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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 been infused into Macao's 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 Chief Executive of the first and second MSAR Governments was Edmund Ho Hau Wah. The Chief Executive of the third and fourth MSAR Governments was Chui Sai On. The Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government is Ho Iat Seng.

## 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 36 formal meetings during 2019.

The Chief Executive of the first and second MSAR Governments Edmund Ho appointed 10 members to the Executive Council in both his terms.

The Chief Executive of the third and fourth MSAR Governments, Chui Sai On, appointed 11 members to the Executive Council during his two terms in office.

The Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government, Ho Iat Seng, also appointed 11 members to the Executive Council: one Secretary, two members of the Legislative Assembly and eight 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.

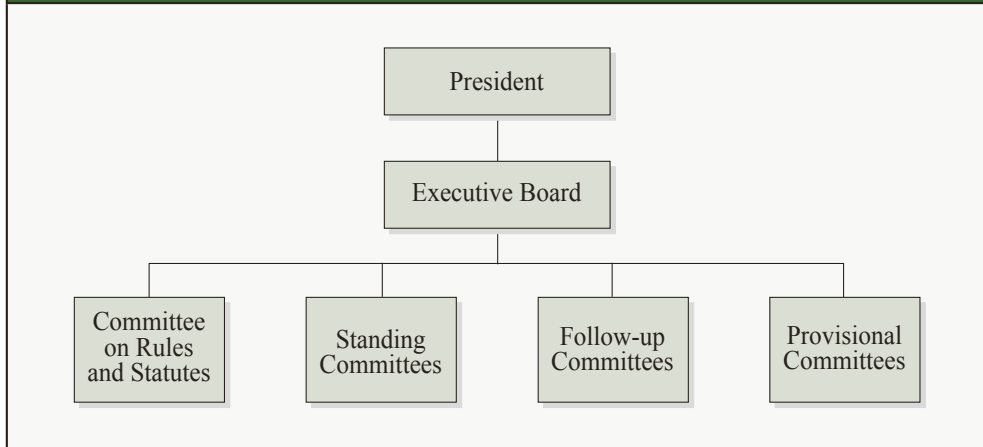
The Legislative Assembly has one president and one vice president, elected by and from among its members. The president and vice president shall be permanent Chinese residents who have lived continuously in Macao for at least 15 years.

## **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.

## Organisation Chart of the Legislative Assembly



### 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 Appeal 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 Appeal.

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 2019 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 notarisation system; and publication of the *Macao SAR Gazette*.

In 2019, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, on behalf of the Government, signed the following agreements:

- Agreement on Surrender of Fugitives between the MSAR of the People’s Republic of China and the Portuguese Republic;
- Cooperation Agreement on Food Safety and Inspection and Quarantine Arrangements for Animals and Plants between the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China and the Secretariat for Administration and Justice of the MSAR Government;
- Judicial Assistance Agreement between the MSAR and Mongolia;
- Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements between the MSAR of the People’s Republic of China and the Argentine Republic;
- Agreement on Surrender of Fugitives between the MSAR of the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea; and
- Agreement on Criminal Judicial Assistance between the MSAR of the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice also attended the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), during which China was examined through the third Universal Periodic Review.

### **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.

In 2019, the Secretary for Economy and Finance attended the EU-Macao Joint Committee meeting, and met with politicians and entrepreneurs in Brazil, Luxembourg and Portugal.

### **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 2019, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture attended:

- The 72nd Session of the World Health Assembly;
- The 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee;
- The 11th China-Japan-South Korea Cultural Ministers' Meeting and the Ninth China-Japan-South Korea Tourism Ministerial Meeting;
- The 23rd Plenary Session of the United Nations' World Tourism Organization;
- Global Tourism Economy Forum - Macao 2019; and
- The Sixth World Internet Conference.

## 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.

In 2019, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, on behalf of the Government, signed the Agreement between the MSAR Government of the People's Republic of China and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Regarding Administrative, Financial and Related Arrangements for the Typhoon Committee Secretariat.

## Commission Against Corruption

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 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 2019, the Commissioner Against Corruption attended the Tenth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and the Seventh ICAC Symposium.

## 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 2019, the Commissioner of Audit attended the Sixth Seminar of the Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, the 23rd Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, and the First EUROSAI-AFROSAI Joint Seminar.

## **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.

## **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 2019, the Director-General of the Macao Customs attended the 133rd/134th Sessions of the

World Customs Organization Council.

## **Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau**

The Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau is a public department of the MSAR Government, directly under the Chief Executive.

The bureau's duties include providing scientific background and information to support decisions made by the Chief Executive, the Government's administration and policy making, Macao's role in national cooperation and development strategies. It also coordinates work on major national strategies and national policies related to Macao and regional development, including exchanges, cooperation and development work with mainland China and other regions; coordinates implementation of major policies according to instructions from the Chief Executive, and facilitates policy implementation and other regional development work.

The Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau was formed by a merger between the Policy Research Office and a working team under the Chief Executive Office that was tasked with handling local issues related to mainland China.

## **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 for Planning Supervision of Public Assets in the Macao Special Administrative Region**

The Office for Planning Supervision of Public Assets in the Macao Special Administrative Region was established according to Executive Order No. 195/2019. It is responsible for reviewing the system for supervising public assets in the Macao Special Administrative Region, and for promoting the related legislative work and following up regarding measures for optimising the system.

## **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 2019, the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing launched various activities to promote Macao's political, economic, cultural and tourism achievements in the implementation of "One country, two systems" and facilitated related activities of Macao organisations in Beijing. For example:

- The 2019 Thankful Exchange Event, with invited leaders of mainland China's government institutions who had been stationed in Macao;

- Supported the Seminar on Macao Issues, in two sessions, for Macao students studying in Beijing and Tianjin;
- Assisted in organising activities such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Tertiary Institution Science and Education Cooperation Forum, Macao Tertiary Institution Admissions Seminar and Macao Basic Law Seminar;
- Attended the 2019 Third Cross-Strait, Hong Kong and Macao Youth Forum, and gave a briefing on the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- Attended the Ninth Tianjin-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Conference, with the opening ceremony featuring an exhibition and story-sharing session on the achievements of women and children in Macao; and
- Participated in the 2019 Hong Kong and Macao University Student Cultural Practice Activity and the Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Short Video Internet Promotion Activity for Young People.

The office coordinated, and liaised and assisted in a series of events to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. The Macao Government Tourism Office and the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing was responsible for preparing a float with the theme Blooming Lotus, for the National Day float parade. This float was honoured with the Splendid Award. Also, the office cooperated with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR in ensuring that Macao representatives served on the float with the theme "One country, two systems" during the parade.

The office attached great importance to student and youth affairs; enhanced its communications with Macao students studying in tertiary institutions in mainland China; organised various activities in Beijing to deepen students' understanding of mainland China; and participated in and provided assistance for activities organised by Macao student organisations in Beijing. For example, the office organised the Performance to Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Republic of China, and a seminar for the Beijing (College) Macau Students Association; visited various tertiary institutions; organised parties for Macao students in Beijing; and assisted the Beijing (College) Macau Students Association in organising a Cantopop singing competition for Beijing students.

The number of followers of the office's Weibo account (<http://weibo.com/draemp>) has increased to more than 870,000 since 2011, while the number of followers of its WeChat account (macaubeijing) has risen to more than 14,000 since the second half of 2013. From November 2014 to 2019, the office's official website (<http://www.draemp.gov.mo>) has attracted more than 30,000 visitors. In 2019, the website information was optimised and revamped. The office introduced Macao's overall developments by disseminating information about Macao's culture, tourism and news through the Internet.

The office provides Macao residents with appropriate services and assistance in working, studying, and travelling in mainland China, especially in case of emergencies; issues Proof of Life certificates for Macao residents living in mainland China; and assists Macao residents who have lost their identification documents to complete the formalities for returning to Macao.

## **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.

## **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 2019, the office received the MSAR delegation led by the Secretary for Economy and Finance for the 23rd meeting of the EU-Macao Joint Committee in Brussels and the delegation led by the head of the Macao Customs for the Annual General Meeting of the World Customs Organization in Brussels, and provided assistance to various MSAR public department delegations visiting Brussels. The office also followed up and provided assistance to the EU-Macao Cooperation Programme.

The office received students who joined a course on simultaneous interpreting under the 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, in Brussels; a delegation of outstanding Macao high school students from the Tertiary Education Bureau; and a student delegation from the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau.

Also, several of China's ambassadors invited the office to the European Union, to jointly organise a reception and photo exhibition to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR.

## **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 2019, the office received a delegation led by the Secretary for Administration and Justice for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC); a delegation led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture for the 72nd Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization; and a delegation led by the Labour Affairs Bureau for the 108th 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**

On 1 January 2019, the Municipal Affairs Bureau was established according to Law No. 9/2018, as a municipal organisation which is not an organ of political power. It includes the Municipal Administration Committee and the Municipal Affairs Consultative Committee.

As a management body of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Municipal Administration Committee is responsible for leading the daily operations of the Municipal Affairs Bureau and performing other duties as assigned by law, including providing services related to culture, recreation, environmental hygiene, food safety and greening in accordance with the law, with a view to improving residents' quality of life.

As a consultative body of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Municipal Affairs Consultative Committee comprises representatives of different sectors of the community, who listen to residents' opinions on municipal affairs, provide opinions and make recommendations to the Municipal Administration Committee, or to the Government through the Municipal Administration Committee, so that the Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Government can serve the public more effectively.

The Municipal Administration Committee holds closed-door meetings. Public sessions are held every month, to listen directly to residents' queries and suggestions. The management of the Municipal Affairs Bureau also hosts community seminars in various community centres and districts, with local organisations and district residents invited to attend. Twelve community seminars were organised in 2019, and were attended by 148 associations and organisations and 554 residents.

The real-time feedback platform, IAM Connect, was launched on 1 January 2019. Residents can provide opinions on a total of 19 municipal services in four categories: environmental hygiene, gardens/green areas and leisure areas, equipment and facilities, and food safety. In 2019, a total of 10,900 cases were received through IAM Connect, and the two major categories of environmental hygiene and equipment and facilities accounted for 54 percent and 18 percent of the total cases, respectively.

## **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 2019, the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Macao Foundation reviewed 1,246 sponsorship applications, and approved 963 of them. Four donations were also approved. The Executive Committee approved 69 plans for activities during the year, each with funding that exceeded 500,000 patacas. In total, the approved subsidies exceeded 1.847 billion patacas, 39.47 percent of which was given to support cultivation of talented young individuals, and 38.29 percent was given to support people's livelihoods.

The Macao Foundation continued cooperating with Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association,

Caritas Macau, Macau Deaf Association, and the Macao General Neighbourhood Associations Union in launching the second phase of the Brain Health Action Campaign, Climbing Ladder Service, “Listen, Talk, & Care” Scheme, a care programme for elderly people living alone, a subsidy scheme for youth cooperation and development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and a youth programme on voluntary poverty alleviation services.

The foundation continued following-up on poverty alleviation measures in Congjiang county, Guizhou; and 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 36,377 people.

## Youth Programmes and Scholarships

In 2019, the Macao Foundation commenced the second phase of the Thousand Talents Programme. A total of 1,003 people were grouped into 34 teams to visit various provinces and cities in mainland China. The programme provided in-depth, multi-faceted field trips. Eleven school connection return visits were completed under the Thousand Talents Programme. Meanwhile, the Thousand Talents Union platform nurtured young talents in Macao, implemented various in-depth training programmes and diverse activities, and recommended members to sit in on meetings of the Government consultative bodies.

In 2019, the Macao Foundation continued granting scholarships to Macao students. A total of 404 students were awarded tertiary scholarships, while scholarships approved for secondary and primary schools were awarded to a total of 11,242 students, totalling 60.22 million patacas. The foundation continued approving scholarships for needy students from Congjiang, other mainland China students enrolled in Macao’s tertiary education programmes, students from countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”, Portuguese-speaking countries, Namibia and Asia, and students recommended by the Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Beijing. The foundation also cooperated with organisations such as the Manpower Development Committee, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), China Space Foundation, Institute of Social Sciences / Oriental Institute of the University of Lisbon and the University of Coimbra 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. A total of 452 students were awarded scholarships, with a total approved amount of over 21.35 million patacas.

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, Teledifusao de Macau, China Space Foundation, Macao Daily News, and relevant agencies in mainland China in organising various activities.

## History and Cultural Affairs

During the year, the Committee of History and Culture of the Macao Foundation continued with

the two phases of the History and Culture Ambassadors Training Programme, with participation by 205 history and culture ambassadors. The committee launched the first batch of patriotic picture book series, and organised knowledge contests, carnivals, field trips and subsidy schemes to train history and culture educators and to enhance students' interest in history and culture. The programme enjoyed wide acclaim. In all, 16 field trips were held, and 22 schools were subsidised to implement 47 projects, with a total funding of 1.9 million patacas.

### Promotion of Culture and Art

In 2019, the Macao Foundation solely organised, or organised together with other organisations, about 127 exhibitions, performances, talks and art appreciation activities. In all, eight local artists participated in the exhibitions through the Macao Artists Promotion Programme, while 16 local art groups participated in the Macao Foundation Citizens' Concert.

The Macao Foundation organised the Succession and Innovation: Macao Visual Arts Talent of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles' 2019 Exchange Tour to Japan; the award presentation ceremony of the 24th Book Review Contest for Secondary School Students in Macao; the 12th Macao Literary Awards; and recruitment for the Programme to Promote Young Macao Artists.

### Academic Research and Publishing

In 2019, the Macao Foundation officially launched the cultural and historical website, *Macao Memories*, and organised a cultural and historical website exhibition, online activities and thematic lectures to showcase and promote Macao's culture. The Macao Foundation also organised seven academic seminars and activities, including the Sixth International Symposium on Macaology and the Fifth Outstanding Achievement Awards for Macao Research in Humanities and Social Sciences, and a seminar on the "Belt and Road" initiative and Macao's Development.

The Macao Foundation continued compiling *The Macao Volume of the Chinese Folk and Ethnic Culture and Arts Collection*, and edited and published 25 types of books and journals, with major works including *Chinese Quyi Chronicle – Macao Chapter*, the *Macao Studies Series*, the *Macao Law Series*, the *Macao Knowledge Series*, and the *Macao Literature Series*.

The foundation also participated in book fairs held in Hong Kong and Xi'an.

### Cooperation with Other Organisations

In 2019, 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.

### 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, and to monitor how the act is put into practice.

In 2019, the office received 155 complaints regarding, or reports of, leaks or mishandling of personal data; 44 requests for advice; 1,375 notifications concerning personal data processing; 72 applications for authorisation of data sharing; and 2,940 legal inquiries. It held or co-organised 37 briefing sessions, 35 seminars and talks, and 43 training sessions (37 classes) on the Personal Data Protection Act. In all, there were 7,664 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 2019, Macao had 31,757 civil servants, of whom 31,492 were recruited locally and 265 from elsewhere. Of this total, 56 percent were male and 44 percent female. There were 22,318 civil servants with tertiary education qualifications, representing 70 percent of the total; 804 of the bureau directors, department heads, division and section chiefs – 96 percent of the total – held tertiary education qualifications.

## Civil Servant Training

The Civil Servant Training Centre, under the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, is

responsible for studying, developing and coordinating the civil servant training system, promoting the culture of continuous learning among civil servants, and organising and arranging training activities within the scope of central management for civil servants promotion. The centre also organises various training activities to enhance the overall capability of civil servants at all levels, and special training courses according to departments' specific needs.

The Government attaches great importance to the training and development of civil servants. In accordance with the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants, the Government has included training as an important requirement for promotion of civil servants. Civil servants enjoy corresponding rights and undertake obligations to participate in training. There are two types of training courses for promotion: elective and compulsory courses.

### **Improving Public Services**

A third-party academic institution has been commissioned to evaluate public service quality, by collecting public opinion regarding the overall performance of public services and assessing departments' service quality.

In 2019, the Evaluation System for Public Services and Organisational Performance was announced through Executive Order No. 45/2012, to facilitate government performance, and continuously improve and enhance public services.

### **Facilitating Inter-departmental Cooperation by Optimising the Public Service Network and Implementing “One-window” Services**

The Islands District Integrated Government Services Centre commenced operations in March 2019, enabling Islands District residents to complete formalities for different departments at the same service point. It embodies an extension of the Government's one-stop services, by implementing the Government policy of actively promoting the digitalisation of public services and constructing a smart city. At the initial stage, the centre provided public services in various areas entrusted to the Municipal Affairs Bureau by 20 public departments, through the inter-departmental collaboration mechanism. Staff from the Legal Affairs Bureau, the Identification Services Bureau, the Finance Services Bureau, the Public Security Police and the Social Security Fund stationed at the centre provide services such as notarisation and registration, identification documents, taxation, immigration and social welfare.

Currently, 26 public departments provide some 300 services at the centre. From its opening to the end of 2019, the centre handled more than 207,000 cases.

In December 2019, President Xi Jinping visited the Integrated Government Services Centre and expressed full recognition of the services for public convenience. In 2019, the Integrated Government Services Centre handled more than 767,000 cases, representing an increase of five percent compared with 2018. Over one million people were received during the year.

## E-Governance

### **Evaluating the Effectiveness of e-Governance and Formulating an Overall Plan for Smart Governance**

With the implementation of the Macao SAR Electronic Governance General Plan 2015-2019, the Government has enhanced internal administrative management and inter-departmental workflows by completing the development of the electronic platform, optimising network infrastructure and promulgating supporting laws, to further promote e-public service and greatly enhance administrative efficiency.

To construct a smart city, the Government evaluated the overall effectiveness of e-governance, reviewed the effectiveness of various tasks in the Electronic Governance General Plan and, on this basis, initiated formulation of the Electronic Governance General Plan 2020-2024, in order to draw a blueprint for the future development of e-governance.

### **Announcing the Cyber Security Law to Build an Online Safety System**

Law No. 13/2019 on the Cyber Security Law was announced in June 2019, aiming to build and regulate Macao's online safety system, covering aspects including people managing cyber security management, the organisational framework of the online safety system, cyber security obligations, and the administrative penalty system.

The law marks a new stage of development in governing cyber space in Macao, strengthening the cyber security protection capabilities of key infrastructure operators in Macao, and improving cyber security management, to effectively prevent various cyber security risks, and safeguard Macao and even the country.

### **Deepening e-Governance Development and Optimising Service Workflows to Promote Individualised, One-window Services**

In accordance with the smart governance development strategy of “One Account, One Website”, the Government integrates corresponding legal work and adopts strategies such as strengthening cross-departmental collaboration, streamlining service workflows and data sharing, to strive to gradually realise the “one website for all services” and “one-window” service models, so that residents can enjoy personalised services in a unified and safe manner.

The Task Force for the Management of Public and Data Services under the Public Administration Reform Coordination Committee follows the strategies and overall plan determined by the committee, and adheres to the principle of “clarity, simplification and convenience” in working to categorise public services according to different stages of life – such as birth, school admission, marriage, social security, assistance and pension; conduct a detailed, scientific analysis on the service workflows; and utilise electronic means of providing legal system support, so that residents can complete the formalities of several departments at the integrated service counter. By the end of 2019, the analyses and standardisation of business processes for about 90 services had been completed.

As the by-law on e-services was promulgated in early 2019, the Government has launched the

One-stop Public Services Account and its mobile phone app. Popular services include “Unified Recruitment” and “My Health”, while “Prior Booking / Take Ticket” is the most utilised service. The first phase provides a reservation and waiting platform for more than 300 services of more than ten public departments in various service locations. Residents can make reservations and get remote waiting tickets on the platform, to save on-site waiting time.

### **Promoting Application of Big Data and Smart Government and Establishing a Cloud Computing Centre**

Based on the pilot cloud computing centre established in 2018, the SAR Government completed the basic facilities of the official production cloud computer centre in 2019, to promote the application of big data, so that public departments can use the data resource platform and big data platform to further optimise and conduct big data mining, integration, in-depth analysis and application at different levels.

For example, regarding smart tourism, a tourism information interchange platform, an application for visitor insights, and a smart application for visitor flows were launched; regarding smart transportation, applications such as Traffic Situation Analysis and Forecast, Bus Service Demand Analysis, Smart Traffic Light Timing Optimisation and Traffic Incident Monitor were introduced, so that residents and travellers can check traffic information effectively and conveniently, and plan travel arrangements – thus minimising the impact of crowds on residents and urban areas, and improving service quality as the Government constructs a world tourism and leisure centre.

### **Using Information Technology to Enhance Election Efficiency**

The Fifth Chief Executive Election was successfully completed at the end of August 2019. To optimise electoral work and improve efficiency, based on the experience of the previous election, the Government continued to use the electronic vote counting system and optimise the electoral process and related application systems, to ensure smooth operation and improve overall work efficiency.

For the first time, the facial recognition system was applied when the members of the Chief Executive Election Committee entered the venue, which greatly accelerated the member registration process and served as an important example of promoting the application of facial recognition in smart governance in the future.

### **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 2019, the Chief Executive had signed administrative orders to award decorations of honour, medals and certificates to 19 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

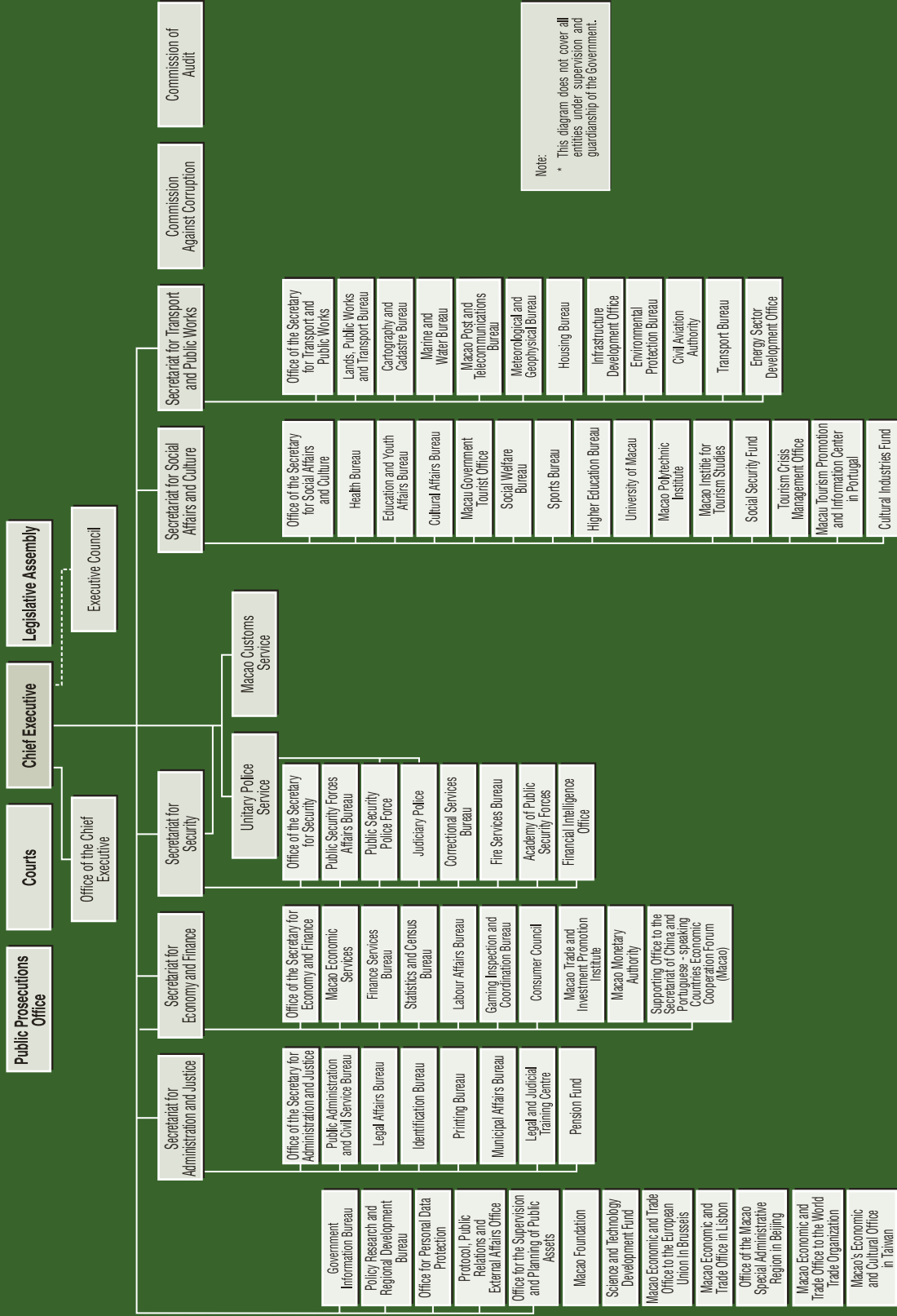
The circular MSAR emblem consists of a narrow green border, a ring of characters on a white background, a green inner circle and elements including stars, a lotus flower, a bridge and seawater. The outer ring of characters lies between the narrow green border and the green inner circle. In the upper 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 “Macau” 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.



**President Xi Jinping Visits Macao**



From 18 December to 20 December, President Xi Jinping attended the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the fifth MSAR Government, and visited various districts of the Macao SAR.

During his visit, President Xi met principal officials of the executive, legislative and judiciary authorities of the Macao SAR, representatives from various sectors, organisations of the Central People's Government in Macao and persons-in-charge of major mainland Chinese-funded organisations, to recognise their contributions to Macao's social economic development and the implementation of "One country, two systems".

President Xi and Madam Peng Liyuan visited Area Preta Integrated Government Services Centre, Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School, the China-PSCs Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex and the Institute for Tourism Studies, to communicate with people from different sectors on matters of mutual concern.

