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POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTRATION



Political Structure

Macao People Governing Macao with a High Degree of Autonomy

Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 20 December 1999. The MSAR's constitutional document, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, also came into force on the same day.

The Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region establishes, at the highest level of legal authority, the guidelines and policies of the Central People's Government regarding Macao. It stipulates the system to be practised in Macao, and lays down the political and administrative framework of the MSAR for 50 years from 1999.

The systems and policies of the MSAR – including its social and economic systems; safeguards for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its residents; the executive, legislature and judiciary; and Government policies – are all based on the provisions of the Basic Law.

Under the Basic Law, the MSAR is entitled to a high degree of autonomy in all areas except defence and foreign affairs. It enjoys executive autonomy, legislative autonomy, an independent judiciary and the right to final adjudication. The executive and the legislature of the MSAR consist only of permanent Macao residents. The MSAR maintains the status of free port and independent tariff region. It also maintains the free flow of capital and the freedom of operations of financial institutions. It may, under the name “Macao, China”, independently maintain, develop relations with and sign agreements with various countries, regions and international organisations in fields such as the economy, trade, finance, transportation, communications, tourism, culture and sports.

The principles of “One country, two systems”, “Macao people governing Macao” and a high degree of autonomy have passed their initial tests with flying colours, and are now broadly recognised in Macao and infused into its social and political culture. Macao people governing Macao” means that the people of Macao are in charge of their own affairs. Macao's Chief Executive, principal officials, members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly, the President of the Court of Final Appeal and the Public Prosecutor-General shall be permanent residents, and some of these positions may only be assumed by permanent residents of Macao who are also Chinese citizens.

“A high degree of autonomy” means that the National People's Congress (NPC) authorises the MSAR to exercise a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the Basic Law, and that the central government will not interfere in affairs that fall within the autonomy of the MSAR. The MSAR enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power and the power of final adjudication, as well as other powers authorised by the NPC, the Standing Committee of the NPC and the Central People's Government.

However, a high degree of autonomy does not mean full autonomy. In order to maintain a unified China and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the Central People's Government retains certain essential powers – for example, the Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's foreign affairs and defence.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is the head of the MSAR and is accountable to the Central People's Government and the MSAR.

The Chief Executive is charged with the responsibility of leading the MSAR Government; implementing the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and other laws applicable to Macao; signing bills passed by the Legislative Assembly and promulgating laws; signing budgets passed by the Legislative Assembly and reporting those budgets and final accounts to the Central People's Government for the record; making decisions on SAR Government policies and issuing executive orders; formulating by-laws and promulgating them for implementation; nominating and reporting to the Central People's Government candidates for the posts of Secretaries, Commissioner Against Corruption, Commissioner of Audit, and leading officials of the Police and Macao Customs Service, and recommending to the Central People's Government the removal of the above officials; appointing a proportion of the members of the Legislative Assembly; appointing and removing members of the Executive Council; nominating and reporting to the Central People's Government the appointment of the Public Prosecutor-General and recommending his or her removal; appointing or removing presidents and judges of the courts at all levels, public prosecutors and civil servants; and, under particular circumstances, dissolving the Legislative Assembly.

The first- and second-term Chief Executive of the MSAR was Edmund Ho Hau Wah. The third- and fourth-term Chief Executive is Chui Sai On.

The Executive Council

The Executive Council assists the Chief Executive in policymaking. Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that, except for the appointment, removal and disciplining of officials and the adoption of emergency measures, the Chief Executive shall consult with the Executive Council before making important policy decisions, introducing bills to the Legislative Assembly, formulating by-laws or dissolving the Legislative Assembly. If the Chief Executive does not accept a majority opinion of the Executive Council, the specific reasons should be put on record.

Article 57 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be composed of seven to 11 Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of the MSAR. The Chief Executive shall appoint them from among principal officials, members of the Legislative Assembly and other public figures. The Chief Executive shall decide the appointment or removal of Executive Council members. The term of office of members shall not last beyond that of the Chief Executive who appoints them, but the members shall remain in place until the new Chief Executive takes office.

Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be presided over by the Chief Executive and meet at least once a month. The proceedings of the Executive Council meetings are confidential, but a spokesperson announces important decisions to the public. The Executive Council held 33 formal meetings during 2017.

The first and second Chief Executive Edmund Ho appointed 10 members to the Executive

Council in both his terms.

The third- and fourth-term Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, appointed 11 members to the Executive Council during his two terms in office: one Secretary, one Member of the Legislative Assembly and nine public figures.

The Legislature

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the MSAR enjoys legislative autonomy and the Legislative Assembly is its sole legislature.

The Macao SAR has full legislative autonomy, which embodies and guarantees Macao's high degree of autonomy. The legislative power of Macao is exercised solely by the Legislative Assembly. No other body or entity has legislative power. Laws formulated by the Legislative Assembly shall conform to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Legislative Assembly exercises its legislative power and supervisory power under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Authority

The term "legislative authority" broadly refers to the power to formulate general and abstract laws that are applicable to the MSAR and its residents. More specifically, the powers of the Legislative Assembly include the right to make laws, the right to amend laws, the right to suspend the execution of laws, and the right to abolish laws.

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Assembly members and the Government have the right to introduce bills and propose amendments. The Government has exclusive sponsorship rights in the four following respects: electoral law for the Legislative Assembly, public income and expenditure, political structure and Government operation.

Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly shall come into effect only after being signed and promulgated by the Chief Executive.

Supervisory Authority and Other Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include: examining and passing budgets introduced by the Government; examining the Government's reports on budget implementation; deciding on Government motions on taxation; approving debts to be taken on by the Government; and debating the policy addresses of the Chief Executive.

The term "issue of public interest" encompasses all aspects of Macao society; the Legislative Assembly may hold meetings to discuss such issues, and may require relevant Government officials to attend those meetings.

The Legislative Assembly receives and handles residents' complaints; it receives complaints concerning the existing legal system, but it does not directly handle individual cases or applications for legal consultations.

The Legislative Assembly also has the authority to impeach the Chief Executive.

When exercising the above-mentioned powers, the Legislative Assembly may summon, as required, persons to testify or give evidence.

Moreover, members of the Legislative Assembly are also entitled to address enquiries regarding the Government's work.

Composition and Term of Office of the Legislative Assembly

Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be permanent residents of the MSAR. The majority of them are elected and the term of office, except for the first term, is four years.

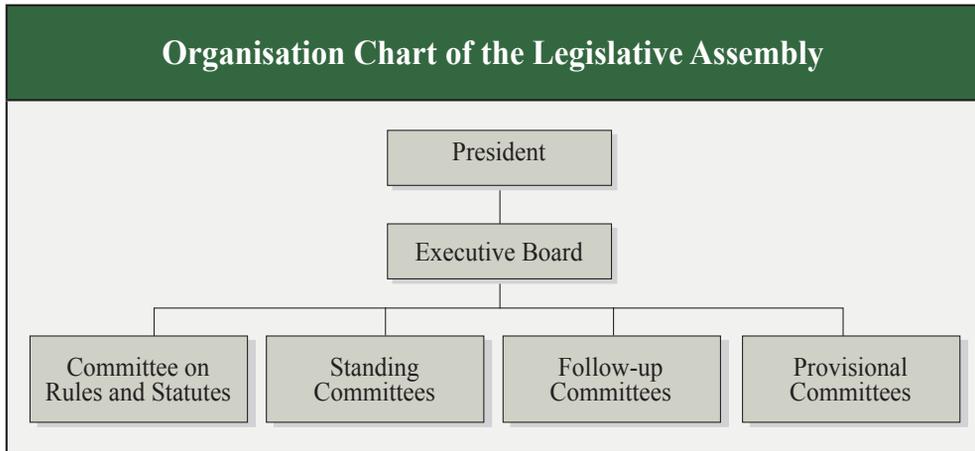
The first Legislative Assembly of the MSAR had 23 members, eight of whom were elected directly, eight indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term of office expired on 15 October 2001. The second Legislative Assembly had 27 members, 10 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term expired in 2005. The third and the fourth Legislative Assembly likewise had 29 members, 12 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. The fifth and the succeeding Legislative Assembly will have 33 members, 14 of whom are elected directly, 12 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. However, the aforementioned does not apply to the amendments made through legal procedures to the method for forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Legislative Assembly has one president and one vice president, elected by and from among its members. The president and vice president shall be permanent Chinese residents who have lived continuously in Macao for at least 15 years.

Structure and Operation of the Legislative Assembly

The structure of the Legislative Assembly comprises the president, the Executive Board, the Committee on Rules and Statutes, standing committees, follow-up committees and provisional committees. The president represents the Legislative Assembly and leads and coordinates the assembly's work. The president performs his or her duties in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Each Legislative Assembly usually serves four sessions. Each session lasts one year, normally from 16 October to 15 August of the following year. The Legislative Assembly uses Chinese and Portuguese, Macao's two official languages.



Administrative Agencies and Technical Support Offices

The administrative agencies of the Legislative Assembly include the president, the Executive Board and the Administrative Committee, all of which are responsible for the administrative affairs of the Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly's technical support offices report directly to the Executive Board. If the term of the Legislative Assembly expires or if the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Executive Board shall retain its responsibilities until the first meeting of the new Legislative Assembly. The technical support offices are led by the president and the Executive Board, and they report directly to the secretary-general. The technical support offices are divided into sections to handle different portfolios and to provide the administrative agencies and members of the Legislative Assembly with technical and administrative support.

The Legislative Assembly's Public Feedback System

The Legislative Assembly has established a public feedback system to collect opinions, suggestions and criticisms concerning legislation, Government activities, policies and other issues of public interest. The system also aims to explain the work of the Legislative Assembly and help citizens to exercise their rights to submit petitions and make complaints.

Citizens may voice their opinions via the feedback system in person or by telephone, post, fax or e-mail. Public reception is available during normal hours of government service.

In addition, legislators receive citizens by appointment at the Legislative Assembly building from noon to 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Legislators make themselves available according to a roster compiled by the Legislative Assembly.

Electoral Law

Macao's electoral system is based on Law No. 12/2000 the Voter Registration Law (as amended by Law No. 9/2008) and Law No. 3/2001 the Legislative Assembly Election Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (as amended by Law Nos. 11/2008, 12/2012 and 9/2016). The two laws govern both the direct and indirect elections of the Legislative Assembly, and the appointment of legislators as prescribed in Annex II (1) of the Basic Law.

The Voter Registration Law contains 60 articles, which govern the voter registration procedures for natural persons and legal persons, whereas the Legislative Assembly Election Law contains 222 articles, which govern the direct and indirect elections of members of the Legislative Assembly.

Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly

Under the Legislative Assembly Election Law, there are direct and indirect elections.

In direct elections, any individual aged 18 years or older and who is a permanent resident of the MSAR may, after registration under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 14 directly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

In indirect elections, representatives of legal persons who are confirmed as members of the relevant sectors for at least four years may, after being registered with and given legal personality by the Identification Services Bureau for at least seven years under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 12 indirectly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

Under the two election systems, the method used for converting the number of votes into seats in the Legislative Assembly is as follows: the first candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to the number of votes recorded for that list. The second candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to half the number of votes recorded for that list. The third candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to a quarter of the number of votes recorded for that list, and so on. Legislative Assembly seats are then awarded to the candidates who, among all lists, have the highest quotients. As regards the assignment of the final seat: if two candidates from different lists have equal quotients, the seat shall be given to the candidate from the list that has yet to win a seat. If both lists have won one or more seats, the seat shall be given to the list that received the most votes. If both lists have won the same number of votes, the winner of the seat shall be determined by the open drawing of lots.

The Chief Executive shall appoint seven legislators to the Legislative Assembly within 15 days of receiving the final verified results, as stipulated in Clause 2 of Article 133 of the Legislative Assembly Election Law.

Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election is responsible for promoting, coordinating and supervising the elections of the Legislative Assembly.

The members of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election are

appointed by the Chief Executive. The commission has one chairman and at least five members, appointed from among appropriately qualified permanent residents of the Macao SAR. The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau provides support to the commission.

The Judiciary

The courts of the MSAR have judicial autonomy. They are subordinate only to the law and are guaranteed to be free from any interference. The MSAR has a Court of First Instance, a Court of Second Instance and a Court of Final Appeal. The power of final adjudication is vested in the Court of Final Appeal.

The Court of First Instance may, when necessary, establish special courts. The previous criminal prosecution system has been maintained since the establishment of the MSAR.

The MSAR also has an Administrative Court, which is responsible for administrative and tax litigation. Defendants and plaintiffs who find the ruling of this court unsatisfactory can file an appeal to the Court of Second Instance.

Judges at all levels are appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of an independent commission composed of local judges, lawyers and prominent members of the community. The Chief Executive appoints the presidents of the courts from among the judges. The President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. Any appointment or removal of the President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record.

The Public Prosecutions Office is independent and free from interference, as defined by law.

The Public Prosecutor-General shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. He or she shall be nominated by the Chief Executive and appointed by the Central People's Government. Other public prosecutors shall be nominated by the Public Prosecutor-General and appointed by the Chief Executive. The structure, powers, functions and remit of the Public Prosecutions Office are prescribed by law.

Relationship between the MSAR and the Central Government

The MSAR is a local administrative region with a high degree of autonomy under the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. No department, province, autonomous region or municipality under the Central People's Government may interfere in the MSAR's internal affairs as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Any person from another province, autonomous region or municipality must apply for an entry permit to enter Macao. If there is a need for central government departments, provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities to set up an office in Macao, they must obtain the consent of the MSAR Government and the approval of the Central People's Government.

The Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's defence and foreign affairs. However, it authorises the MSAR to conduct certain external affairs on its own, under the name of "Macao, China" as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Central People's Government appoints and removes the Chief Executive, principal officials and the Public Prosecutor-General.

Laws enacted by the legislature of the MSAR must be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record. However, such reporting shall not affect the entry into force of such laws.

National laws shall not be applied in the MSAR except as follows, which shall be promulgated or legislated by the MSAR.

The national laws applicable in the MSAR as of 2017 were:

- Resolution on the Capital, Calendar, National Anthem and National Flag of the People's Republic of China;
- Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China;
- Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Consular Privileges and Immunities;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Emblem;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone;
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf;
- Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; and
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Immunity of the Property of Foreign Central Banks from Judicial Compulsory Measures.

The MSAR has no jurisdiction over acts of state such as defence and foreign affairs.

Chinese citizens who are residents of the MSAR are entitled to participate in the management of state affairs according to law.

Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR

As a working agency stationed in Macao by the Central People's Government, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR shall, in the light of the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macao people governing Macao", support the SAR Government in administration in line with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and be responsible for liaison between mainland China and Macao.

The liaison office is responsible for contacting the MSAR Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison; contacting and assisting mainland China authorities in managing mainland Chinese-funded organisations in Macao; promoting social and economic exchanges and cooperation between mainland China

and Macao; reporting to the Central People's Government the opinions of Macao people about mainland China; handling Taiwan-related affairs in the MSAR; and handling any other matters assigned by the Central People's Government.

In addition, the liaison office shall, through various channels, promote ties with all social segments in Macao, pay attention to development and stability issues, and provide assistance wherever necessary.

Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region

Under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Central People's Government is responsible for handling foreign affairs related to the MSAR. To this end, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the MSAR was established on 20 December 1999.

The duties of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the MSAR are:

1. Handling foreign affairs issues related to the MSAR that are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government;
2. Handling and coordinating affairs related to the MSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences; issues concerning international organisations and associations that establish branch offices in the MSAR; and matters related to inter-governmental conferences to be held in the MSAR;
3. Handling matters concerning the application of international treaties in the MSAR; and assisting with issues concerning the Central People's Government's processing of authorisation for the MSAR Government to negotiate bilateral agreements with foreign countries;
4. Coordinating and handling issues related to the establishment of foreign consular bodies, or other official and semi-official organisations in the MSAR, and dealing with relevant consular affairs; and
5. Handling any other responsibilities assigned to it by the Central People's Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison

The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison took up its role in Macao on 20 December 1999 with the establishment of the MSAR.

According to the Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Macao garrison is responsible for the defence of Macao without interfering in the local affairs of the MSAR. The MSAR Government may, if necessary, ask the Central People's Government for assistance from the Macao garrison in maintaining social order and relieving natural disasters. The Macao garrison has strictly observed the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Garrison Law, loyally fulfilled its duty, strengthened

exchanges with various sectors of Macao society, and actively participated in charitable activities.

Executive Structure

The MSAR Government is the executive authority of the MSAR. The Chief Executive is the head of the Government, supported by secretariats, bureaux, departments and divisions.

- Secretariats:** there are five secretariats in the Government, namely the Secretariat for Administration and Justice, the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, the Secretariat for Security, the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, and the Secretariat for Transport and Public Works. Each is headed by a secretary. The secretaries, in the above order of seniority, stand in for the Chief Executive when the Chief Executive is unable to perform his or her duties.
- Bureaux:** units directly under the secretariats, performing designated functions.
- Departments:** units affiliated to the bureaux, responsible for establishing operational procedures.
- Divisions:** units affiliated to the bureaux or departments, responsible for operational duties.

The Government structure includes affiliated units, such as teams and sections.

The principal officials of the Government are the secretaries, the Commissioner Against Corruption, the Commissioner of Audit, and leading police and customs service officials. Principal officials of the MSAR shall be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of Macao and who have ordinarily resided in Macao for a continuous period of not less than 15 years.

The Government is responsible for formulating and implementing policies; conducting administrative affairs; managing external relations as authorised by the Central People's Government under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region; drawing up and introducing budgets and final accounts; introducing bills and motions and drafting by-laws; and designating officials to attend meetings of the Legislative Assembly to listen to opinions or to speak on behalf of the Government.

The Government must abide by the law and be accountable to the Legislative Assembly; implement laws passed by the Legislative Assembly and already in force; present policy addresses regularly to the Legislative Assembly; and answer questions raised by members of the Legislative Assembly.

Secretary for Administration and Justice

The Secretary for Administration and Justice holds authority in areas including: public administration; civil affairs; legal translation and promotion; legislative affairs and legal administration; civil and criminal records; regulation of the registration and notarisisation system; and publication of the *Macao SAR Gazette*.

In 2017, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, on behalf of the Government, signed the Judicial Assistance Agreement between Mongolia and the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Agreement between Mongolia and the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and the Arrangement for Mutual Service of Judicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Cases between the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Secretary for Economy and Finance

The Secretary for Economy and Finance is responsible for the Government budget; supervision of industry, commerce and gaming; offshore businesses (except those under the jurisdiction of other secretaries); the currency, foreign exchange and monetary system (including the insurance sector); administration of public finances and the tax system; statistical data; labour and employment; vocational training; and consumer rights protection.

Secretary for Security

The Secretary for Security has authority over the internal security of the SAR; criminal investigations; immigration control; supervision of maritime traffic and the application of penalty provisions; civil protection; coordination and management of the prison system; customs affairs as defined in Law No. 11/2001; and the Reformatory for Juvenile Delinquents, as defined in Law No. 2/2007, Education and Supervision System for Juvenile Delinquents.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture is responsible for education, health, social affairs, culture, tourism, sport, youth affairs, social security, cultural industry and social rehabilitation.

In 2017, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture attended the International Forum of the 11th Special Olympics World Winter Games, the 70th Session of the World Health Assembly, the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Culture, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2017, and the 43rd National Congress of the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works is responsible for land regulation; traffic management; aviation and port affairs; infrastructure and public projects; transport and communication; environmental protection; Home-Ownership Scheme housing and public housing; and meteorology.

Commission Against Corruption

The Commission Against Corruption functions independently. The Commissioner Against Corruption shall be appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the

Chief Executive. The commissioner is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The Commission Against Corruption is responsible for tackling corruption and fraud. It investigates, in accordance with the law, corruption and fraud among civil servants and among individuals involved in voter registration and elections. It also promotes the protection of human rights, freedom, legal guarantees, and legitimate rights and interests, and aims to ensure the justice, legitimacy and efficiency of public administration, and investigates corruption in the private sector in accordance with the law.

In 2017, the Commissioner Against Corruption attended the 15th Asian Ombudsman Association Conference cum 2017 Global Ombudsman Conference, in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea.

Commission of Audit

The Commission of Audit has been set up in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. It functions independently and is not subject to interference. The Commissioner of Audit is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The major duties of the Commission of Audit are to monitor the implementation of the Government budget; to compile an audit report on the overall Government accounts; to monitor the implementation of target departments' budget and the final accounts, as well as the management and expenditure of capital not included in the budget, together with assessing everything including assets, debts, profits, losses, and accounts, and verifying that all public expenditure is according to the proper purview of audit; and to conduct "value-for-money" assessments, through reviewing efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The following bodies are subject to audit: (1) Those deriving over half their income from the Government; (2) Those with less than half their income from the Government, but subject to audit by written consent.

For public interest, the Chief Executive can issue a written authorisation to the Commissioner of Audit to audit and inspect any person of interest.

In 2017, the Commissioner of Audit attended the Fifth Seminar of the Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP), and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Audit Conference 2017.

Unitary Police Service

The Unitary Police Service is part of Macao's internal security system, and it is responsible for the coordination of Macao's security affairs. It commands and leads police units that now include the Public Security Police and Judiciary Police.

The Commissioner-General is the head of the Unitary Police Service, and he or she is appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or

she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws.

In 2017, the Commissioner-General participated in the 20th working meeting on cooperation between mainland China public security authorities and the Macao police, the 23rd Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Tripartite Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Heads Meeting, the 15th Shanghai-Macao Police Cooperation Working Meeting, and the 12th Symposium on Police Studies of the Straits-cum-Hong Kong and Macao.

Macao Customs Service

The Macao Customs Service (Macao Customs) has been established in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

It is a public body with administrative autonomy, which is responsible for directing, implementing and supervising customs policies, as well as conducting policing functions such as customs administration and supervision (as specified in Article 1 of Law No. 11/2001).

The head of the Macao Customs, the Director-General, is appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws (as specified in Clause 6 of Article 50 in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and Article 6 of Law No. 11/2001).

In 2017, the Director-General of the Macao Customs attended the 129th and 130th meetings of the Customs Cooperation Council in Brussels.

Office of the Government Spokesperson

The Office of the Government Spokesperson is responsible for formulating information strategies and coordinating their implementation; ensuring Government communications are coherent and efficient; and fostering the Government's relations with the media and the public, in accordance with the Government's policies, measures and work.

The Office of the Government Spokesperson reports directly to the Chief Executive and operates according to the Chief Executive's guidelines. The office collaborates with the Government Information Bureau when initiating activities. The office is run by a government spokesperson and a deputy government spokesperson.

Policy Research Office of the MSAR Government

The Policy Research Office is responsible for carrying out research and related work on political, legal, economic, social, and cultural issues; assessing, formulating, and following up public policies, development plans and administrative agendas; and providing technical and organisational support to the Chief Executive, with the aim of realising democratic, scientific and highly-efficient policy-making.

Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office

The Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office was established according to Executive Order No. 233/2012. It is responsible for handling protocol and non-foreign policy related consular affairs for the Government.

Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing

The Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing reports directly to the Chief Executive, and it represents the MSAR in Beijing with administrative autonomy.

In 2017, the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing promoted Macao's political, economic, cultural and tourism achievements in the implementation of "One country, two systems" through various platforms and activities. For example, Macao participated in the 23rd China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair and the Public Memorial Ceremony for Ancestor of Mankind, Fu Xi; the 2017 (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo; and the China-Arab States Expo 2017; organised the 2017 Spring Exchange Camp in Shandong for Tertiary Students from Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong and Macao; the 2017 Spring Exchange Camp in Jiangxi for Tertiary Students from Beijing, Tianjin and Macao; the "Together in Beijing" campaign which offered a closer look into tertiary institutions in Beijing that admit Macao students; arranged visits to the tea exhibition, museum of history of tea, and visit to the exhibition on China's progress and achievements in the past five years for Macao students in Beijing; and co-organised the Fifth Macao's Patriotic Sentiments activity series.

The number of followers of the office's Weibo account (<http://weibo.com/draemp>) has increased to more than 830,000 since 2011, while the number of followers of its WeChat account has risen to more than 10,000 since the second half of 2013. Since November 2014, the office's official website has attracted more than 32,000 visitors. The office made use of the Internet to establish positive interactions with mainland China and overseas netizens, and showcased Macao's latest developments to the world by widely spreading information about Macao's culture, tourism and news. A platform for effective communication and interaction with the public has been established, to enhance understanding of Macao by local residents and people from mainland China and overseas.

The office enhanced its communications with Macao students studying in tertiary institutions in mainland China, particularly those in Beijing; organised various activities to deepen the students' understanding of mainland China and foster their sense of belonging; and participated in and provided assistance for activities organised by Macao student organisations in Beijing.

In 2017, the office also assisted interactions between the Government and mainland China authorities and between enterprises and organisations in Macao and mainland China, in order to seek mutually beneficial opportunities in development and cooperation. It also assisted Macao and mainland China residents in resolving disputes and difficulties arising from investing, living, studying and travelling away from home. During the year, the office received numerous visiting groups from Macao and mainland China organisations, which facilitated relevant activities of Macao organisations in Beijing.

Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon

The Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon, which represents and supports the MSAR in Portugal and has administrative autonomy, is responsible for safeguarding the MSAR's interests in Portugal.

Regarding regular administrative work, in 2017 the office issued life certificates to 340 MSAR Identity Card and Portugal Residence Permit holders who worked or resided in Macao before or after the MSAR was established and are currently residing in Portugal. The office also assisted nine MSAR residents in Portugal and three people who previously worked in Macao with applying for identification documents and verification of working hours.

Regarding promotion of cultural activities, in 2017 the office continued to collaborate with the Confucius Institute of the University of Lisbon, to organise a seminar and gallery exhibition on "Chinese Culture Series – Tea and Health".

Regarding student affairs, 345 students registered with the office at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year. In 2017, the office organised "learning Portuguese with songs" activities for Macao students enrolled in summer Portuguese language classes organised by the Tertiary Education Services Office; invited Portuguese history teachers to organise Portuguese language and culture classes for Macao students; and received the delegation organised by the Macao Overseas Student Association in the United Kingdom.

The office organises celebration activities and parties for Macao students on major festive occasions, including New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, graduates returning to Macao and freshman orientation.

Reception and exchange activities

In 2017, the office received and provided assistance to three delegations from the Tertiary Education Services Office, the Health Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture; a delegation led by the Director of Macao Economic Services; the MSAR delegation for the Second Meeting of the Portuguese Language and Education Sub-Committee under the Macao-Portugal Joint Committee; a delegation led by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Science and Technology Development Fund; a delegation of the Cultural Affairs Bureau; a business delegation to Brazil and Portugal, which comprised Pan-Pearl River Delta "9+2" provincial and regional representatives; a delegation of the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park; a delegation of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute; and members of the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra. The office also assisted the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau in its exchange and cooperation with schools of medicine and hospitals in Portugal.

The office held a reception to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, which was attended by about 300 people; and organised a book launching ceremony.

Regarding the Union of Portuguese-speaking Capital Cities (UCCLA), in 2017 the office became its Vice Chairman, and attended a symposium and the general meeting and Executive Committee meeting of the UCCLA; accompanied the Chairman of the Executive Committee in

his visit to Macao; accompanied the business delegations from Angola and Portugal organised by the UCCLA as they participated in the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF); and organised the Forum on Sustainable Economic Development for Cities.

Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union

Based in Brussels, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union represents the MSAR, has administrative autonomy, and assists the Chief Executive with economic and trade liaison and cooperation between the MSAR, the EU and related organisations.

In 2017, the office received the delegation for the Annual General Meeting of the World Customs Organization in Brussels, led by the head of the Macao Customs.

The office continued to follow-up on and provide assistance for the cooperation scheme between Macao and the EU, by helping students who joined a course on simultaneous interpreting at conferences under the second Chinese-Portuguese Translation and Interpretation Study Scheme, co-organised by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau and Directorate General for Interpretation of the EU; hosting a delegation of outstanding high school students from Macao, organised by the Tertiary Education Services Office; and providing guidance to four postgraduate students who participated in the European Union Academic Programme in Macao regarding their plans for studying in Brussels.

Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization (WTO) represents the MSAR, promotes and handles economic and trade relations, and cooperation between the MSAR and WTO members.

In 2017, the office received the delegation led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture for the 70th Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization; and the delegation led by the Labour Affairs Bureau for the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILO).

Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan

Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan provides comprehensive services for Macao citizens working, studying, travelling, doing business or living in Taiwan; promotes economic, trade, cultural, education, health, social services exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Taiwan; and enhances crime fighting and judicial support.

Municipal Services

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and handling affairs concerning environmental hygiene and people's livelihoods; formulating and organising civic education activities; assisting non-governmental organisations and developing community spirit. It resolves practical problems encountered by Macao residents by receiving and handling their requests and complaints concerning their daily lives.

The IACM comprises an Administration Committee, a Consultative Committee and a Supervisory Committee. The Administration Committee is an executive body that supervises the work of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and takes all actions required for the bureau's operation and performance of duties. It holds closed meetings. Public sessions are held every month to listen directly to citizens' queries and suggestions. The IACM management also hosts community seminars in various community centres and districts, with local organisations and district residents invited to attend. Nine community seminars were organised in 2017, and were attended by 118 associations and organisations and 322 residents.

The Macao Foundation

The Macao Foundation's goal is to promote, develop and implement research relating to Macao's cultural, social, economic, educational, scientific, academic and philanthropic activities, including activities aimed at promoting Macao.

Subsidies and Charity Work

In 2017, the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Macao Foundation reviewed 1,012 sponsorship applications, and approved 820 of them. The Executive Committee approved 63 plans for activities during the year, each with funding that exceeded 500,000 patacas. In total, the approved subsidies exceeded 1.167 billion patacas; most (44.16 percent) were given to education, academic research and science projects.

The Macao Foundation cooperated with Caritas Macau, Macau Deaf Association, the Macao General Neighbourhood Associations Union and Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association in launching the Macao Foundation – Caritas Home Care Service, "Listen, Talk, & Care" Scheme, a care programme for elderly people living alone, and the Brain Health Action Campaign. The foundation cooperated with China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the Chinese Foundation for Lifeline Express and the China Foundation for Disabled Persons in launching various charity projects in mainland China. The foundation also continued to distribute gift to the needy during the Chinese New Year and the Mid Autumn Festival, benefiting 33,441 people. The Typhoon Hato Special Support Scheme was launched, to provide assistance to victims of the typhoon.

Youth Programmes and Scholarships

In 2017, the Macao Foundation implemented the Thousand Talents Programme for the second year. A total of 1,024 people were grouped into 34 teams to visit various provinces and cities in mainland China. "Gathering of Thousand Talents" was organised to gather participants of the programme, and to establish a platform for young people to learn from each other and build on their respective strengths, creating favourable conditions for cultivation of talents for Macao in future.

In 2017, the foundation continued to grant scholarships to Macao students. A total of 389 students were awarded tertiary scholarships, while scholarships approved for secondary and primary schools were awarded to a total of 10,720 students, totalling 59.82 million patacas. It also established for the first time a "Belt and Road" scholarship for students from Macao, Guangdong, and Fujian, as well as countries and regions along the "Belt and Road"; approved scholarships of more than 7.02 million patacas to 97 mainland China students enrolled in Macao's tertiary

education programmes, students from Portuguese-speaking countries, Namibia and Asia, and students recommended by the Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Beijing.

The Macao Foundation cooperated with the Manpower Development Committee, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), China Space Foundation, Institute of Social Sciences / Oriental Institute of the University of Lisbon, the University of Coimbra and Chinese Culture University of Taiwan in offering a variety of scholarships, in order to facilitate cultivation of talents and promote exchanges and cooperation among various regions in education and academic arenas.

The Macao Foundation continued to launch youth programmes. These aimed to promote the core value of love for the country and for Macao, developing professional skills and broadening their horizons. The foundation cooperated with the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, the Union of Associations of Professional Accountants of Macau, Teledifusão de Macau, China Space Foundation, Macao Daily News, General Association of Chinese Students of Macao, and relevant agencies in mainland China in organising various activities.

History and Cultural Affairs

The Macao Foundation established the Committee of History and Culture in 2017, in order to launch history and cultural research and publicity campaigns in an in-depth, comprehensive and effective manner. The Foundation also organised the “Macao Spirit of Solidarity” collection series and History and Culture Ambassadors Training Programme.

Promotion of Culture and Art

In 2017, the Macao Foundation solely organised or jointly organised with other organisations about 73 exhibitions, performances, talks and arts appreciation activities. In all, 11 local artists participated in the exhibitions through the Macao Artists Promotion Programme, while 15 local art groups participated in the Macao Foundation Citizen's Concert.

The Macao Foundation organised the 2017 Macao Art Talent Advanced Workshops of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles (sessions two and three). It also organised the Sixth International Chinese Prose Contest – “Macao in My Heart” and the award presentation ceremony of the 22nd Book Review Contest for Secondary School Students in Macao.

Academic Research and Publishing

In 2017, the Macao Foundation organised various academic seminars and activities, which included the International Conference on the “Belt and Road” initiative and Macao's Development, co-organised with the Government's Policy Research Office and Grand Thought Think Tank, the “China/Macao: Marine Routes, Straits and Oceans” international symposium, the Fifth International Symposium on Macaology, the Sixth International Conference on Travel Literature in Chinese, the Workshop for Social Science Scholars of Macao, and advanced seminars on history and the ambassador seminar series.

The Macao Foundation continued compiling *The Macao Volume of the Chinese Folk and Ethnic Culture and Arts Collection*; the *Collection of Chinese Folk Songs – Macao Chapter*, *Collection of Chinese Proverbs – Macao Chapter* and *Chinese Quyi Chronicle – Macao Chapter* have been granted preliminary approval. The foundation continued preparing for the compilation of *Macao Memories*. The foundation also edited and published over 31 types of books and journals, with major works including the *Macao Studies Series*, the *Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region Series*, and the *Macao Knowledge Series*. The foundation also participated in book fairs held in Taipei, Hong Kong and Langfang, Hebei.

Cooperation with Other Organisations

In 2017, the Macao Foundation provided subsidies for the maintenance of the office premises and the rental cost of the quarters for the United Nations International Institute for Software Technology. The foundation also subsidised the Macao Science Center Limited and the Science and Technology Development Fund; subsidised local drivers to take part in local and overseas races through the Sports Bureau; and presented the Macao Foundation Invention Award through the China Association of Inventions.

As founding member of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), the Institute for the Development and Quality of Macau, the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre, and the Boao Forum for Asia, the Macao Foundation continued to participate in various activities of these organisations in 2017.

Office for Personal Data Protection

The Office for Personal Data Protection operates independently under the supervision of the Chief Executive. Its responsibilities are to monitor and coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the Personal Data Protection Act, to formulate confidentiality rules for personal data, and to monitor how the act is put into practice.

In 2017, the office received 217 complaints regarding, or reports of, leaks or mishandling of personal data; 55 requests for advice; 599 notifications concerning personal data processing; 23 applications for authorisation of data sharing; and 1,944 legal inquiries. It held or co-organised 28 briefing sessions, 23 seminars and talks, and 34 training sessions (12 classes) on the Personal Data Protection Act. In all, there were 9,174 attendees.

Civil Service System

The general eligibility requirements for civil servants are that they should be permanent residents of the MSAR, aged between 18 and 64; should possess relevant educational qualifications or work experience and be capable of performing the roles required; have no criminal record or other conditions as laid down by law that would render a person inappropriate for the post or job concerned on a full-time or part-time basis; and be of sound health and mind.

Civil servants are recruited either by appointment or on contract terms. The promotion and relocation of civil servants are prescribed by law. Civil servants who breach disciplinary rules may

be sanctioned by written warning, fine, suspension, forced retirement or dismissal. Concerning the continued service, appointment and employment of civil servants, under Articles 98 and 99 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao's serving civil servants, including the police and supporting members of the judiciary, remained in employment after the establishment of the MSAR. They may remain in the civil service and retain their seniority with pay, allowances, benefits and conditions of service no less favourable than before. The Government shall pay such civil servants, or their dependents, all pensions and allowances due to them on terms no less favourable than before, and irrespective of their nationality or place of residence.

The Government may employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals previously employed in the civil service who are permanent residents of the MSAR to serve as public officials in Government departments at all levels, unless otherwise prohibited by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Government may also employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals as advisers or to fill professional and technical posts. These persons shall be employed only in their individual capacities and shall be responsible only to the Government.

At the end of 2017, Macao had 31,354 civil servants, of whom 31,084 were recruited locally and 270 from elsewhere. Of this total, 57 percent were male and 43 percent female. There were 21,534 civil servants with tertiary education qualifications, representing 69 percent of the total; 773 of the bureau directors, department heads, division and section chiefs – 95 percent of the total – held tertiary education qualifications.

Civil Servant Training

The objective of establishing the Civil Servant Training Centre under the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau is to build up a team of high-quality civil servants by consolidating training resources, strengthening coordination and planning, and building a more systematic training programme framework according to the development of civil service ranking and duties. Civil servant training comprises both compulsory and elective courses.

To meet the training requirements for promotion in the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants, the Government has included training as an important requirement for promotion of civil servants. There are two types of training courses for promotion: elective and compulsory courses.

Improving Public Services

Third-party evaluation has been incorporated into the public services appraisal mechanism by commissioning a third-party academic institution to assess the overall performance of public services provided by the Government, which will serve as a reference for evaluating leadership effectiveness.

Facilitating Inter-departmental Cooperation and Enhancing the One-stop Service Functions of the Integrated Government Services Centre

The Government enhances the cross-departmental cooperation mechanism to provide better

and more convenient one-stop services of better quality. In early 2017, the Identification Bureau gradually adjusted and optimised the venue for provision of services related to applications for identity documents. Service facilities have been expanded to provide various identity documentation services, allowing the public to complete the application formalities and collect their documents at the same service point. By the end of December 2017, 26 public departments provided services in the Integrated Government Services Centre, providing about 300 external services and handling more than 645,000 cases during the year.

E-Governance

To support the development of a smart city, and to uphold the principle of “putting people first”, the Government steers the development of e-governance towards “smart governance”. According to the Macao SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019, the Government continues to work on establishing systems, developing infrastructure and information safety management, to expedite the digitisation of business workflow, internal administrative management and public services, and optimisation of government websites, with a view to providing quality and convenient services to the community.

Developing Macao into a smart city is an important task under the Five-year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administration Region. In August 2017, the Government and the Alibaba Group signed the Framework Agreement for Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development, with a view to improving governance and community administration through the use of big data and cloud computing, thereby fostering the development of a smart city with concerted efforts.

Continuing to Implement the Macao SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019

According to the objectives, principles and strategies set out in the Macao SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019, the Government continues to commence and closely follow-up on various tasks related to six aspects of e-governance.

Optimising Inter-departmental Service Flows and Internal Administrative Management

The Government is gradually optimising operation processes of public departments in two phases from 2016 to 2019. According to its schedule, in 2017, the Government streamlined 45 inter-departmental service flows in phase one, covering issuance of permits/licences related to hotels, entertainment venues, and hygiene and healthcare services. Online and mobile enquiry services regarding the progress with applications for administrative permits have been made available. A service guide has also been issued, to help applicants look up information more easily.

Refining the Government Portal

Since its launch, the Government Portal has served as a comprehensive website that interacts with and provides government information and services to the public. To raise the quality of government information and services provided by the portal, the Government has restructured the

original portal by redesigning the website, improving categorisation of information, standardising the display of information on procedures for applying for government services, and enhancing the search function and presentation of customised layouts.

Facilitating E-governance

Based on the plan for digitalisation of public services, the Government continues to digitise public services that are frequently used and of high public concern. In 2017, more than 20 services, including recruitment and job-seeking applications, issue of certificates of criminal record, copies of certificates of the Notary Public Offices and Licences for Export and Import, were fully digitised.

The Government elevates its service efficiency by continuously improving the functions of self-service machines. For instance, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Identification Bureau have incorporated electronic payment functions into the Cityguide Information Kiosks and self-service machines. Self-service machines for applying for certificates of criminal record, renewal of Permanent Resident ID cards, MSAR Passports and travel permits, Visit Permits to the HKSAR and certificates of personal particulars accept payment by UnionPay QuickPass cards and Macau Pass.

With the concerted efforts of various government departments, about 50 mobile applications that cover a wide array of services have been launched for public download, providing more channels for provision of services to the public.

Optimising Infrastructure for E-Governance

The Government strives to optimise the infrastructure for e-governance to ensure coordinated development of information safety measures and upscaling of services under e-governance. Through the formulation of service regulations, service level agreements and service management standards under the established management mechanism for the Government Data Centre, management and quality of services have been improved. The Government has completed expanding the network infrastructure of the Government Data Centre, and is establishing management standards for cloud services infrastructure in accordance with the above-mentioned management mechanism; once this is completed, cloud services will be gradually provided to various departments.

The Government commenced the development of a cloud computing centre and big data platform under the Framework Agreement for Strategic Cooperation it signed with the Alibaba Group, in order to facilitate the commencement of projects on application of big data regarding tourism, traffic management, medicine and healthcare and e-governance, providing important infrastructure for the development of a smart city.

Leveraging Information Technology to Assist with Legislative Assembly Election

To support the sixth Legislative Assembly Election, the Government stepped up its efforts

in the promotion of the election with a wide use of various social media, such as setting up an official WeChat account for the Electoral Affairs Commission and producing online promotional videos. Besides, access to information on the election was made easier by allowing the public to view through their smartphones the real-time situations with the queues of voters at various polling stations.

Official Languages

In accordance with Article 9 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, in addition to the Chinese language, Portuguese may also be used as an official language by the executive authorities, the legislature and the judiciary of the MSAR.

Award of Decorations, Medals and Merit Certificates

To commend individuals and organisations for their outstanding performance – in terms of personal achievements, contributions to the community or service to the MSAR – Chief Executive Edmund Ho in November 2001 promulgated By-law No. 28/2001, which established rules for awarding decorations, medals and merit certificates to them. It stipulated four categories of decorations and merit certificates in the MSAR: the Decoration of Honour, Medal of Merit, Medal for Distinguished Services and Certificate of Merit.

As of 2017, the Chief Executive had signed administrative orders to award decorations of honour, medals and certificates to 17 batches of individuals and entities.

Flag and Emblem of the MSAR

The flag of the MSAR has identical patterns and colours on both sides, with the five stars, lotus flower, bridge and seawater design on the front and back. The rectangular flag has a green background and a 3:2 length-height ratio. A white, three-petal lotus flower is in the centre of the flag. Five golden stars, including a larger one in the middle, form an arch over the lotus flower. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes (See Appendix II of Law No. 6/1999).



The Flag of the MSAR

The circular MSAR emblem consists of a narrow green border, a ring of characters on a white background, a green inner circle and elements including stars, a lotus flower, a bridge and seawater. The outer ring of characters lies between the narrow green border and the green inner circle. In the upper half of the ring of characters, 14 Traditional Chinese characters meaning “The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” are set in a standard traditional font, evenly distributed along the width of the arch. The lower portion of each character points to the centre of the emblem. In the lower half of the ring of characters, the Portuguese word “Macao” is printed in a standard font. The letters are evenly spaced, with the upper portion of each letter pointing to the centre of the emblem. Both the Chinese and Portuguese characters are distributed symmetrically on opposite sides of a vertical axis through the emblem. A white lotus flower with three petals is in the centre of the green inner circle. Above the lotus flower, five golden stars, of which the middle one is largest, radiate from the centre of the emblem. The lower points of the stars are directed at the centre of the emblem. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes.



The Emblem of the MSAR

Structure of the Macao SAR Government*



Note:
* This diagram does not cover all entities under supervision and guardianship of the Government.



MAKING CONCERTED EFFORTS





On 23 August 2017, Macao experienced a direct hit from Super Typhoon Hato, the strongest typhoon on record to strike the MSAR, causing significant damage and posing serious challenges to Macao society.

With support from the Central People's Government and assistance from the People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison, various mainland China provinces and offices of the Central People's Government in Macao, the Government and different sectors in Macao made a concerted effort to overcome the difficult times. People from all walks of life spared no effort to assist in disaster relief and clean-up work in the spirit of mutual help, and as a result, society and daily life quickly returned to normal.

