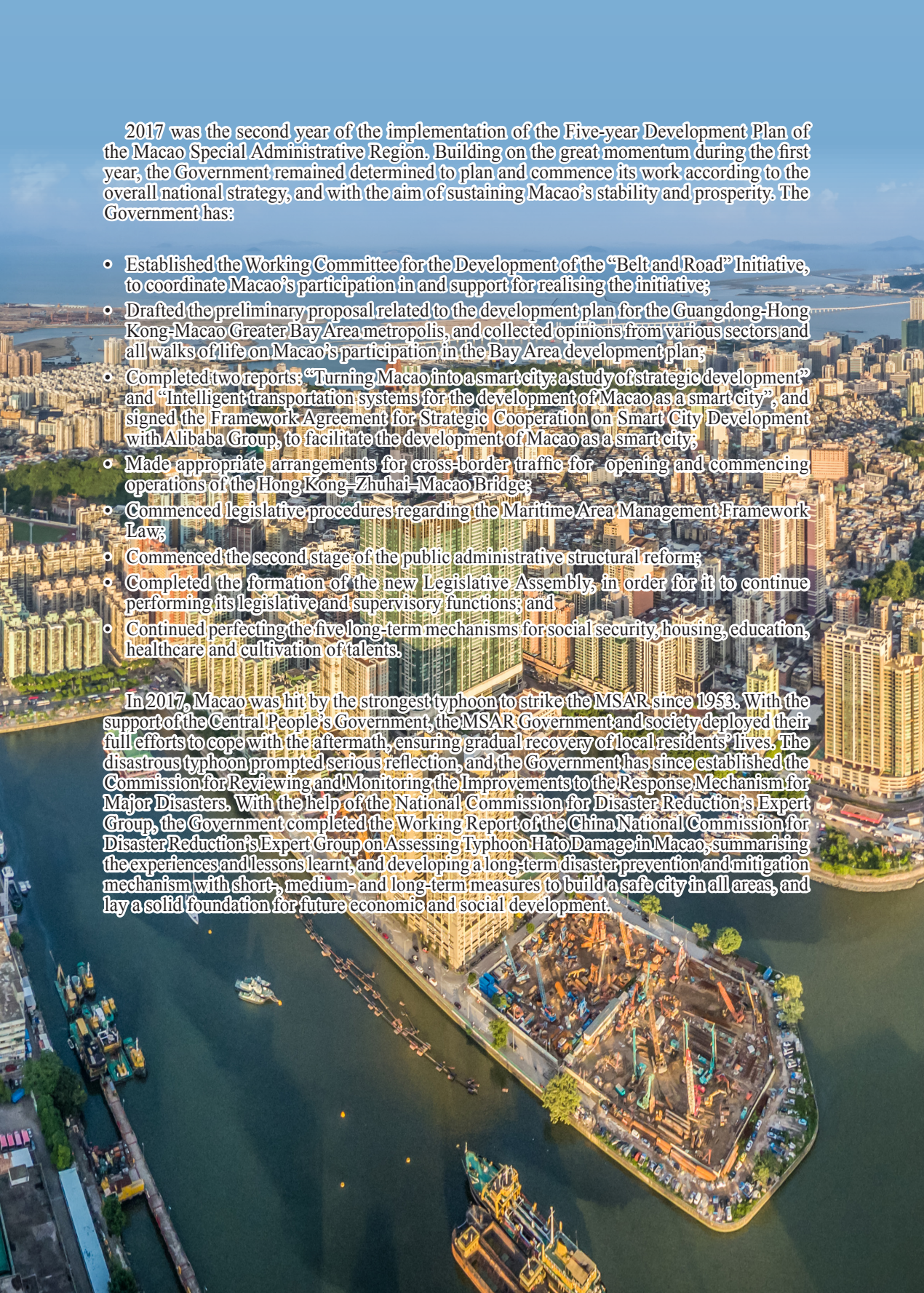


OVERVIEW OF THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN 2017

An aerial photograph of Macao, China, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous high-rise apartment buildings. In the foreground, a large construction site is visible, featuring several excavators and cranes working on a new development. The city is situated along a waterfront, with a bridge and other structures visible in the distance under a clear blue sky.

2017 was the second year of the implementation of the Five-year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Building on the great momentum during the first year, the Government remained determined to plan and commence its work according to the overall national strategy, and with the aim of sustaining Macao's stability and prosperity. The Government has:

- Established the Working Committee for the Development of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, to coordinate Macao's participation in and support for realising the initiative;
- Drafted the preliminary proposal related to the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis, and collected opinions from various sectors and all walks of life on Macao's participation in the Bay Area development plan;
- Completed two reports: “Turning Macao into a smart city: a study of strategic development” and “Intelligent transportation systems for the development of Macao as a smart city”, and signed the Framework Agreement for Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development with Alibaba Group, to facilitate the development of Macao as a smart city;
- Made appropriate arrangements for cross-border traffic for opening and commencing operations of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge;
- Commenced legislative procedures regarding the Maritime Area Management Framework Law;
- Commenced the second stage of the public administrative structural reform;
- Completed the formation of the new Legislative Assembly, in order for it to continue performing its legislative and supervisory functions; and
- Continued perfecting the five long-term mechanisms for social security, housing, education, healthcare and cultivation of talents.

In 2017, Macao was hit by the strongest typhoon to strike the MSAR since 1953. With the support of the Central People's Government, the MSAR Government and society deployed their full efforts to cope with the aftermath, ensuring gradual recovery of local residents' lives. The disastrous typhoon prompted serious reflection, and the Government has since established the Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements to the Response Mechanism for Major Disasters. With the help of the National Commission for Disaster Reduction's Expert Group, the Government completed the Working Report of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction's Expert Group on Assessing Typhoon Hato Damage in Macao, summarising the experiences and lessons learnt, and developing a long-term disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism with short-, medium- and long-term measures to build a safe city in all areas, and lay a solid foundation for future economic and social development.

Full participation in typhoon relief work and disaster prevention and mitigation



During the year, Macao was hit by the strongest typhoon of the past half century, causing severe social and economic damage and losses. With the full support of the Central People's Government, the MSAR Government and all sectors in Macao contributed their maximum efforts to the aftermath work, and jointly overcame the hard time. Meanwhile, the Government thoroughly reviewed, and investigated the responses to natural disasters, with a focus on system building and resources investment, to develop a long-term mechanism for disaster prevention and mitigation with short-, medium- and long-term measures, with the aim of laying a more solid foundation for the future development of Macao.

Severe Typhoon Hato hit Macao on 23 August 2017. A high astronomical tide, coupled with storm surges, led to severe flooding in low-lying areas. This resulted in prolonged suspension of electricity and water supplies in certain districts. The typhoon caused 10 deaths and over 200 injuries. Integrating all data collected, the Government estimated Macao's direct and indirect economic losses caused by Typhoon Hato were 9.045 billion patacas and 3.5 billion patacas, respectively, leading to a total loss of 12.545 billion patacas.

In order to more quickly restore order in society and reduce the threats and impacts caused by the typhoon, Chief Executive Chui Sai On – in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region – obtained immediate permission from the Central Government to seek the PLA Garrison in Macao's assistance with disaster relief. With the concern and support of the Central People's Government, the PLA Macao Garrison joined in the relief work from 25 August, acting effectively and efficiently.

This was the first time that the PLA Macao Garrison provided assistance to the Government in relief work since the establishment of the MSAR. After working hard for three consecutive days, the PLA Macao Garrison completed the cleaning up in 11 districts – Rua de Cinco de Outubro, Almirante Sergio Road, Avenida de Horta e Costa, Santo Antonio, Avenida de Kwong Tung, Hou Kong Middle School, from Rua da Ribeira do Patane to Avenida do Almirante Lacerda, from Estrada Marginal da Areia Preta to Rua Nova da Areia Preta, Ilha Verde, and from Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen to New Yaohan. The operation covered an area of about 1.076 million square metres, and streets with a total length of about 120,500 metres; about 680 trees were felled and transported away, and more than 700 truckloads of rubbish were disposed of.

Neighbouring regions also gave Macao a helping hand. Guangdong and Zhuhai actively took part in the relief work, and organised and mobilised relief supplies, greatly reducing Macao's pressure in relief work.

The Central People's Government's concern and support for Macao once again demonstrated that the MSAR is strongly backed by support from the motherland.

Mutual aid and unity are fine traits of Macao society. Macao residents joined hands and helped each other, making great contributions in responding to the disaster and the relief work.

During the relief and clean-up operation, over 8,800 members of the disciplinary forces provided relief efforts, and cleared streets of rubble day and night. Residents and community groups formed volunteer teams to clear up waste after work. Responding to the Government's call for volunteers, over 2,200 civil servants from more than 30 public departments joined the volunteer force.

Emergency relief measures coping with difficulties

The Government implemented a series of emergency relief measures, including the "Special Assistance Plan for Damage Caused by the Passage of Typhoon Hato" supported by the Macao Foundation, and the "Special Support Plan for SMEs affected by Typhoon Hato" and the "Post-disaster Allowance" offered by the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund, to assist local residents and small and medium enterprises with overcoming difficulties.

As at the end of 2017, the total amount of allowances and subsidies paid under the "Special Assistance Plan for Damage Caused by the Passage of Typhoon Hato" was around 494 million patacas. By 30 September – the deadline for applications for allowances and subsidies from the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund, 14,536 applications for "Post-disaster Allowance" and 6,640 applications for "Special Support Plan for SMEs affected by Typhoon Hato" were received, involving a total amount of 2.364 billion patacas.

Improve emergency response by focusing on development of a long-term disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism

Typhoon Hato led to huge losses, stimulating non-stop reflections and reviews. The Government has clearly requested further enhancement of its disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism, by summarising the experiences and lessons learnt, and implementing short-, medium- and long-term disaster prevention and mitigation work.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On issued an Executive Order on 27 August to establish the Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements to the Response Mechanism for Major Disasters, to review the current crisis management mechanisms – including weather forecasting, coordination of civil protection work, coordination of information dissemination, and status of related infrastructure; develop overall planning to enhance the synergy for future crisis management, especially on unified planning, operations and information dissemination, to strengthen the ability to respond to emergencies, protect residents’ lives and property, and maintain society’s stability.

The Commission is chaired by the Chief Executive, with members including the five Secretaries, the Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Service and the Director-General of the Macao Customs. Relevant experts, scholars and community members may be invited to attend the commission meetings when needed. The Commission will also form various task forces and invite engagement of professionals, experts, scholars and community members.

On 6 September, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led the five Secretaries to hold the first press conference after the establishment of the Commission. The press conference introduced ways the Government will prepare for and respond to future disasters, including immediate commencement of work to raise all seawalls by the coast, and the follow-up with Guangdong Province on the construction of sluices at the Inner Harbour; increase the proportion of locally generated electricity by up to 50 percent; attain the ability to maintain water supplies for at least 12 hours in times of emergencies; an invitation to experts from mainland China to assist in reviewing and enhancing the disaster prevention mechanism; and establishment of a department provisionally named the Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau.

On 11 September, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a government delegation to Guangzhou, to attend a meeting with the Governor of Guangdong province, Mr Ma Xingrui, to discuss the plan for constructing sluices in Macao. Relevant departments of Macao and Guangdong will enhance communications and continue with the coordination work, to commence an in-depth analysis of the sluice construction project, within the current cooperation framework between Guangdong and Macao.

At the end of September and November, the Government invited the expert group of the National Commission for Disaster Reduction to Macao, to conclude and evaluate the responses to Typhoon Hato and study the enhancement of the emergency management mechanism. The experts advised the Government on how to enhance responses to and prevention of disasters.

In the “Work Report of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction’s Expert Group on Assessing Typhoon Hato Damage in Macao”, the experts gave detailed, specific recommendations on the short-, medium- and long-term disaster prevention and mitigation plans formulated by the Government. Major recommendations include enhancing mechanisms for disaster prevention; mitigation and relief work, and emergency responses; strengthening fundamental infrastructure for operations linked to saving lives and to disaster prevention and mitigation; optimising the coordination mechanism between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao; improving the ability to respond to disasters, catastrophes and their risks; improving the mechanism and the legal system for disaster prevention and mitigation, and management of a public emergency; comprehensively developing a safety culture and quality construction; and focusing on important initiatives.

Finding ways to improve the ability to withstand disasters has become a critical issue to be solved by the Government and various sectors of society. To standardise and normalise disaster prevention and mitigation work, Chief Executive Chui Sai On put forward “Optimise the emergency

response mechanism and enhance public safety” in the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2018, to prioritise people’s lives, properties and public safety, enhance disaster prevention and mitigation capability, propose short-, medium- and long-term measures for disaster prevention and mitigation, and announce the commencement of formulation of a ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028) during 2018.

According to the Policy Address, short-term measures include: commence formulation of emergency response action plans in all departments; establish a department focused on civil protection and emergency response coordination, including integrated civil protection drills, emergency response actions by the entire community and protection centres; perfect the laws and regulations on risk management and emergency responses, focusing on the revision of the by-laws and standards for meteorological warnings; and improve flood prevention and drainage infrastructure at the Inner Harbour, to improve the emergency response abilities of the facilities for water and electricity supplies and communications.

Medium-to-long-term measures include: enhance safe operating capacity of the city by prioritising infrastructure development in new urban planning, including the planning of underground pipeline networks and wind-resistant designs for buildings; make use of big data to establish a crisis information management system to foster disaster information sharing and establish a unified information dissemination platform; and establish a professional and efficient emergency rescue team, and improve the professional training of meteorological staff.

Always upholding the principle of serving the public, the Government is implementing disaster prevention and mitigation work in an orderly manner, amending the Civil Protection Law, and formulating a 10-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028). Major tasks have commenced, including the establishment of a new command system for the management of public emergencies. The Government will also strive to initiate the establishment of an insurance system to cover losses from major disasters, an overall emergency response plan, construction of fundamental major infrastructure, and promotion of safety awareness. The Government will continue dedicating its utmost efforts to overall disaster prevention and enhancing mitigation capability; prioritising people’s lives, properties and public safety; and investing more resources to facilitate development of a long-term disaster prevention and mitigation mechanism with short-, medium- and long-term measures.



PLA Macao Garrison joins hand with the MSAR Government and Macao people in disaster relief

MSAR Adopts Top-down Design to Enhance Coordination Ability

In 2017, in designing and executing its plans for the MSAR, the Government remained steadfast in aligning with the country’s overall development strategy and aiming for Macao’s ultimate prosperity and stability. The Government gradually implemented various measures under Macao’s first Five-Year Development Plan, speeded up economic development, constantly improved the people’s livelihoods and integrated the MSAR into the country’s overall development. Consolidated analyses by the Government and third parties revealed that the effective implementation of plans was over 80 percent in 2016.



With the practical development of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre and as an economic and trading service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in mind, the Government continued to uphold the “One country” principle and make the best use of “two systems” to allow Macao to fully demonstrate its unique strengths. Through top-down design, the Government constantly enhanced its coordinating and organising abilities, systematically linking up the implementation of Macao’s Five-Year Plan, the establishment of “one centre and one platform”, support for the “Belt and Road” initiative, and the participation in the major cooperative projects in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Hence, synergies were realised, allowing Macao to keep pace with the world and the country, promoting the long-term prosperity and stability of the city, and benefiting the people of Macao.

Leveraging Macao’s strengths to serve the country’s needs

The “Belt and Road” initiative is a strategy of high significance for the country. In Macao’s Five-Year Development Plan, the Government confirmed its participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative as its development strategy. To encourage Macao’s participation in and support for the country’s “Belt and Road” development, the Government made a series of plans in 2017 in terms of infrastructure building, deepened regional cooperation and connecting places with potential that can be unleashed.

In March, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published an Executive Order to establish the Working Committee for the Development of “Belt and Road” Initiative chaired by the Chief Executive. At the first plenary meeting of the working committee, on 2 May, Chief Executive Hui Sai On

demanded that members of the committee lead by example and build a correct understanding and a broad consensus regarding the “Belt and Road” initiative between government departments and all sectors of society. They should build good relations between the Central People’s Government and Macao, among all government departments, and between the Government and social groups, fostering a culture of joint liaisons, joint establishment and mutual sharing. Through contributing to the country’s development, it is the committee’s objective to enhance quality and foster a stronger sense of benefit among Macao people.

In addition, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led delegations to Fuzhou and Guangzhou in February, to meet with senior leaders of Fujian and Guangdong, and discussed the development of the “Belt and Road”. In the first year of cooperation between Fujian and Macao, work will focus on the preparations for investment in trade and cultural exchanges. Meanwhile, both Guangdong and Macao will strive to foster an organic integration in the building of “Belt and Road”, Macao’s “One Centre, One Platform” and Guangdong’s “Three ways of positioning and two firsts” – creating even stronger relations between Guangdong and Macao through participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative.

On 14 May, a government delegation led by Chief Executive Chui Sai On was invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing. On 8 June, an international seminar on the “Belt and Road” initiative and Macao’s development was held in Macao, where ex-senior politicians from China, Portugal, Thailand and Brazil, local and overseas business figures, leaders of overseas Chinese communities; and relevant experts and academics from mainland China, Hong Kong and around the world exchanged their views on the “Belt and Road” vision and the opportunities arising from Macao’s participation in and support for the “Belt and Road” initiative.

To enhance the understanding among all sectors of society regarding the significance of Macao’s participation in and support for the “Belt and Road” initiative, and to encourage active participation, the Government held a photo exhibition on Macao’s “Belt and Road” participation and support. This was held in five venues in Macao from late June to the end of July. The photo exhibition reached out to the communities, showcasing and introducing the key highlights of the country’s “Belt and Road” initiative, the relationship between “Belt and Road” and Macao, and how various sectors of Macao society could participate in or support the “Belt and Road” initiative, with a full array of visuals and text.

Positioned to leverage its own advantages in order to complement the country’s development strategies, Macao will actively participate in and support the “Belt and Road” initiative, leveraging the advantages arising from the principle of “One country, two systems”, its geographical advantage and the people networks enjoyed by returned overseas Chinese and their families. It will implement policies to attract investment, manage resources, drive market forces, and coordinate and liaise to establish “Belt and Road” platforms that interconnect countries and regions. It will encourage and drive participation from all sectors of society, especially young people, professionals and SMEs, to unleash creativity, seize opportunities, and perform their best in this “Belt and Road” initiative.

Seizing Bay Area opportunities and enhancing self-development

The work report of the Central People’s Government released on 5 March stated that a plan for the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis would be formulated to deepen cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, indicating that the building of the Greater Bay Area has officially become a national strategy. On 1 July –

witnessed by President Xi Jinping – the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Director of the National Development and Reform Commission, Mr He Lifeng, and the Governor of Guangdong province, Mr Ma Xingrui, signed the “Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Greater Bay Area” in Hong Kong, jointly building the Greater Bay Area into a more dynamic economic zone, a high-quality living area for living, employment and tourism, and a demonstration zone for deep cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, forming the world’s premier bay area and a world-class metropolis.

As regards tourism cooperation, the tourism departments of nine cities – Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, together with their counterparts in the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao – in December established the Tourism Federation of Cities in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It is hoped that through integrating resources, image promotion and joint marketing, mutual interaction and cooperation will be promoted among member cities, leading to the building of world-class tourism destinations.

To complement the demonstration of Macao’s strength in building the Greater Bay Area, and to enhance self-development, the Government, building on preliminary works, drafted initial suggestions regarding the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis. At the same time, to promote active participation by various sectors of society, on 13 June the Government launched an opinion survey on the development plan, with a view to listening to the opinions of the general public as well as the professional views of experts, thereby learning from the people and forming a social consensus. On 16 June, the Government organised a seminar on the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis, drawing together about 300 members of society to listen to an introduction to the development plan by Government representatives, and to freely express their opinions regarding the plan.

The opinion survey ended on 28 June. It received opinions and suggestions from representatives of over 120 community groups or organisations who came to the Policy Research Office, and 126 submissions from the general public delivered via letters, website posts, emails or by phone. All these survey participants played their role in offering advice regarding Macao’s participation in the building of the Greater Bay Area.

In participating in building the Greater Bay Area, the Government will focus on demonstrating its own unique advantages, and foster mutual cooperation and complementarities with other cities by adopting three major approaches:

Firstly, strengthening Macao’s function as a world tourism and leisure centre by building itself into a tourism education training base to serve both the Greater Bay Area and the world, and joining hands within the Greater Bay Area to shape leisure destinations with advantages;

Secondly, continuing to demonstrate Macao’s function as an economic and trading service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, by exploring new opportunities together with various cities in the Greater Bay Area in the areas of Sino-Portuguese financial, economic and trade cooperation;

Thirdly, exploring the feasibility of building an exchange and cooperation base that is centred on Chinese culture and embraces multiple cultures, taking advantage of Macao’s history of cultural exchanges between the East and West for over 400 years, with a view to building a Greater Bay

Area cultural hub that can help to carry forward Chinese culture.

Building a smart city to benefit people's well-being

Constructing a smart city is an important development approach of Macao, and is a strategic initiative of the Government in seeking economic development and improving the people's well-being. The objectives of smart city construction are clearly set out in the MSAR's Five-Year Development Plan and the policy addresses in the past two years. The Government, through increased coordination and liaisons, gathered the efforts of government departments, experts and academics and community and industry groups to jointly accelerate the building of Macao into a smart city, and relevant initiatives have been implemented. In 2017, a series of action plans were carried out.

On 17 February, a special smart city committee under the Science and Technology Committee held its first meeting to discuss and confirm its annual action plans. Members of the committee included experts, academics, and representatives from science and technology groups and from the Government, who were tasked with promoting academic research on smart cities, along with industrial development and publicity. In December, the committee completed two study reports – Turning Macau into a smart city: a study in strategic development, and Feasibility study of smart mobility for the development of Macao into a smart city – which together serve as a high-level design for the smart city of Macao, and as an important reference for the pertinent pilot programme.

On the other hand, in its first plenary meeting on 28 July, the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure chaired by the Chief Executive set up a task force focusing on the development of a smart city for the MSAR. This task force serves as a high-level cross-department liaison unit within the government. It comprises representatives from various government departments, who are to roll out the implementation of smart city construction under the Five-Year Plan of the MSAR and provide relevant recommendations.

Upon confirming the objectives of developing a smart city, the Government drew reference from the experiences of other highly-developed regions, and after thorough study and discussion, on 4 August signed the Framework Agreement of Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development with Alibaba Group, with a view to harnessing cloud computing and big data to gradually build Macao into a smart city that is led by digital technology to offer its people smart services. The agreement will be implemented in two phases that cover tourism, talent training, transportation management, medical services, urban management and services, environmental protection, customs clearance, and economic forecasts.

The smart city construction by the Government will always have the wellbeing of the people at heart, with a vision of building a city that is good for living and on par with the development of its neighbouring regions. It is also expected that public administration can be improved via the use of technology, thereby raising the service standards and effectiveness of the Government, and better responding to the needs of its people.



Enthusiastic voting for the competitive sixth Legislative Assembly Election



The sixth Legislative Assembly Election of the Macao SAR was held on 17 September 2017. The sixth Legislative Assembly comprises 33 legislators: 14 directly elected, 12 indirectly elected and seven appointed legislators. The number of members remained unchanged.

Both the numbers of candidate groups and candidates for direct election to the sixth Legislative Assembly broke the records, with 186 candidates from 24 groups contesting 14 seats (there were originally 192 candidates from 25 lists, however one group announced its withdrawal, after confirmation of the list of candidates and one candidate from another group withdrew). There were over 300,000 registered voters in Macao, 30,000 more than for the fifth Legislative Assembly Election. As both the numbers of candidate lists and voters had increased, the sixth Legislative Assembly Election was considered the most competitive of Macao's elections. This was the first time there were more candidates than seats in indirect elections. There were six candidate lists representing five sectors, with two candidate lists contesting for three seats in the professional sector.

Various sectors and residents of Macao actively participated in the sixth Legislative Assembly Election, fulfilling their civic responsibility. The total number of votes reached new high since Macao's return to the motherland, reflecting the rise of civic awareness and a joint force for the development of Macao. The new Legislative Assembly was successfully formed following the smooth completion of the election.

Optimising legislation and enhancing election quality

In 2016, after a comprehensive consultation, the Government amended the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law, striving to optimise the electoral system for the Legislative Assembly, strengthen fairness of elections and enhance competition in indirect elections by perfecting specifications regarding election campaigns, strengthening enforcement against illegal electoral activities, improving electoral organisation work, and optimising the eligibility for running for the Legislative Assembly Election and the regulation on holding concurrent positions.

In the direct election, political organisations or any nomination committee formed by 300 to 500 eligible voters are qualified to submit their candidate lists. Natural persons aged 18 and above, who are Macao permanent residents, may vote to elect 14 directly elected members in the Legislative Assembly Election, provided that they have completed voter registration and been entered into the register of voters published in January 2017.

In the indirect elections, any nomination committee should have at least 20 percent of members who are legal persons belonging to the relevant constituency. All these legal persons should have been entered into the register of voters published in January 2017. If the calculation of the percentage results in a figure that is not an integer, the integer with a smaller value that is closest to the result should be taken. Nomination committees may submit candidate lists through their trustees.

According to the register of corporate voters published in January 2017, the total number of valid voters was 858. The numbers of valid corporate voters in each sector were as follows: Industrial, Commercial and Financial: 102; Labour: 75; Professional: 55; Social Service: 134; Cultural: 148; Education: 23; and Sports: 321.

Further, the newly amended Legislative Assembly Electoral Law specifies that candidates should sign a declaration that pledges adherence to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and allegiance to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The amended Legislative Assembly Electoral Law also introduced a deposit (25,000 patacas) system. The deposit will be forfeited if the number of votes obtained by the candidate list is less than that of the nomination committee. The Government's aim in introducing these new measures was to raise the threshold for election, and enhance the credibility of candidates and the solemnity of the election.

Orderly commencement of election work and maintaining a clean and fair election

To better coordinate and organise the sixth Legislative Assembly Election, on 25 January 2017 Chief Executive Chui Sai On appointed the chairman and members of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) as follows: Chairman Tong Hio Fong; members Mr Lai U Hou, Mr Jose Maria da Fonseca Tavares, Mr Kou Peng Kuan, Mr Iong Kong Leong and Mr Chan Chi Ping, in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the current Legislative Assembly Election Law.

From February 2017, the CAEAL enhanced communications to inform the public regarding the latest situation with election preparations, through regular meetings, seminars, the media, press conferences and the election website. An election campaign reporting platform was also set up, for the public to access and supervise election campaigns and non-electoral campaign activities.

Meanwhile, the CAEAL held working meetings with various departments of the Government to discuss the execution of election procedures, information exchange mechanism and enforcement against election irregularities, and clarified the procedures for handling minor violations, to ensure fairness and impartiality of the election. Extensive promotions through traditional and new media were launched, such as producing promotional videos and news features, to enable citizens of all age groups to easily access information about the election.

To ensure integrity of the electoral process, the CAEAL and the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) jointly established a unified complaints hotline and online complaints platform, to encourage residents to fulfil their duties and obligations to report any election violations. An official WeChat account was also opened to provide quick and convenient access to information about the CAEAL and a clean election.

Committed to cracking down on vote-buying, the CCAC established an anti-bribery team, focusing on possible irregularities in the Legislative Assembly Election, and conducting intelligence gathering, research and planning to proactively safeguard against bribery.

According to the amended Legislative Assembly Electoral Law, legal persons and candidates should report any electoral campaign activity they organise or participate in. The CCAC continues conducting inspections of relevant activities. From March to September in 2017, the CCAC undertook 5,089 anti-bribery actions, including 2,907 inspections to restaurants and banquet venues, 1,850 inspections to community activity venues and 332 inspections on allowance disbursement and travel activities.

In addition, the CCAC formed the Volunteer Team for Clean Elections 2017, recruiting 83 Form 3 to Form 6 students in Macao to assist the CCAC in organising seminars and participating in outdoor promotions to spread the message of clean elections to the public.

Four-year term of office commences for elected Legislative Assembly members

According to the Executive Order published in the *Macao SAR Gazette*, the budget for the sixth Legislative Assembly Election in 2017 was 55,555,700 patacas. The maximum limit for each candidate list's election campaign expenses for the Legislative Assembly Election 2017 was 3,549,622 patacas.

In the sixth Legislative Assembly Election, 192 candidates from 25 lists were confirmed to be qualified for direct elections. As one candidate and one list subsequently withdrew from the election, there were 186 candidates from 24 lists contesting 14 seats, which still broke the record in terms of numbers of lists and candidates. For indirect elections, 15 candidates from six candidate lists contested 12 seats in five sectors, including two lists in the professional sector. This was the first ever competitive indirect election in the Macao SAR.

There were 305,615 eligible voters for the sixth Legislative Assembly Election, about 10 percent more than the figure of 276,034 in 2013. The increase showed that more residents exercised their civil rights, as empowered under the Basic Law. To ensure a smooth election process with the increased number of voters, 37 polling stations for direct elections were opened in 36 polling venues, six more than in the last election. Five polling stations were opened for indirect elections, in one polling venue.

On 17 September, the election date, the polling stations were open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. With a record-breaking 174,872 votes cast in direct elections, the voter turnout rate was 57.22 percent, 2.2 percent more than in the previous election. The voter turnout rate for indirect elections was 91.67 percent, which was higher than the previous election.

On 19 September, the General Audit Committee of the Legislative Assembly Election announced the audited results. Of the 174,872 votes counted, 172,628 were valid, 944 were blank, and 1,300 were invalid.

On 27 September, according to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR, Chief Executive Chui Sai On appointed seven legislators to the Legislative Assembly through an executive order. They were: Ma Chi Seng, Pang Chuan, Wu Chou Kit, Lao Chi Ngai, Fong Ka Chio, Iau Teng Pio and Chan Wa Keong.

On 28 September, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published an announcement by the Court of Final Appeal, and confirmed the results of the direct and indirect elections of the Legislative Assembly Election according to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Law. The 14 directly elected legislators were: Mak Soi Kun, Lei Cheng I, Si Ka Lon, Jose Maria Pereira Coutinho, Ho Ion Sang, Au Kam San, Leong On Kei, Song Pek Kei, Ng Kuok Cheong, Lam Iok Fong, Wong Kit Cheng, Sou Ka Hou, Zheng Anting and Leong Sun Iok. The 12 indirectly elected legislators were: Ho Iat Seng, Kou Hoi In, Chui Sai Peng Jose, Ip Sio Kai, Lam Lon Wai, Lei Chan U, Chui Sai Cheong, Chan Iek Lap, Vong Hin Fai, Chan Hon, Cheung Lup Kwan Vitor and Chan Chak Mo. All 33 members of the sixth Legislative Assembly of Macao were returned.

On 16 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On swore in all the legislators at the Government Headquarters. The four-year term of office commenced. The first plenary meeting was held on the same day, to elect the president, vice president and the first and second secretaries by and from among its members. Ho Iat Seng, Chui Sai Cheong, Kou Hoi In and Chan Hon were elected to these positions, respectively.

Enhance qualitative development of industries and promote adequate economic diversification

In 2017, Macao's economy gradually emerged from its in-depth adjustment period, to commence a stable upturn. Annual GDP grew by 9.1 percent to 404.2 billion patacas, putting a halt to the economic contraction over the past three years. Annual GDP per capita was 622,803 patacas. Public finance was sound and stable. The unemployment rate was maintained at two percent. Gross gaming revenue was 265.743 billion patacas, an increase of 19.1 percent over the previous year, representing the first growth in the past three years. On the whole, steady development of society was maintained.

In the area of economy and finance, the Government adopted an administrative approach aiming to “strengthen the foundations for maintaining innovative development and enhancing our driving force; foster employment and safeguard the people’s well-being to boost vitality”. It launched a series of initiatives to develop Macao as “One Centre, One Platform”, and speed up adequate economic diversification as set out in the country’s 13th Five-Year Plan and the Five-

Year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2020).



In 2017, the Government continued to foster the development of the convention and exhibition industry through the “conventions as the priority” approach, by launching the Convention Ambassador programme and inviting six authoritative figures to be convention ambassadors, to help Macao with attracting more regional or international conventions to be held in Macao. The Government also implemented and optimised a series of supportive measures for the convention industry, and completed a revision of the Convention and Exhibition Incentive Programme and International Convention and Professional Exhibition Support Scheme. The effectiveness of these supportive measures was consistently monitored through pre-approval assessments and on-site inspections. The Government also took an active role in helping the industry to cope with human resource challenges. As at September, seven conventions in Macao were awarded certification by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI). According to the 13th edition of the Annual Report on the Trade Fair Industry in Asia, published by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, Macao was ranked the most outstanding exhibition market in Asia in the past five years.

In the area of traditional Chinese medicine, the Government consistently boosted efforts to attract capital and build infrastructure for the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park, driving more high-quality mainland China and Macao enterprises to establish a foothold there. It also fostered regional cooperation and international exchanges in the traditional Chinese medicine industry, including establishing partnerships with Guangdong and Sichuan, as well as expanding the scope of cooperation with Fujian.

The Government also assisted Macao enterprises in promoting their products in Portuguese-speaking countries, such as Mozambique and Portugal, and followed up with matters concerning international product registration and import and export trade. In September 2017, the Government helped two patented Chinese medicines to complete their registrations with Mozambique; one

of these is manufactured by a Chinese medicine factory in Macao.

Specialised financial service is a nascent industry which the Government has actively promoted in recent years. In this regard, the Government has revised two laws: Legal System for Financial Leasing Businesses, and Tax Incentives for Financial Leasing, thereby improving the legal foundation for the development of the industry. The Government also launched supportive measures – providing convenient business registration, application for non-resident workers, and temporary residence permit application for management-level staff and qualified technical specialists – with a view to inviting more high-quality financial leasing companies to establish businesses in Macao. Importing and training talented people will, it is hoped, enable specialised financial professional teams to be established more quickly.

The Government also strived to create a mechanism for exchanging information between the banking industry associations of Guangdong and Macao, regarding “Belt and Road” investment and financing needs, with a view to fostering regional financial cooperation and expanding room for development of the industry. In 2017, three Macao banks established businesses in mainland China. Through cross-departmental cooperation, the Government visited neighbouring regions, including Guangzhou, Zhongshan and Zhuhai, in the fourth quarter of 2017, to promote Macao’s specialised financial services.

Market expansion via e-commerce among SMEs, while young entrepreneurs integrated into the Greater Bay Area

In 2017, the Government actively promoted development of e-commerce by launching a training programme targeting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and modifying the incentive programme for promotion of e-commerce (application of B2C platform), to encourage e-commerce engagement of businesses. Through driving participation in the Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair and similar programmes, the Government facilitated the expansion of business networks, helping SMEs in Macao to expand into the mainland China market via cross-border e-commerce. With Nansha as an entry point, the Government liaised with mainland China counterparts to jointly foster convenient customs clearance at Nansha, for e-commerce goods from Macao that are transported by land.

In mid August, the first-batch of cross-border e-commerce goods was delivered to Nansha from Macao. Moreover, various supportive programmes and services for SMEs were enhanced on an ongoing basis, including: launch of an online appointment service for “Services on the Doorstep”; organising shopping and sight-seeing tours for merchants participating in conventions and exhibitions, and activities to promote retail consumption and community economic development; improving the business environment to create more opportunities for businesses; and fostering long-term cooperation in the “Procurement Partnership Scheme for Local SMEs” between local commercial and industrial associations and Macao’s six large-scale integrated tourism and leisure enterprises, raising the proportion of local goods and services procurements by large enterprises and thereby driving the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regarding entrepreneurship for young people, in 2017 the Government joined hands with private organisations to launch a mentorship programme for young entrepreneurs. Under the programme, enterprises form mentorship circles to pass on knowledge and experience through exchanges, visits, talks and sharing sessions. The Government completed the revision of the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme, further expanding the range of target beneficiaries, simplifying the application process,

setting additional requirements, and optimising supervision and control. Businesses of young entrepreneurs will receive assistance that more closely matches their needs, fully demonstrating the functions of the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre.

The Government encouraged young people to participate in the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis. In tandem with young entrepreneur support centres in Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen, the Government provided work spaces, as well as legal, taxation and other supportive services for young entrepreneurs from Macao. Through mutual recognition of young entrepreneurship projects, young people from Macao were introduced to the incubation centres in mainland China, and those who were pursuing tertiary education in mainland China were given internship opportunities.

In 2017, the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur and Innovation Exchange Centre, which was established by the Government, officially opened. This provides a cross-regional platform for sharing resources regarding entrepreneurship between young people in these countries. The government also organised visits to Lisbon, Portugal, for young people from Macao, Qianhai and Hengqin, and invited groups of young Portuguese entrepreneurs to visit Macao, thereby promoting exchanges and cooperation regarding entrepreneurship and innovation between young people in China and Portugal via mutual visits.

Gradual development of Sino-Portuguese service platform and expansion of scope of PPRD regional cooperation

In 2017, the Government continued implementing new measures to support the Sino-Portuguese commercial and trade service platform. The headquarters of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund in Macao officially opened in Macao in June 2017. This provides services to Macao enterprises, including SMEs, and has commenced work on promotion and publicity.

The establishment of a food trading and distribution centre for Portuguese-speaking countries was underway. In 2017, the Government set up exhibition centres for food products from Portuguese-speaking countries, and organised product presentations, business matching sessions and trade fairs for Portuguese-speaking countries, in various mainland China cities. These conventions and exhibitions, together with the Sino-Portuguese commercial and trade service platform, demonstrated Macao's function as a convention and exhibition centre for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Economic and Trade Cooperation and Human Resources Portal Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries has continuously enhanced its functions, and has already started an online registration service for convention and exhibition events. In 2017, the Summit on the Chinese Central SOEs' Support of Macao in the Building of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Co-operation Platform made its debut, with several cooperation agreements signed between Portuguese-speaking countries, mainland China SOEs and Macao enterprises.

As for regional cooperation, the Government deepened exchanges and connections between Macao and PPRD provinces like Guangdong and Fujian as well as other provinces and cities.

The Government continued recommending projects for and conducting processes for the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park, to expedite start-ups by enterprises. Other positive

steps included the official opening of Zhongshan 760 Cultural Park Macao Interactive Zone, and steady progress with establishing the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone. The Government organised groups from Macao, Fujian province and other regions of mainland China to join the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in the Republic of Cape Verde, and visited Sao Tome and Principe together with a delegation from Fujian. The Government also enhanced cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine with Fujian, and liaisons and business matching with medicine and pharmaceutical technology companies in Fujian.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the Government signed the Hong Kong and Macau Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement with the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Caring for people's livelihoods, cultivating talents, and planning for a liveable and accessible city



In 2017, the Government continued to uphold its policy objective of optimising the five long-term mechanisms for people's well-being. Continuous improvements in people's livelihoods were achieved on several fronts, namely social security, housing, education, healthcare and talent cultivation, making progress towards meeting the policy targets established in the MSAR's Five-year Plan.

Implementing healthcare policy to jointly build a healthy city

In 2017, the Government upheld the principle of "improve medical services and prioritise prevention" in the implementation of various healthcare policies. In the Five-year Development Plan, the Government established 10 development targets for healthcare. Among these, the

targets for the ratio of healthcare expenditure to total government expenditure, average life expectancies and physicians per 1,000 people were met in 2017, while progress was being made towards meeting the remaining seven targets, with completion rates of over 50 percent.

The Government has been closely monitoring the ageing population trend. Through working on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation service chain, elderly healthcare services have been further improved by expanding the services covered by the healthcare support hotline for the elderly. In coordination with the existing healthcare services provided by the Conde S. Januario Hospital and the health centres, the Government strives to improve the quality of life of the elderly, and lower their readmission rates.

Regarding caring for the elderly, the Government formulated a preliminary proposal on the internal audit mechanism for subsidised elderly homes, to improve the quality of residential care services. Courses for dementia care planners were organised, to raise the standard of care services for people suffering from dementia in elderly care homes and day-care centres. Residential elderly care training courses were organised, to enable elderly caretakers and domestic helpers to provide better care for the elderly.

Optimisation programmes for social centres for the elderly and elderly day-care centres were also launched, to raise their service quality. Health checkups were provided for the elderly through cross-departmental collaboration, to raise their awareness of health conditions.

Following the establishment of the Children's Comprehensive Assessment Centre in 2016, the Government established the Children's Rehabilitation Services and Treatment Centre in June 2017, and recruited additional therapists to raise the efficiency of assessment and treatment. The average time for assessment has been shortened from one year to less than one month on average. Typically, assessments can be completed within eight weeks. The waiting times for language and occupational therapy have also been shortened by over 50 percent. In addition, parents are encouraged and taught to provide domestic training to children, for better results with early treatment.

In 2004, the Government joined the Alliance for Healthy Cities under the World Health Organization, and it has since been dedicated to the related promotion and education work. In 2017, the Government organised a series of activities with the theme "Macao – A Happy and Healthy Home". Following the principle of prioritising prevention, chronic disease self-management programmes were regularly organised, to advocate healthy ways of living by encouraging people to quit smoking, exercise regularly and maintain a healthy diet.

Phase 1 of the Colorectal Cancer Screening Scheme, which was first launched in 2016, was completed in 2017, and had served 2,400 participants as of September. Referrals for treatment of 15 confirmed cases of this cancer demonstrated that the aim of achieving early diagnosis and treatment had been achieved. Results of the Territory-wide Health Survey Scheme enable a better understanding of our residents' health conditions, which is conducive to formulating and revising healthcare policies.

Improving medical services through scientific administration and optimising infrastructure for long-term development

The Health Centres obtained their first international accreditation in 2014, and in 2017

received another accreditation for day-care medical service centres. Not only did they pass all 26 requirements, but also attained the standard of distinction in “health record management” and “meeting the needs of service users of diverse backgrounds” - demonstrating that the medical standard and service quality of the Health Centres have reached international standards.

The Government continued to improve general and specialist medical services by extending the Health Centres’ service hours, expanding the provision of services, and raising the standard of examinations and testing. Through coordinating and increasing the existing medical provision setup, wards and operation rooms are deployed in a flexible manner. Special teams for trauma, first-aid treatment, stroke and coronary heart disease have been established under the emergency departments, to better serve patients in urgent need of treatment.

As of the first half of 2017, the overall completion rate of the Plan for Improvement of the Medical and Healthcare System was 40 percent. The public works department sought to invite tenders for construction of the superstructure of the Islands District Medical Complex by the end of the year.

Construction of the public health specialist building and the Seac Pai Van Health Centre in Coloane is underway; renovation of the interior of Bairro da Ilha Verde Health Centre has commenced; construction of Ka Ho Rehabilitation Centre was completed during the year; and construction of the superstructure of phase 2 of the community services complex at Rua da Praia do Manduco also commenced during the year.

A well-established legal system is conducive to the sustainable development of the medical and healthcare system. The Legal System on Handling Medical Incidents came into effect on 26 February. On the same day, the Medical Incident Assessment Committee and the Medical Dispute Arbitration Centre commenced operation to handle medical incidents and disputes in fairer, more reasonable and effective manner.

In 2017, the Government established the Technical Committee for Macao Academy of Medical Specialists and recruited 40 specialist trainee doctors and 46 general practitioner interns to facilitate cultivation of professionals. In implementing the Five-year Development Plan, 152 places for specialist trainees were added between 2014 and September 2017, to cultivate talents in advance for future development. Medical workers are encouraged to take part in on-the-job training. Academic institutions from Hong Kong were commissioned to assess the medical system of Macao, with a view to raising the overall standard of medical services.

Optimising the tertiary education system and establishing an assessment system

In 2017, the Government upheld the principle of “Letting Macao thrive through education”. Legislation for the Tertiary Education System has been completed. There was also steady progress with legislation on the rules and regulations regarding the Tertiary Education Quality Assessment System, Tertiary Education Regulations, Tertiary Education Fund, Tertiary Education Council and Academic Credit System in Tertiary Education. Drafting of the Programme Review Guidelines has been completed. The preliminary plan for mid-term and long-term development of tertiary education is being continuously refined, to create favourable conditions for optimisation and future development of Macao’s tertiary education system.

There was smooth progress with implementing Phase 2 of the pilot scheme for the institutional quality audit, with continuous refinement of the quality assurance framework. Training on quality assurance is provided to staff of the education institutions, in preparation for implementing the assessment system. Through the Professional Development Assistance Scheme for Teaching and Research Staff of Higher Education Institutions, staff members of these Institutions continued receiving support for academic research, participation in academic conferences and publication of their research findings. Collaboration campaigns with the University of Coimbra in Portugal and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom were organised during the summer break, to provide training courses to 40 teaching and research staff from Macao.

Coordinating examinations and providing information on further studies

Tertiary education is an important springboard for young people's career development. To help secondary school graduates who aim to pursue further studies, the first joint university entrance examination (language and mathematics) coordinated by four local tertiary institutions was successfully completed, through coordination by the department charged with overseeing tertiary education. Nearly 90 percent of the fresh high school graduates applied to sit the examination.

With support from the Ministry of Education, there were significant increases in the quotas for recommended students, participating high schools and disciplines covered during the 2017/2018 academic year. The number of admitted students also reached a record high of 723.

The Public Sector Scholarships and Subsidies Service Platform was launched in April, to provide residents with easy access to information from different public departments. Plus they can complete and declare their particulars via the online channel. The public departments concerned may also better understand the people's need for different items in applications, to ensure a more reasonable allocation of resources.

To encourage holders of Bachelor degrees to enrol in language programmes overseas, in the first quarter of the year the Government introduced an interest subsidy scheme for graduates of higher education institutions receiving language training, with a view to equipping more professionals with multilingual proficiency, hence raising Macao's overall competitiveness.

Regarding basic education, the Basic Academic Attainments for Junior Secondary Curriculum and the Basic Academic Attainments for Senior Secondary Curriculum have been promulgated, with effect from the 2017/2018 academic year, for students studying in junior secondary one and senior secondary one. By the 2019/2020 academic year, the new curriculum will fully cover 15 grades, from kindergarten to high school education.

Regarding youth affairs, the interim review of the Macao Youth Policy (2012-2020) has been completed and published. Through close liaison and cooperation with the mainland China authorities responsible for youth affairs, the training of leaders and members of student associations of secondary schools and youth organisations has been enriched and optimised. Seize the opportunities arising from Macao's participation in the development of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the establishment of cooperative relationships between youth organisations in Macao and the Greater Bay Area was promoted.

Precisely planning social support to build a harmonious society

Regarding social support, categorisation of about 10,000 poverty alleviation cases has been completed. The Government also collaborated with various community groups and family and community services centres to establish a community support network for the underprivileged, and to provide more targeted social support.

In September, the Government disbursed an extra one month's full subsidy to about 4,000 Macao families receiving regular financial assistance, and continued to implement the Social Inclusion Scheme (special living allowances for three categories of disadvantaged families).

Child care quotas have increased following the construction of additional child-care centres and expansion of existing ones. As of the third quarter of 2017, there were about 10,000 child care places, which could meet the needs of about 7,000 two-year-old children in Macao. The Government also continued conducting child care service assessments. Under the child-care centre self-assessment scheme, 34 subsidised child-care centres have taken part in and completed the assessments. The Government also introduced a third party assessment scheme.

There is steady progress with implementing the Ten-year Action Plan for the Provision of Services for the Elderly and the Ten-year Development Plan for Rehabilitation Services, which target the elderly and people with disabilities, respectively. A total of 217 measures have been implemented within the short-term phase (2016 to 2017) of the Ten-year Action Plan for the Provision of Services for the Elderly, and preparations for the mid-term phase (2018 to 2020) have already begun. The first Islands District integrated elderly care facility commenced operations in late 2017.

A total of 152 short-term measures (2016 to 2017) in the Ten-year Development Plan for Rehabilitation Services have been almost fully implemented, and some of the mid-term measures have been launched ahead of schedule. In the fourth quarter, the Government finished compiling the General Guidelines on Design and Construction of Accessibility Facilities in the Macao SAR, to regulate new public and subsidised work that will help the elderly, people with disabilities and those with special needs commute more conveniently. Barrier-free access to subsidised rehabilitation service facilities has also been reviewed, with assistance given to organisations wishing to improve barrier-free access to their premises.

In 2017, the amount of mandatory contributions to the social security system was increased. The bill for the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System was also passed, as steady development of the double-tier social security system continued. The new organisational law for the Social Security Fund also came into effect, in preparation for the fund's new functions.

The Government also continued opening Provident Fund individual accounts for eligible Macao residents, and injected 7,000 patacas as a special allocation from the fiscal surplus into each account. The accumulated amount of the allocations plus interest in each eligible individual account over the previous eight years could be as much as around 60,000 patacas.

The electronic declaration service for contributions to the Social Security Fund commenced operation in January 2017. About 650 enterprises, including a substantial number of large enterprises, have taken part in the electronic system, to make declarations and payments of contributions for more than 93,000 local full-time employees, which accounted for 33.2 percent of the local full-time workforce contributing to the Social Security Fund.

Adopting the concept of “rationalising the administrative structure”, in 2017 the Government started to optimise the application procedures for unemployment allowances through cross-departmental cooperation and exchanges of digital data, which significantly streamlined the required formalities, and reduced the number of departments to be contacted by applicants. The number of people received by these departments was thus reduced by 50 percent compared to previous years, greatly reducing applicants’ waiting times.

Regarding housing, the Government is preparing for future housing supply through demand studies, land supply and legislation. The study on Macao’s public housing demand, commissioned by the Macao Public Governance Research Center, was completed in the third quarter of 2017. The results will give the Government a better understanding of future housing demand, allowing it to plan ahead accordingly. The reclamation work for New Urban Zone Area A, on which 28,000 public housing units will be built, was also completed in 2017. The bill on the amendment to the Legal System for Public Housing has been completed. The previous round of selection procedures for families on the waiting list for public housing has been completed, and the new round of applications for public housing will open by the end of 2018.

Four public housing projects that were previously under construction – Bairro da Ilha Verde Building, Cheng Tou Building, Fai Ieng Building, and Iat Fai Building in Taipa – were completed on schedule in 2017, providing a total of 3,458 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units. The redevelopment of phase 2 of the Mong Ha Public Housing cum Sport Centre was also restarted as scheduled in 2017.

Regarding public housing projects in the planning stages, the plan for urban conditions for about 7,000 public housing units in phase 1 of the project in New Urban Zone Area A have been issued. The feasibility study on the public housing project on Avenue Wai Long has begun; it includes assessments on environmental impact, transport, airflow, etc. Design work will begin once the assessments have been passed. Compilation of building plans for the public housing project on Avenida de Venceslau of Morais has begun.

Guided by the Road Traffic and Transport Policy of Macao (2010-2020), the Government optimises public transport to encourage people to commute by public transport, and continues to enhance vehicle management. In September 2017, the total number of motor vehicles in Macao was about 3.6 percent less than a year before. To facilitate easier commuting, certain bus routes have been reorganised, combined or extended in the light of ongoing city development and changes. Improved combinations of bus stops and better traffic diversions have been implemented, to optimise the bus route network. Regarding taxis, the public bidding for 250 ordinary taxi licences was completed in 2016, while the first batch of 50 special taxis commenced operation in 2017.

In 2017, five public car parks commenced operation in Macao – Chun Su Mei Car Park, Fai Ieng Building Car Park, Cheng Tou Building Car Park, Iat Fai Building Car Park, and the car park inside the Health and Elderly Care Facility Complex in lot CN6d of Seac Pai Van – providing more than 600 parking spaces for light vehicles and motorcycles. The rate and time limit of parking meters will be adjusted in phases, to improve turnover at parking meters.

Manifesting cultural heritage and energising local arts and culture

In 2017, in accordance with the Five-year Development Plan, the Government strived to

implement various measures within the cultural field, including: protecting and revitalising cultural heritage according to the Cultural Heritage Protection Law; promoting popular culture and arts education and cultivating cultural talents, with a particular focus on nurturing young talents; and facilitating the development of the cultural industry and enhancing regional exchanges and cooperation, thereby building Macao as a sustainable cultural city.

Phase 2 of the public consultation on the Plan for Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Macao commenced in 2017. The results of the assessment of the real estate project for Lai Chi Vun Shipyard were announced in March.

Following the listing of Chapas Sinicas (Official Records of Macao during the Qing Dynasty 1693-1886) on the Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia/Pacific, the Archives of Macao and Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo again collaborated, and successfully listed Chapas Sinicas on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

In 2017, the Government continued consolidating and optimising hardware and software facilities of cultural venues; and organising a wide range of activities, subsidy schemes and training projects, to foster cultural activities in the community and the general public's everyday life. The Government also adopts a multi-pronged approach to helping with identifying, training and cultivating local cultural and arts talents.

Raising tourism service quality and developing diverse tourism products



Following a period of adjustment in the face of global economic instability and fluctuations in exchange rates, the tourism industry has recovered ground, as shown by a notable trend in the rising number of visitors to Macao and the resumption of growth in visitor expenditure during 2017.

The Government strives to expedite the development of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre. After the completion of the study and compilation of the Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan, the current situation, advantages, challenges and potential arising from the development of the tourism industry have been explored in detail. Corresponding targets, strategies and action plans have been formulated to guide the sustainable development of Macao's tourism industry.

The Government continued implementing the Community Tourism Plan and the Macao Tourism Awareness Campaign, as well as organising and co-organising a wide array of events and activities. It also finished assessing the effectiveness of several major events, including the Light Festival, International Film Festival & Awards and Chinese New Year Parade, thereby providing a scientific basis for formulating future promotion strategies and optimising events and products.

Regarding industry management, the Government has initiated to optimise tourism-related regulations. The regulations on travel agencies and tour guides are currently going through legislation procedures, while the bill on the amendment to hotel licensing and operation laws has already been completed. The Government maintains regular inspection and monitoring on premises licensed and regulated by the Tourist Office. Law-abiding and quality service awareness among operators in the industry has been improved following the promulgation of various guidelines and recommendations.

The departments responsible for tourism, culture and sport worked closely with each other to promote tourism products. Through cooperation between overseas marketing agencies and the tourism industry, Macao tour packages for seasonal cultural, sport and festive events were introduced, to maximise synergy between these packages.

With Macao recognised as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, the Government has integrated elements of gastronomy into cultural exchanges, showcasing Macao's distinctive character as a multi-cultural city. Having become a member of the Creative Cities Network, the Macao SAR may engage in cultural exchange and experience sharing with other member cities through an international platform, thereby facilitating the sustainable development of local culture and tourism industries.

In tandem with the development of the Greater Bay Area, the Government actively maintained close liaison with tourism departments of mainland China and Hong Kong. The Exchange Seminar on Holistic Tourism and Tourist Police between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao and the annual work meeting 2017 of the Joint Working Committee on Tourism to Support Macao's Aspirations to Build a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure were held, for in-depth discussion on building Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre.

Legislative Assembly passes 20 laws covering administration and people's livelihoods

During the fourth session of the fifth Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2016 to 15 October 2017, a total of 50 plenary meetings and 135 committee meetings were held, passing 20 laws, three resolutions and 13 simple-majority resolutions.



Regarding fulfilment of legislative function:

Concerning public administration and revision of laws, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 4/2017 on Amendments to the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants, marking the beginning of phase one of the public administration reform;
- Law No. 1/2017 on Amendments to Law No. 1/2001 Unitary Police Service of the Macao SAR and Law No. 9/2002 Internal Security Law of the Macao SAR, for consolidation of functions and optimisation of resource allocation;
- Law No. 7/2016 on Amendments to Decree-Law No. 66/99/M General Regulations for Private Notaries dated 1 November, in preparation for the re-launch of the related training programmes;
- Law No. 8/2016 Adjustment to Amount of Housing Allowance, for alleviating the housing burden on civil servants;
- Law No. 9/2016 on Amendments to Law No. 3/2001 Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR, for upholding the basic principle of fair, just, open and clean elections, and to combat unlawful practices in elections; and
- Law No. 11/2017 Confirmation of Non-enforcement of Certain Laws and Decrees Promulgated between 1976 and 1987, for further clarifying the applicability of the law, thereby ensuring a more consistent legal system in Macao.

Regarding people's livelihoods, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 10/2016 on Amendments to Law No. 17/2009 Prohibition of Illegal Production, Trafficking and Consumption of Narcotics and Psychoactive Drugs, for stepping up prevention of and penalties for drug-related crimes;
- Law No. 8/2017 on Amendments to Penal Code, for effectively addressing public aspiration for social stability;
- Law No. 7/2017 on the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, for enhancing protection of resident's post-retirement quality of life;
- Law No. 9/2017 on Amendments to Law No. 5/2011 Smoking Prevention and Control System, a step towards compliance with WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, thereby creating a healthy environment for every resident;
- Law No. 10/2017 on Tertiary Education System, for pressing ahead with implementing the principles of "Letting Macao thrive through education and building Macao with talent" in support of better development of tertiary education;
- Law No. 12/2017 Strata Title Buildings Management Commercial Operation Law and Law No. 14/2017 Legal System for Management of the Common Parts of Condominiums, for improving quality of property management and facilitating property owners' management of common parts of a building, respectively; and
- Law No. 13/2017 on Amendments to Real Estate Tenancy Legal System under the Civil Code, for fostering healthy development of the rental market.

Regarding the fulfilment of international duties, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 2/2017 on Enforcement of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), for continued enforcement of CITES in the Macao SAR;
- Law No. 3/2017 on Amendments to Law No. 2/2006 Prevention and Suppression of the Crime of Money Laundering, and Law No. 3/2006 Prevention and Suppression of the Crimes of Terrorism, and Law No. 6/2017 Control of Cross-border Physical Transportation of Cash and Bearer Negotiable Instruments, for ensuring that Macao will remain economically competitive while complying with international standards; and
- Law No. 5/2017 Tax Information Exchange of Financial Account, for implementing a new information exchange protocol.

All these laws were proposed by the Government, except for Law No. 13/2017.

Regarding fulfilment of supervisory function:

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Legislative Assembly carried out budget and public finance supervision

by passing Law No. 15/2017 on Budget Framework Law and Law No. 11/2016 on the 2017 Government Budget, deliberating the Government's Reports on Budget Implementation for 2015, and listening to and discussing the 2017 Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive.

During the legislative session, legislators raised 591 written and 57 oral questions, and called for 10 plenary meetings regarding the oral questions. Legislators gave 313 pre-agenda speeches, covering housing policy, public transport, health and medicine, economy and culture, environmental protection, public administration, social security and talent cultivation. Moreover, 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 strived for progress with important issues regarding public administration and the implementation of related laws, and compiled six reports.

Other responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include listening to and fully reflecting different views, suggestions and criticism from the public, and making prompt responses regarding public aspirations.

During the session, legislators continued to strengthen the roster system for receiving public visitors, and 285 residents were personally received by legislators through this service. The Legislative Assembly also received 124 submissions and recommendations via telephone and email. The Legislative Assembly received four petitions from citizens and groups, and handled these appropriately.

CCAC Promotes Clean Elections While CA Enhances Communication with Audit Industry

In 2017, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) focused on preventing and combating vote-buying and promoting clean elections, to ensure a clean, fair and impartial sixth Legislative Assembly election of the Macao Special Administrative Region. As usual, the CCAC investigated corruption and related fraudulent activities in the public and private sectors, handled complaints to the ombudsman, protected residents' legitimate rights and interests, implemented community education work and continued with regional and international exchanges and cooperation.

In 2017, the CCAC received 1,264 complaints and reports, including 545 anti-corruption cases and 719 complaints to the Ombudsman. At the end of the year, 983 cases were closed, including 537 criminal cases concluded and transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office or closed, and 446 complaints to the Ombudsman concluded and closed. The CCAC also received 1,430 enquiries of various kinds during the year, of which 793 involved criminal offences, while 637 were complaints to the Ombudsman.

Regarding promotion and education, in 2017 the CCAC commenced a series of activities about clean elections, holding 28 sessions of the itinerant theatre tour entitled "More about Clean Elections" at 18 schools. It also recruited 83 students from Form 3 to Form 6 as members of the "Volunteer Team for Clean Elections 2017". After receiving training, the volunteers participated in and assisted with the CCAC's community activities to promote clean elections. The CCAC also opened a WeChat account, to disseminate messages about clean elections through social media.



While promoting clean elections, the CCAC also implemented regular integrity education work. The two CCAC branch offices, at Areia Preta and Taipa, continued their functions of community promotion work, and receiving complaints and reports.

Regarding external affairs, the CCAC organised delegations to visit the Zhejiang and Hunan Commissions for Discipline Inspection, the People's Procuratorates of Zhuhai, Foshan, Jiangmen and Zhongshan municipalities, and the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The CCAC also sent delegations to participate in the 15th Asian Ombudsman Association General Assembly and the 2017 PyeongChang Global Ombudsman Conference in Korea, the conferences in relation to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Vienna, and the Second International Criminal Investigation Police Forum and the International Conference on Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

The CCAC received delegations from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the Macao SAR, the First Research Institute and the Institute of Forensic Science of the Ministry of Public Security of the PRC, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Hunan Provincial People's Government, the People's Procuratorate of Guangdong Province, the People's Procuratorate of Fujian Province, the People's Court of Second Instance of Zhongshan City, the People's Court of Hengqin New Area, Zhuhai, the ICAC of Hong Kong, the Department of International and Cross-Strait Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Justice of Taiwan, the Office of the Ombudsman of Thailand, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore and the Casino Regulatory Authority of Singapore. The CCAC and the delegations exchanged views and shared work experience.



In 2017, the Commission of Audit (CA) released three audit reports: two performance audit reports, on Wireless Broadband System – WiFi Go, and Coordination and Management of Road Works, and the Commissioner of Audit’s Report 2016.

The performance audit report on Wireless Broadband System – WiFi Go, revealed there were obvious deficiencies in the implementation of the “WiFi Go” service by the former Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation, including planning, service supervision, installation of WiFi access points and settlement. From 18 September 2010 to March 2016, the public funds allocated to WiFi Go for system installation, service operation and leased line fare totalled up to 160 million patacas.

The audit report indicated that the design of mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up work were imperfect and inadequate, failing to ensure service quality. In addition, in six of the eight procurements of service, the actual number of installed WiFi access points was lower than stipulated in the contracts, as 25 access points were not installed but were still paid for, with a total cost of 422,000.00 patacas. Even though the former DSRT requested a reduction in the numbers of access points installed, the whole payment had to be made since the procurement contracts only stated the total contract prices, without a price adjustment clause – which was unsuitable and unreasonable.

The general public has always complained about the inconvenience caused by frequent roadworks in recent years. The performance audit report “Coordination and Management of Road Works” revealed that there were a total of 3,458 road excavation works in 2014 and 2015, of which 3,257 were by the private sector. The CA conducted a review on the roadworks in these two years, to assess whether they were coordinated and managed through an effective mechanism.

The audit result showed that the Road Works Coordination Group was only a platform for discussion among its members, instead of an authority with power to make changes. Moreover, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), as the department mainly responsible for verifying the administrative procedure, had a series of problems regarding the approval of licences as well

as conducting weekly coordination meetings. In addition, under the Regulation of Organisational Structure of the IACM and the General Regulation of Public Areas, the IACM is responsible for monitoring progress with roadworks. However, regarding approval of construction period and calculation of exact number of construction days, the department had long been failing to exercise its control. The audit report also disclosed irregular situations with IACM, in which supervisory staff overstepped their superior's authority to approve suspension of roadworks, resulting in IACM's inability to better understand and solve all overdue cases.

In order to maintain good communication with the audit industry and get to know the newest information related to auditing, in September, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, attended as an observer the Fifth Conference of the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP) held in Funchal-Madeira, Portugal, and presented a paper entitled "The Role of Audit Institutions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

In November, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, led a delegation to attend the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Audit Conference 2017 organised by the Audit Office of Guangdong Province in Meizhou, and exchanged views on audit issues of mutual concern with the Director of the Audit Commission of Hong Kong and the Director General of the Audit Office of Guangdong Province.

On 5 June 2017, the 2017 Audit Seminar for SAIs along the "Belt and Road Routes", organised by the China National Audit Office (CNAO), commenced in Nanjing. The Director of the Commissioner of Audit's Office and the Director of Audit Bureau were invited to participate, to gain an overview of China's economic and social development and government audit, and exchange opinions with other participants. In addition, on the invitation of China Audit Society, the Director of Audit Bureau led a delegation to Taipei in August, to participate in the "Cross-Strait, Hong Kong and Macao Audit Theories and Practices Conference 2017" and presented papers on the related topics.

In order to enhance auditors' professional knowledge, the CA joined hands with the Macau Society of Registered Auditors to organise the Audit Professional Workshop in 2017. Six experienced auditors with great achievements in the industry shared information about risk management of large-scale infrastructure projects, information risk, internal control, information technology auditing, internal auditing, ways to determine important information demarcation points, effective cyber security risk management, and effective management of reputation, crises and incidents.

Regarding publicity and promotion, the CA continued organising talks on auditing culture for cadets of the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces who were attending promotion preparation programmes, and newly recruited public administration workers. At the invitation of public departments, the CA also promoted optimisation of use of public funds to relevant public servants. In all, 43 talks were held during the year, attended by some 1,200 participants.

Central Government Recognises Macao's Judiciary Work, and the Public Prosecutions Office Upholds Social Justice

Numbers of cases handled by the three-tier court system

2017	The Court of Final Appeal	The Court of Second Instance	The Court of First Instance (including the Examining Magistracy)	The Administrative Court	Total
Cases handled	89	1,241	21,591	1,095	24,016
Cases concluded	69	1,122	21,135	138	22,464
Cases pending	65	740	13,392	1,485	15,682

The majority of the cases in the three-tier court system were criminal cases and criminal labour cases, which totalled 9,432 (excluding Examining Magistracy cases). Ranking second were civil and labour cases, which totalled 5,375. There were also 1,301 administrative cases, and 7,908 other cases.

Law promotion and legal consulting services



To strengthen the promotion of the law and foster transparency of the judicial system, starting from 9 October 2013, the court issues press releases about typical concluded cases, and publishes them on the websites of the court and the Government Information Bureau. Various media may republish and report on these cases, which can hopefully promote legal awareness and law abidance

in society, and inform the public regarding the judicial approaches and methods for settling various disputes. As at the end of 2017, an accumulated total of 466 articles had been released, 40 of which were released in 2017.

In 2017, the Information Office of the Court of First Instance and the Small Claims Court continued to provide consulting services, with details as follows:

2017	The Court of First Instance	The Small Claims Court
Number of enquiries received	9,498	1,566
Number of cases involved	9,043	1,566
Number of enquiries directly handled by the Information Centre	8,410	1,566
Number of enquiries transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office	544	-
Number of enquiries transferred to other departments	89	-
Telephone enquiries	2,534	-

Legal assistance and enforcement

Regarding delivery of judicial writs and assistance in investigations and evidence collection in civil and commercial cases, in 2017 the Court of Final Appeal received 165 judicial writs from mainland China courts, and delivered 42 judicial writs to mainland China courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

In 2017, the Court of Second Instance received 25 requests for reviewing and endorsing judgments made by mainland China courts or arbiters; no judgments endorsed by the Court of Second Instance were sent to the Court of First Instance for enforcement.

Declarations of assets and interests

In 2017, the Court of Final Appeal followed the regulations in Law No.11/2003, which had been amended according to Law No.1/2013, in the process of receiving individuals for the declaration of assets. It opened 138 individual dossiers, processed 2,109 documents for the declaration of assets that involved 1,615 people, and organised and updated the contents of the individual dossiers according to the law.

According to the regulations stipulated in Clause 1 of Article 4 in Law No.1/2013, effective from April 2013; and Clause 2 of Article 21 in Law No.11/2003, which was amended according to the former law, the office of the Court of Final Appeal has uploaded the fourth part of the disclosure document of asset declaration to the website of the Courts of Macao, ensuring it is

available in the public domain as required by law.

In 2017, the disclosure documents (part four) of 378 individual dossiers involving 277 people were published online and could be retrieved. A total of 2,310 disclosure documents involving 647 people have been published online and can be retrieved.

Central Government highly praises Macao's judiciary work, while further achievement strived for in judicial system reform

According to President of the Court of Final Appeal Sam Hou Fai, speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2017-2018 judicial year, Macao's three tiers of courts have adhered to the requirements of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, throughout the past 18 years following its reunification with the motherland. With consideration of the profound changes occurring after the reunification and the actual situation in Macao, the three tiers of courts have continued to explore and summarise experiences, and joined hands with the Government and the Legislative Assembly to facilitate the rule of law and optimise the judicial system. As a result, judicial independence and justice have been effectively guaranteed, and the principle of "One country, two systems" could be thoroughly implemented in the judicial area. Such achievements have been recognised by the Central People's Government and the general public of Macao.

In May 2017, the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, Mr Zhang Dejiang, visited Macao under the directive of President Xi Jinping. During his visit, Mr Zhang visited the Court of Final Appeal. After being briefed about the courts and the Public Prosecutions Office, Mr Zhang highly praised the work of the Macao judiciary on behalf of President Xi and the Central People's Government. He commented that Macao's judiciary has continuously explored optimising its judicial system, and the Central People's Government fully recognised its contribution to the successful implementation of "One country, two systems". Mr Zhang also advised members of the judiciary to exercise its authority carefully and lawfully for the people, and reminded them to always keep this in mind and act accordingly.

President of the Court of Final Appeal Sam Hou Fai also pointed out that in spite of the various difficulties and limitations faced, to strike a balance between judicial justice and efficiency, establishing an innovative and cost-efficient judicial system would be one of the most important quests in judicial reform. Thus, he proposed the following:

- 1. To amend the litigation system and simplify the proceedings.** At present, the Government is conducting preliminary studies on amending the Civil Procedural Code, in the hope of gauging views on how to simplify proceedings and raise judicial efficiency by abandoning the old concepts and systems and expediting amendments to the law, while taking into account the principle of "One country, two systems" and the actual situation in Macao.
- 2. To amend the Judicial Organisation Framework Law and increase judicial economy.** The case involving the former Prosecutor General, which was adjudicated in the Court of Final Appeal, again highlighted the importance and urgency of amending the law. Emphasis should be put on adjusting and optimising jurisdiction, and making the best

use of the existing resources of the courts, to raise judicial efficiency and protect the right of appeal of litigants, in order to enhance judicial justice.

- 3. To establish a mediation system that matches the actual situation in Macao, and settle disputes through multiple methods.** Mediation is simple, fast, low-cost, and with high privacy, while also helping to maintain the relationship between the parties involved. Since this method of settling disputes fits the actual situation in Macao, Macao should formulate laws and develop a system to regulate mediation with reference to the experiences of mainland China and Hong Kong. An organisation dedicated to mediation should be set up; principles should be formulated for people to follow while performing mediation; and a quality, capable and widely-recognised team of mediators should be formed.



The operation of the Public Prosecutions Office of Macao in 2017 can be summed up as follows:

1. Adhered to the principle of striking a balance between quality and quantity in handling cases, and strived to maintain the rule of law and social justice. All cases with evidence were investigated, and no injustice or appeasement of crime was tolerated. The dignity of law was maintained, to ensure public order in Macao society, where the rule of law applies.
2. Exercised the prosecutorial functions vested in it by law. It conducted research on issues related to law enforcement, and provided legal advice on the development of Macao's legal

system and the maintenance of legality.

3. Leveraged its advantage of being a single organisational structure in handling significant and sensitive cases, and efficiently ensured normal proceedings with the collective intelligence of a dedicated working group.
4. Continued to regulate and strengthen the internal management of the Office of the Prosecutor General to ensure lawful recruitment of staff and operation of the Finance Committee.
5. Promoted the informatisation of its operations, by optimising the work flow and enhancing the efficiency of prosecution through application of advanced technology.

Regarding litigation cases, in 2017, the Public Prosecutions Office initiated investigations of 14,358 criminal cases, representing a decrease of 3.5 percent compared with 14,876 cases in 2016. A total of 16,303 cases were concluded, representing a decrease of 5.67 percent; 4,363 prosecutions were made, representing a decrease of 2.59 percent; 11,651 cases were filed, representing a decrease of 6.32 percent. According to analyses of the statistics, there were three major reasons for filing cases: inability to determine the identity of the offenders after investigations, insufficient evidence of crime, and victims not wishing to take the cases further. A total of 249 filed cases were re-investigated in light of new evidence, representing an increase of 56.6 percent.

In 2017, the judicial officers of the Prosecutorial Office at the Examining Magistracy actively cleared old cases and expedited handling of new cases. As a result, the number of backlog cases continued to decrease. A total of 8,711 cases in 2017 were transferred to 2018, representing a drop of 1,696 cases compared with 10,407 cases transferred to 2017, at the end of 2016.

In 2017, of all cases filed for investigation, the five top-ranked crimes were:

1. 4,756 cases of theft, robbery and property damage (a year-on-year decrease of 2.26 percent);
2. 1,699 cases of offences against physical integrity (a year-on-year increase of 3.79 percent);
3. 1,242 cases of crimes related to traffic accidents (a year-on-year decrease of 7.73 percent);
4. 1,164 cases of fraud and extortion (a year-on-year increase of 13.12 percent); and
5. 1,077 cases of crimes related to illegal immigration (a year-on-year decrease of 20.93 percent).

Crimes that saw a significant increase in the number of cases filed for investigation in 2017 compared with 2016 include: nine cases of cruelty to animals (a year-on-year increase of 800 percent); and 65 cases of domestic violence (a year-on-year increase of 333.33 percent). Such significant increases could be attributed to the fact that the Animal Protection Law and the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence came into effect in September and November 2016, respectively. Meanwhile, in 2017, 58 cases of money-laundering were filed for investigation, representing a decrease of 73.99 percent compared with 223 cases in 2016. Besides, there were

248 cases involving drugs, representing a decrease of 15.36 percent compared with 293 cases in 2016, which signified that Macao has made another achievement in preventing and combating drug-related crimes.

Since 2015, the average number of cases transferred to the Court of First Instance for trial by the Public Prosecutions Office has been 4,000 every year. In 2017, the judicial officers of the Prosecutorial Office at the Court of First Instance handled trial hearings for 10,682 criminal cases and appeals for 51 cases and made 380 answers to appeals.

Apart from criminal cases, the Prosecutorial Office at the Court of First Instance also handled a large number of civil litigation, labour civil litigation and administrative litigation cases. In 2017, the judicial officers participated in and attended 1,397 trial hearings for civil cases.

In handling labour litigation cases, the Public Prosecutions Office started by performing mediation with regard to the characteristics of the disputes and on the principle of protecting the interests of labour. In 2017, the Public Prosecutions Office handled 892 cases in the Labour Tribunal: 493 were work-related accidents and occupational diseases, while 494 mediations were made, and only 34 cases required litigation due to failure to reach a mediation agreement; besides, 399 cases of ordinary labour litigation were initiated, while 349 mediations were made, and 10 cases required legal actions. Regarding the number of workers involved in the cases, 843 workers were involved in labour litigation cases mediated by Public Prosecutions Office, and 55 employees were involved in cases that required legal actions.

Moreover, to safeguard the legal interests of minors, members of vulnerable groups and the public, the Public Prosecutions Office exercises its authority to take part in the litigation of civil cases that involve minors, missing and incapacitated persons. In 2017, the Public Prosecutions Office handled 175 cases in the family and juvenile court, and 527 cases that involved interdiction, disqualification, curatorship, execution procedures of litigation costs, bankruptcy procedures, mandatory inventory procedures and demand procedures for tax clearance on behalf of the MSAR treasury.

In 2017, the numbers of both judicial appeals against administrative actions and administrative litigation cases increased significantly, with a year-on-year increase of 330 percent for the former and 100 percent for the latter. Such increases could be attributed to the rise in the number of cases of administrative penalties for online car hailing services, which totalled 1,300 between 2016 and 2017. Other cases included disputes over issues such as eligibility to purchase Home-Ownership Scheme Housing, eligibility to rent public housing, non-resident employees working for non-authorised entities, illegal operation of guesthouses, and tax.

In 2017, the Administrative Court office of the Public Prosecutions Office handled a total of 1,250 judicial appeals, 26 litigation cases, and 19 cases involving urgent procedures; reviewed and submitted 2,695 pleadings; and concluded 83 cases.

In 2017, the five judicial officers of the Prosecutorial Offices at the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Second Instance participated in 1,120 criminal, civil and administrative cases before

the Court of Second Instance, and gave 907 opinions on appeals or answers to appeals; handled 65 cases before the Court of Final Appeal Office, and gave 60 opinions on appeals or answers to appeals.

Moreover, in 2017 the Public Prosecutions Office handled a total of 82 criminal, civil and commercial cases involving judicial assistance. The situation was similar to that of 2016, in which there were 85 cases.

Regarding regional criminal judicial assistance between Macao and mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, in view of objective historical reasons and the actual situation, at present, Macao is still awaiting the enactment of related laws and regulations, especially those involving the transfer of fugitive offenders.