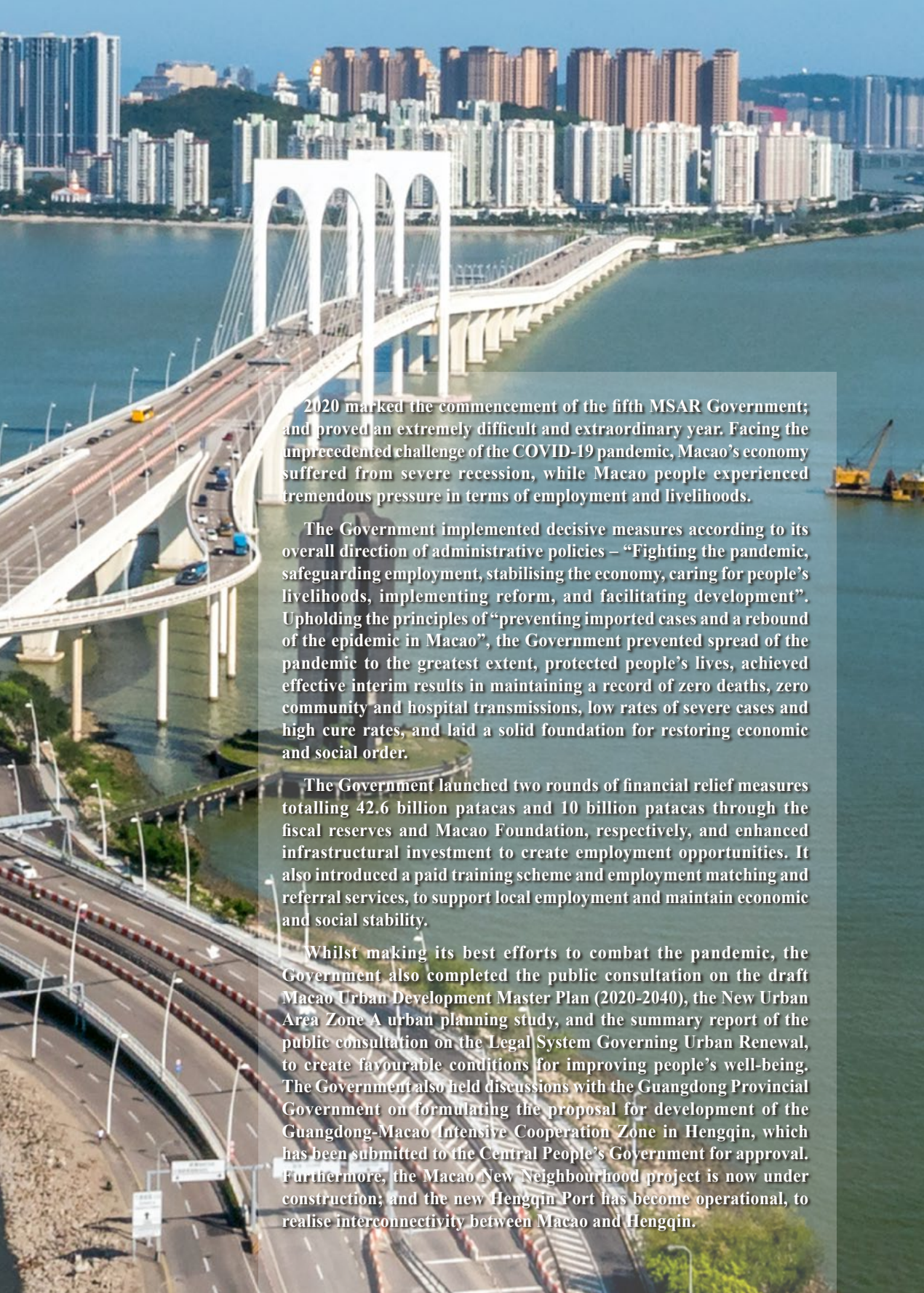


# **OVERVIEW OF THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN 2020**



2020 marked the commencement of the fifth MSAR Government; and proved an extremely difficult and extraordinary year. Facing the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, Macao's economy suffered from severe recession, while Macao people experienced tremendous pressure in terms of employment and livelihoods.

The Government implemented decisive measures according to its overall direction of administrative policies – “Fighting the pandemic, safeguarding employment, stabilising the economy, caring for people’s livelihoods, implementing reform, and facilitating development”. Upholding the principles of “preventing imported cases and a rebound of the epidemic in Macao”, the Government prevented spread of the pandemic to the greatest extent, protected people’s lives, achieved effective interim results in maintaining a record of zero deaths, zero community and hospital transmissions, low rates of severe cases and high cure rates, and laid a solid foundation for restoring economic and social order.

The Government launched two rounds of financial relief measures totalling 42.6 billion patacas and 10 billion patacas through the fiscal reserves and Macao Foundation, respectively, and enhanced infrastructural investment to create employment opportunities. It also introduced a paid training scheme and employment matching and referral services, to support local employment and maintain economic and social stability.

Whilst making its best efforts to combat the pandemic, the Government also completed the public consultation on the draft Macao Urban Development Master Plan (2020-2040), the New Urban Area Zone A urban planning study, and the summary report of the public consultation on the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal, to create favourable conditions for improving people’s well-being. The Government also held discussions with the Guangdong Provincial Government on formulating the proposal for development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, which has been submitted to the Central People’s Government for approval. Furthermore, the Macao New Neighbourhood project is now under construction; and the new Hengqin Port has become operational, to realise interconnectivity between Macao and Hengqin.



## Achievements in combating the pandemic with decisive preventive and control measures



In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a major challenge to the Macao SAR, which had just celebrated the 21st anniversary of its establishment. Facing the major challenge of the pandemic, the Government has taken timely and decisive measures with the care, guidance and strong support of the Central People's Government, to combat the pandemic hand in hand with all sectors in Macao.

In the early stages of the pandemic, the Government implemented many measures to protect the lives of Macao residents. Upon the normalisation of anti-pandemic measures, we strived to consolidate our achievements in pandemic prevention by upholding the principle of preventing imported cases and averting the re-emergence of domestic cases, while making our best efforts in planning and reviewing pandemic control measures and procedures.

As of 31 December 2020, there had been 46 confirmed cases. All patients were successfully treated by the Health Bureau, and had recovered and been discharged from hospital. We have achieved interim results in maintaining zero deaths, zero community and hospital transmissions, low rates of severe cases and high cure rates.

In early January, in response to the outbreak of pneumonia of unknown causes in Wuhan, the Government maintained close contact with the National Health Commission. Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng made daily phone calls to Zhong Nanshan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Director of the National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Diseases, and the head of the high-level expert group of the National Health Commission, to learn about the latest situation.

On 22 January, the first confirmed imported case of COVID-19 was recorded in Macao. Based on the already introduced series of preventive measures, the Government began deploying anti-pandemic measures. Under the leadership of Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, the “Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre” was promptly established. With the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Ao Ieong U, serving as vice-chairman of the centre, the Government coordinated collaboration between relevant departments to reduce the threat of infection through health screening of all inbound visitors, timely tracking and quarantine of high-risk individuals and close contacts, and proper treatment of confirmed patients.

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre held daily press conferences from 22 January to 23 May, to report on the latest situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the latest guidelines. After that press conferences were held as needed to provide updates on related developments.

The Government Information Bureau actively supported the implementation of anti-pandemic policies and measures through disseminating information and anti-pandemic publicity. From 21 January to 31 December, the bureau live-broadcast 186 press conferences at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre, and disseminated 1,948 news updates, which livestreamed the aforementioned press briefings in text format, as well as produced and disseminated infographics. At different stages of anti-pandemic work, the bureau leveraged the power of new media to produce a series of anti-pandemic promotional videos and infographics for publicity aimed at influencing public opinion. A total of 661 infographics, 39 promotional videos on anti-pandemic policies, and 32 sets of photos related to anti-pandemic measures were produced and published.

To enable the public to access the latest news conveniently and instantly about COVID-19, the Government Information Bureau established a special webpage for disseminating news from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre. As of 31 December 2020, this webpage was followed by 52,389 users, and received 46,759 likes. Of the 4,807 posts published during 2020 on the webpage, 4,448 were infographics and caption stories, and 359 were video clips (including 186 live broadcasts). As of 31 December 2020, the “COVID-19 news channel” Telegram Group received 8,490 subscriptions, while the “COVID-19 information clarification channel” Telegram Group received 645 subscriptions.

With the subsequent emergence of other imported cases, the Government fine-tuned its anti-pandemic measures.

The second imported case in Macao was confirmed on 23 January (the 29th day of December in the lunar calendar). As the Chinese New Year holiday was approaching, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng immediately held a press conference to announce the Government’s decision to intensify its disease prevention measures and cancel all large-scale public events during the Chinese New Year period. At the same time, the Government also called on all community groups to cancel or postpone their cultural activities and spring banquets during the Chinese New Year period, in order to minimise the risk of infection among residents.

The Chief Executive also announced a guaranteed face mask supply scheme for Macao people, to ensure all residents would have priority in purchasing face masks. The Government ordered 20 million face masks, and the first batch of three million face masks arrived in Macao on the same

day. Approximately 173 million face masks had been sold by 31 December 2020.

Apart from ensuring supplies of face masks and sanitising products, the Government also maintained close contact with industries, to ensure adequate supplies of food and daily necessities, and strictly monitored the market situation, to prevent sudden price hikes.

On 30 January, the Government announced a postponement to commencement of classes in schools and other educational institutions across Macao after the Chinese New Year holiday. Online classes were encouraged, to avoid the risk of infection in schools, so that learning would not halt while classes were suspended.

All training courses, seminars and other activities – including civil servant trainings – were suspended or conducted online during the severe period of the pandemic. Training, cultural and recreational activities, and interest classes, organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Sports Bureau, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Municipal Affairs Bureau were temporarily suspended. The sports, recreation, cultural and entertainment, and exhibition venues administered by the Government were closed. As the pandemic began alleviating, these venues gradually reopened on a limited basis, strictly following guidelines for controlling the number of users, to avoid crowds forming.

### **Macao-Zhuhai joint prevention and control to strengthen anti-pandemic measures at border checkpoints**

The Gongbei checkpoint between Macao and Zhuhai is China's busiest port in terms of traveller movement, with over 170 million people entering and exiting through there in 2019. In order to strictly avoid the risk of community infection, officials from both sides set up a Macao-Zhuhai COVID-19 prevention and control working group, co-headed by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak from Macao and Zhao Jianguo, Deputy Secretary of the Zhuhai Municipal Committee, from Zhuhai. The working group implemented a notification system to share the latest information on the pandemic, and provide testing, quarantine, and treatment services to residents on both sides, with the aim of jointly preventing and combating the pandemic.



In the early stage of the pandemic, the Public Security Police and the Health Bureau worked together to implement temperature screening at all border checkpoints, set up health declaration areas and special lanes for visitors from Hubei province, implemented crowd control measures at busy ports, and opened additional lanes to divert passenger flows as required, to reduce the risk of infection due to crowding. Also, electronic technology was introduced to strengthen pandemic prevention and control at the borders. The Government launched electronic health declarations and a health declaration system for the convenience of residents, and for facilitating tracking and detection of patients.

Targeting visitors from high-risk areas, the Macao Government Tourist Office collected information through the tourism industry, while the Public Security Police contacted visitors to closely follow up regarding their health conditions, and provided necessary guidance and assistance.

In response to confirmed COVID-19 infections of two Macao residents, the *Macao SAR Gazette* published Executive Order No. 27/2020 on 4 February: In order to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, casinos and other entertainment facilities in Macao should be closed from 00:00 hours on 5 February. At a press conference, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced that operations of the gaming industry and related entertainment businesses would be suspended for half a month. He said that this was a difficult decision, but public health was the only consideration, and Macao could still afford the related economic losses.

The Government gradually stepped up its efforts to prevent the pandemic, by formulating and adjusting anti-pandemic measures such as requiring inbound visitors and residents from areas with a high incidence of COVID-19 cases to undergo medical examinations, and requiring non-local workers from mainland China to undergo 14-day quarantine and medical observation at a designated site in Zhuhai, to reduce the potential risk of infection and ensure that, if required, they receive timely medical treatment.

In the community, various government departments promoted pandemic prevention and conveyed health messages to the public through existing channels and networks, to raise public awareness of pandemic prevention. In order to prevent community infection, the Health Bureau and the Public Security Police closely tracked the movement of confirmed patients, looked for close contacts of confirmed patients, and investigated who might have been in contact with them. It took nearly two months for confirmed patients to undergo inpatient hospitalisation and rehabilitation quarantine before returning to the community, in order to effectively protect the health of patients and other residents.

The Fire Services Bureau was responsible for transporting patients suspected of being infected with COVID-19, and implemented a series of measures including deployment of designated service vehicles and personnel. Paramedics were strictly required to wear protective gear, and both personnel and vehicles were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected upon completion of the transportation tasks. Paramedics who transported patients who were confirmed to have COVID-19 were required to conduct personal health observation, to prevent the virus spreading. As of 31 December 2020, the Fire Services Bureau had provided transportation services for 2,406 suspected cases involving 3,157 people.

In the face of the first wave of the pandemic, the series of measures taken in Macao achieved



interim satisfactory results. After the tenth case, confirmed on 4 February, no new cases were confirmed in the next 39 consecutive days.

### **Achieved interim success in pandemic prevention and assisted residents who were stranded abroad to return to Macao**



In March, the pandemic was basically under control in mainland China, and no new cases had been found in Macao for a relatively long time. On 7 March, the Government sent a chartered plane to Wuhan to pick up 57 Macao residents who were stranded in Hubei. They belonged to 31 families; the youngest of them was three months old and the oldest was 77 years old. After returning to Macao, they underwent 14 days of quarantine and medical surveillance at the public health clinical centre on Estrada do Alto de Coloane. After receiving three rounds of nucleic acid tests, all of them tested negative for COVID-19.

On 11 March, the World Health Organization characterised the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, indicating that this infectious disease had broken out in several countries and regions. On 13 March, the Higher Education Bureau stated that in view of the global spread of COVID-19, especially in Europe and other places, and considering that there were more than 3,000 Macao tertiary students studying in various places overseas, the Government urged Macao tertiary students studying abroad to return to Macao as soon as possible. At the same time, the Health Bureau developed guidelines for students to stay in foreign countries, and guidelines for taking flights. The Higher Education Bureau emailed these to all Macao tertiary students studying abroad and related student associations.

On 15 March, a flight attendant working in Macao was confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 after returning from Portugal, breaking the 39-day streak of no new confirmed cases in Macao. At the same time, considering that Hong Kong required people who had been to the Schengen Area in Europe (comprising 26 countries), including Macao residents, to undergo 14-day medical quarantine measures, the Government sent vehicles to pick up Macao residents and students from the Hong Kong International Airport, and bring them back to Macao. The pick-up services lasted from 17 to 22 March. After arriving in Macao, the returnees had to undergo medical observation.

On 18 March, the National Health Commission announced that there were no new confirmed COVID-19 cases in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located. This was the first announcement of “zero confirmed cases” in Wuhan since the outbreak, but at the same time, the numbers of confirmed cases in Asia, Europe and America gradually increased. In response to the worldwide pandemic, the Government announced on 18 March that all non-local residents were prohibited from entering Macao, except for residents of mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and employees with Macao non-resident ID cards, in order to continue blocking the sources of infection and avoid the risk of imported virus. On 25 March, the entry ban was extended to all residents of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan who had visited a foreign country within 14 days prior to entry. Other persons coming from Taiwan and Hong Kong, including Macao residents, were subject to 14-day medical observation.

According to the new immigration measures, the scope of eligibility to register for the Government’s service to pick up Macao students and outbound travellers from Hong Kong International Airport was expanded to encompass all countries, rather than just Europe and the United States. The pick-up period was extended, to last until 31 March rather than 22 March. From 17–31 March, more than 2,100 Macao residents returned to Macao via these measures. Between 17 June and 16 July, the Government deployed special ferry services to bring more than 1,700 people from Hong Kong International Airport back to Macao, and more than 1,100 people travelled through Macao’s Pac On Ferry Terminal to Hong Kong International Airport for taking flights.

In order to prevent cases being imported from overseas, Zhuhai implemented further preventive measures by conducting nucleic acid tests of all persons entering through the borders, and keeping them under quarantine and medical observation for 14 days. Through coordination arranged by the collaborative working group, Macao residents holding Zhuhai residence permits, drivers of vehicles with both Macao and mainland China licence plates, and drivers of vehicles that only have Macao licence plates making them eligible to enter and leave Hengqin are exempted from quarantine if their nucleic acid test upon entering Zhuhai is negative.

In early May, the Health Bureau launched the Macao Health Code, to achieve “closed-loop management” from entry at the border to the community. Subsequently, the Macao Health Code and the Yuekang Code were mutually recognised. At the same time, a routine nucleic acid testing programme was launched, and the testing capacity was gradually increased through cooperation with third-party organisations, and aligned with the immigration and quarantine policies of mainland China and neighbouring regions, to ensure safe entry and exit through the borders, and to prepare for customs clearance. As of 31 December 2020, there were about 130 million applications for the Macao Health Code, and about 2.16 million nucleic acid tests had been performed.



## The pandemic in mainland China gradually eases, allowing timely adjustments of border-crossing measures



In May, as the pandemic in mainland China began to ease, traffic and border crossing measures between Macao, mainland China, and Hong Kong gradually resumed, at a limited scale. On 15 July, people entering Guangdong province through the Guangdong-Macao border were no longer required to undergo quarantine for 14 days. After receiving a negative nucleic acid test and applying for the “Health Code” and “Yuekang Code”, people entering Guangdong via Macao could also travel within nine cities: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Zhaoqing. Starting from 12 August, Macao residents were exempted from medical observation and quarantine for entering mainland China provinces beyond Guangdong province.

On the day of this new measure was introduced, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng led a delegation of the MSAR Government to Beijing, to meet and exchange views with more than 10 national ministries on promotion of Macao’s economic development, especially the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the pandemic prevention measures.

For mainland China residents coming to Macao, the immigration control departments of Zhuhai, Guangdong and the national public security authorities resumed accepting travel permit applications for visiting Macao on 12 August, 26 August, and 23 September, respectively.

On 17 July, the patient of the 46th case in Macao had recovered and was discharged from hospital, officially marking “zero infections” of COVID-19 in Macao. Primary and secondary schools resumed normal classes in May and June. This also marked the gradual return to normal of Macao’s social and commercial activities and people’s daily lives.

## Public departments upholding anti-pandemic measures and adjusting services to resume normal life



During the COVID-19 pandemic, depending on the nature of their work, various government departments have adopted special countermeasures to protect the health of residents and employees.

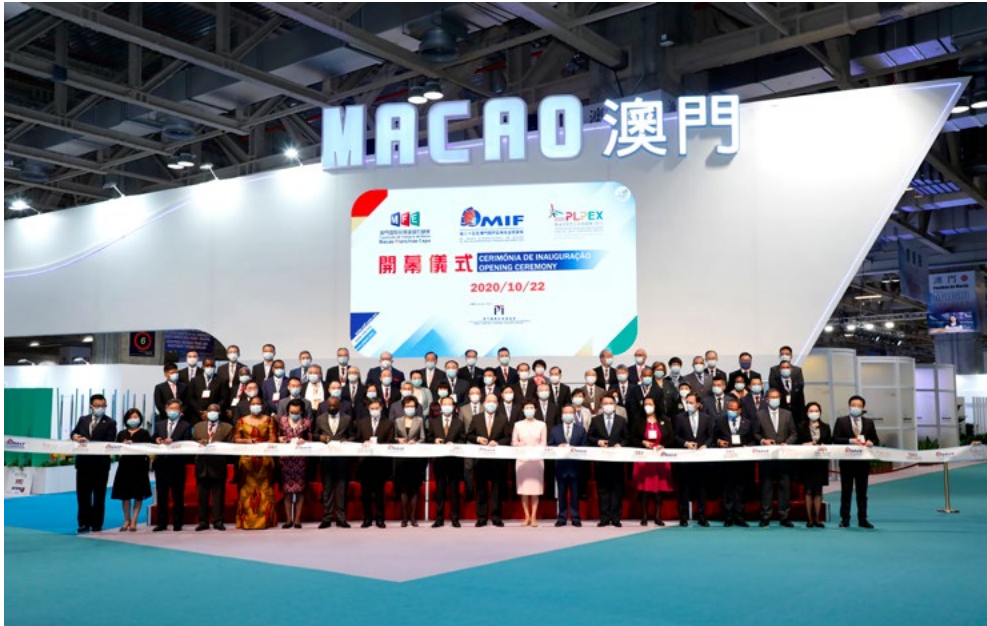
In response to the preventive and control measures implemented by the Government during the anti-pandemic period, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau issued 21 guidelines to public departments on pandemic prevention measures. The contents included exemption from work arrangements, maintaining emergency or essential services, and important notes on resumption of normal business. To align with the work of the Health Bureau, recommendations and guidelines issued by the bureau on prevention of COVID-19 were distributed to all public departments.

After gradually resuming public services, all departments have been strictly following guidelines and strictly enforce the cleaning and disinfection of workspaces, especially in residents' reception areas, and required staff to take their body temperatures and make health declarations at work.

In terms of services, the Government has been effectively implementing crowd control and encouraged residents to use self-services, along with online registration and appointments, to greatly reduce waiting times and numbers of people gathering. Also, all employees and residents are required to wear face masks when entering the premises of Government agencies and departments.

In terms of public transportation, the Transport Bureau required the bus, taxi, LRT and related management companies to maintain close communications, enhance the cleaning and disinfection of public transport and stations, pay attention to the health condition of employees, and enhance the protection of bus drivers. Also, wearing face masks is mandatory on public transportation, and passengers are urged to pay attention to personal hygiene.

## Two rounds of financial relief swiftly launched to ensure people's well-being and economic stability



Struck by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Macao experienced a serious economic recession. Gaming and tourism revenues suffered the most, with an earthward plummet. Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) for the year amounted to 194.4 billion patacas, shrinking by 56.3 percent in real terms. Enterprises of various sizes faced hardships and challenges, while Macao people suffered a great deal of pressure regarding employment and livelihoods.

Within a short period of time, the Government twice revised the budget for the financial year, to allocate 42.6 billion patacas from the fiscal reserve and 10 billion patacas from Macao Foundation in order to launch two rounds of anti-pandemic and financial relief measures, for safeguarding employment, stabilising economy and caring for people's livelihoods.

On 31 January, the Government announced a three-month rent waiver for commercial premises, such as shopping centres, service kiosks, restaurants and shops and stores in public housing estates leased by government departments. The Wealth Partaking Scheme was also implemented ahead of schedule, from April 2020. These measures involved 7.1 billion patacas.

On 13 February, the Government announced temporary financial relief measures in five areas, including cuts to and waivers of taxes and fees; allowance and interest subsidies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; an additional distribution of 600-pataca health care vouchers; a three-month water and electricity fee subsidy for residential households; and a 3,000-pataca electronic consumption card for each resident – amounting to a total budget of 27 billion patacas when taking into account the Wealth Partaking Scheme and other supportive measures.

The Government also introduced several special tax incentives:

- A six-month waiver of tourism tax on consumption at places related to tourism services;
- Up to 300,000 patacas of profit tax payable deduction for 2019, provided to businesses paying profit tax;
- An increase of personal income tax rebate for 2018 to 70 percent, with a ceiling of 20,000 patacas, and an upward adjustment of the fixed reduction rate of personal income tax to 30 percent;
- A waiver of real estate stamp duty payable in 2019 for residential properties and an additional 25 percent deduction of real estate stamp duty for hotels and similar activities, office premises, commercial and industrial properties;
- A stamp duty waiver on the issuance and renewal of licences and administrative permits;
- A waiver of vehicle licence tax for commercial vehicles in 2020; and
- All the cash and goods donated for combating the pandemic to be deemed as expenses or losses, and deductible from taxable revenue.

On 8 April, the Government announced the second round of financial relief measures to combat the pandemic. Through the 10 billion-pataca Community Support Fund, the Government extended the support to Macao residents, employees and enterprises as a supplement and extension to the first round of financial aid measures; including:

- One-off, three-round-financial aid totalling 15,000 patacas for eligible local employees;
- One-off financial assistance of 10,000 patacas for freelancers and interest subsidy on bank loans; financial support to businesses of 15,000 patacas to 200,000 patacas, according to number of employees;
- Scope of “paid training” extended from local unemployed to local working population; and
- An additional consumer subsidy of 5,000 patacas for all Macao residents from August to December.

Notably, the Government issued cash subsidies totalling over 6.4 billion patacas to 308,000 direct beneficiaries in various categories and shops through the Employee, Freelancer and Business Subsidy Scheme. The financial resources expended during the pandemic were equivalent to 12 percent of GDP in 2019.

### **Striving to secure local employment and enable large enterprises to shoulder their responsibilities**

In the third quarter of 2020, Macao’s overall unemployment rate was 2.9 percent, and the unemployment rate among local residents was 4.1 percent, with an underemployment rate of 4.7 percent, leading to the emergence of problems related to employment. The Government stepped up its efforts to promote employment and ensure prioritised and continued employment of local employees, and incorporated these with the exit mechanism for non-local employees, to increase



the chances of local job seekers being successfully employed.

The Government launched paid skills upgrading and vocational training programmes, to provide 2,000 training places for the unemployed, tourist guides, taxi drivers, coach drivers, convention and exhibition workers and other specific professions. Paid employment-oriented and career-oriented training programmes were also launched, to provide 60,000 training places, with the scope expanded to also include fresh university graduates and employees.

With concerns regarding the employment of fresh university graduates, a career experience programme was launched in collaboration with Macao enterprises for the first time. A total of 1,847 internship places were offered by the participating enterprises, and 1,618 applications were received. In all, 720 graduates were accepted for internships through the programme, and 568 graduates took up the internships, 382 of whom were guaranteed job offers, with 199 interns accepting the offers.

In addition, the Government urged and encouraged large enterprises to shoulder their social responsibilities, to ensure prioritised and continued employment of local employees. Through many large-scale infrastructure projects and “welfare-to-work schemes”, the Government created more jobs and referred job seekers of suitable calibre to recruitment fairs for major infrastructure projects, in order to stabilise the employment of grassroots workers; expedited various public construction projects, particularly those involving transport infrastructure, public facilities and public housing that are closely related to economic development and livelihood improvements, and accelerated the approval of private construction work, to create job opportunities.

### **Implementing various measures to sustain vitality of SMEs**



To help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) survive the challenging time, the Government enhanced financial support for SMEs. The SME Assistance Programme was further revised in March 2020, to temporarily relax the application requirements, in order to accept applications from SMEs impacted by the pandemic, providing they had operated for at least one year and met the eligibility criteria. The programme with these temporary relaxation measures, implemented from 10 March to 10 September, received 1,204 applications. As of 31 December, 925 applications were approved, involving financial assistance amounting to 284 million patacas.

To enhance the cash flow of SMEs and effectively relieve their interest burdens, the Government launched a scheme to provide an interest subsidy for SMEs of up to four percent on bank loans of up to two million patacas. The interest subsidy period will last up to three years. The scheme, launched from 17 March to 17 September, received 4,997 applications. As of 31 December, 4,794 applications were approved, involving bank loan interest subsidies amounting to 6.081 billion patacas, and mainly benefiting retail, construction and public works, restaurant, and hotel businesses.

In addition, the Monetary Authority of Macao provided short-term “counter-cyclical” credit lines to banks with a large proportion of local businesses among their clients, increased allocation of reserves in Macao’s banking system, and prudently adjusted the banks’ mortgage loan asset requirements as a temporary measure, to enhance banking flexibility in response to lending needs.

To stimulate domestic consumption, the Government launched two rounds of the Consumption Subsidy Scheme, issuing consumer subsidies of 3,000 patacas and 5,000 patacas, respectively, to each eligible Macao resident through electronic consumption cards. The scheme concluded at the end of 2020, generating consumption of 5.16 billion patacas through 62 million transactions, benefiting many industries to varying degrees. In particular, the food and beverage and retail sectors accounted for approximately 25 percent and 69 percent of the total transactions, respectively. Over 63 percent of the consumer subsidies benefited SMEs. The figures showed that the scheme has helped to boost business operations and achieved the goal of increasing domestic demand and consumption, safeguarding enterprises and employment, and relieving livelihood hardships.

The Macao Government Tourist Office launched the “Macao Ready Go! Local Tours” local tour project and the “Macao Ready Go!” digital promotion platform, with the aim of resuming Macao tourism activities and promoting tourism-related products, in order to stimulate consumption throughout Macao, thereby benefitting SMEs.

From 17 June to 30 September, the “Macao Ready Go! Local Tour” project introduced 25 itineraries in total, with 13 routes for “Community-based Tours” and 12 for “Leisure Tours”. The Government provided a subsidy of 280 patacas per tour to each eligible Macao resident, subject to a ceiling of 560 patacas per person. Nearly 140,000 residents joined more than 4,300 tours in Macao. According to preliminary data, the “Macao Ready Go! Local Tours” project has brought over 56 million patacas of economic benefits to the local market, about 38 million patacas of which was granted for tour participation, and about 17 million patacas was spent by tour participants (including tour fees and additional spending). Approximately 4.98 million patacas of community consumption was generated, boosted by the 100-pataca consumption cards

issued for the “Community-based Tours”.

The “Macao Ready Go!” digital promotion platform is designed to provide residents and tourists with special offers and discounts from the participating merchants, covering themes of “Enjoyment, Dining, Accommodation and Transportation”. Multiple promotional channels are utilised to attract residents and tourists to browse the merchant offers, thereby boosting consumption. From the launch of the scheme on 5 June 2020, to 31 December 2020, the platform registered 671 merchants with 2,053 special offer items, 243,625 coupon downloads, and over 7,477,000 online platform visits.

### **Rapid popularisation of electronic payment and upgrades of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises**

Financial relief measures played an active role in stabilising the economy and safeguarding people’s employment and livelihoods. Some innovative developments were also seen in certain areas, such as rapid popularisation of electronic payment. From January to the end of September 2020, the number of mobile payment devices and QR codes installed and deployed by local merchants increased by more than 22,900; and the number of devices that can accept mobile payments in Macao exceeded 63,000. The value of local mobile payment transactions reached four billion patacas in the first nine months, equivalent to 3.3 times the total value of 1.23 billion patacas in 2019.

To help SMEs to make good use of technology and strengthen their online application platforms, the Government launched a subsidy scheme at the end of the year, to financially support Macao SMEs to adopt electronic ordering operations; supported local chambers of commerce and associations with inviting key opinion leaders (KOL) to shoot promotional videos; published the Macao Gastronomy Map; supported online promotion of a Macao food festival featuring the best deal items; and supported production of variety shows and video clips to promote tourist attractions in various districts and SME shops on key social media platforms, thereby stimulating consumption in the community and revitalising the community economy.

In July 2020, the Government launched a programme for promoting accredited shops with local characteristics. This was a pioneering initiative in collaboration with local chambers of commerce, for supporting featured restaurants and retail businesses, aiming to enhance the attractiveness and visibility of shops and, in the long run, enhance enterprises’ overall service standards and branding.

The first phase of the programme was launched as a pilot scheme in the Rua de Cinco de Outubro neighbourhood, with 50 accredited outlets in the area. The second phase of the programme was launched in the Islands District, with 50 newly added accredited outlets. Of these 100 accredited shops, 71 were restaurants and 29 were retailers. At present, all the accredited shops are included in popular living guide e-commerce platforms in mainland China, thus expanding online and offline promotional channels.

To enhance “Made in Macao” brands, the Government and the Industrial Association of Macau jointly launched the Macao Product Quality Certification Scheme, to provide technical support services to potential applicants, and continued supporting the six main tourism and leisure enterprises in prioritising the procurement of local SMEs’ products and services.

## **Launching special offers to stimulate consumption and expedite economic recovery**

The Central People's Government resumed the issuance of visitor permits to Macao in August 2020, thus helping to gradually boost Macao's consumption demand and improve the market atmosphere. However, the economy still experienced a significant downturn for the year. Given that the Government had ensured the safety of Macao's community, urban hygiene and public health, initiatives for boosting post-pandemic tourism were launched. Quality and preferential products were launched for tourists from targeted markets, to enhance Macao's post-pandemic tourism competitiveness.

The Macao Government Tourist Office also commissioned local production companies to produce tourism promotional videos and travel programmes. We cooperated with several local production companies, social media and TV stations, to produce some 60 themed video clips on Macao tourism, for promoting Macao tourism and SMEs via social media platforms and other media.

A scheme to expand visitor sources, boost the economy and safeguard employment was launched from 1 September, lasting till the end of the year. This utilised e-commerce to offer visitors to Macao discounts on transportation, accommodation, and shopping during their stay, to stimulate tourism spending, thereby boosting economic recovery and stabilising employment.

As of 31 December, 1,119,285 of the vouchers issued were for 50 percent off hotel rates, 85,424 of which had been reimbursed; 1,373,408 were offline vouchers, for which a value of 13,619,890 yuan was reimbursed. The scheme set a minimum spending of five times the value of the vouchers. Based on such data, 315 million yuan were spent by using the vouchers through the WeChat Pay platform, with effective gearing of 23 times. For flight tickets, 1,080,000 vouchers were issued and 17,514 sets were reimbursed.

To enhance the promotion of safe travel to Macao, the Macao Government Tourist Office launched a series of events for "Tour Macao Carnival" from October to November 2020, capitalising on the Macao Grand Prix, Macao Food Festival and other events.

During the Grand Prix, renowned mainland China sports commentators and travel experts were invited to Macao for multiple live broadcasts, and 160,000 promotional products were sent to mainland China visitors in collaboration with UnionPay. There was also collaboration with dianping.com, to arrange for mainland China travel experts to livestream and attend promotional activities in Macao.

In addition, "Beijing Macao Week" roadshows were held in Beijing during September, to introduce the latest developments in Macao tourism, culture, economy and trade to local residents, in the hope of attracting more visitors to Macao.

## **Bolstering intensive cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, for integration with national development**





At the inauguration ceremony of the fifth MSAR Government, President Xi Jinping gave an important instruction – development of Hengqin through joint efforts of Zhuhai and Macao. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government pressed ahead with building the Guangdong-Macao intensive cooperation zone.

On 13 March, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng held a working meeting with the Governor of Guangdong province, Ma Xingrui, in Macao. They exchanged ideas about the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, further deepening Guangdong-Macao cooperation, and in particular expediting the establishment of Guangdong-Macao intensive cooperation zone in Hengqin.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the new MSAR Government attaches high importance to Guangdong-Macao intensive cooperation in the new era, and seeks to further advance it with new thinking and a new approach. He urged everyone to further open their minds, embrace changes and innovations, and be pragmatic in their work. It is important to fully leverage Macao's advantage of "One country, two systems", as well as Hengqin's advantages in geographical position, resources and spatial environment. We should also explore ways and mechanisms of connectivity, in promoting the establishment of Guangdong-Macao intensive cooperation zone in Hengqin.

The Governor of Guangdong province, Ma Xingrui, pointed out that Hengqin had long been a cornerstone of Guangdong-Macao cooperation, and it is the original aspiration to facilitate Macao's industrial diversification through development of Hengqin new zone. Mr Ma looks forward to seeking open-minded strategic reform with the new MSAR Government. It is important to faithfully realise the aspirations of President Xi Jinping, as conveyed through his series of important speeches

at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Macao's Handover – to build Hengqin as a new platform and a new pilot zone for the implementation of “One country, two systems”.

Under the support and guidance of the Central People's Government, the MSAR Government and the Guangdong provincial government jointly discussed and drafted the Master Plan for Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation in Hengqin, and submitted it to the Central People's Government for approval in 2020. Meanwhile, a series of cooperative projects were implemented during the year. Gradually, there were assessments of and recommendations for Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park projects.

Zhuhai and Macao governments signed a land use right assignment contract for the Macao New Neighbourhood project, which is now under construction. The passenger clearance zone at the new Hengqin port came into operation in August, adopting the innovative clearance mechanism of “Joint Inspection and One-Time Release”, further realising mutual connectivity.

During 12-17 August, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng led a government delegation to Beijing, for meetings and exchanges with relevant ministries of the Central People's Government regarding issues related to promoting the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and anti-pandemic measures.

During their visit to Beijing, the Chief Executive and the delegation met with more than ten ministries and commissions, including the Ministry of Commerce, People's Bank of China, National Immigration Administration, General Administration of Customs, State Taxation Administration, National Development and Reform Commission, National Health Commission and Ministry of Finance. They exchanged views on ways to promote Macao's economic development, especially regarding the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and anti-pandemic measures. A task force was subsequently set up, to advance work on the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Integrating with national development is the major strategy for Macao's long-term development. The Government continued implementing the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, gradually made progress with various specialised plans and measures required by the Central People's Government, strengthened cooperation among Greater Bay Area cities, and gradually advanced Macao's participation in the “Belt and Road” initiative.

The Government also made progress in cooperation with other provinces and regions in mainland China. On 18 September, the Chief Executive led a delegation to Sanya, Hainan, to attend the 2020 Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) Regional Cooperation Chief Executive Joint Conference. The delegation met with the Secretary of the CPC Hainan Provincial Committee, Liu Cigui; the Governor of Hainan province, Shen Xiaoming; the Governor of Fujian province, Wang Ning, the Governor of Jiangxi province Yi Lianhong, the Governor of Guizhou province, Shen Yiqin; and the Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Chen Wu. They exchanged views in various areas including trade and economy, education, tourism and culture, development of traditional Chinese medicine and the pharmaceutical industry, poverty relief, and industrial cooperation, to continue strengthening communication and cooperation with the Pan Pearl River Delta provinces and regions.

## Developing patriotic education and safeguarding national security



The Government strictly fulfilled its constitutional obligation to safeguard national security in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao. The Government completed the legislation on safeguarding national security in early 2009; and formulated the National Security Law, and established the Commission for the Defence of National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region in 2018, to coordinate national security affairs, continuously enhance the legal system related to national security, and formulate and execute the law enforcement mechanisms.

In 2020, the relevant law enforcement work and study on legislation the support safeguarding national security commenced in an orderly manner. The Government also continued raising public awareness of national security through holding an online photo exhibition to introduce national security in schools, and establish a patriotic education base for young people.

### Judicial Police forms new department to enhance national security law enforcement

On 23 March 2020, at the year's first plenary meeting of the Commission for the Defence of National Security, the Chairman of the Committee, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, gave important instructions. He required all sectors to continue facilitating development of the national security system, and effectively carry out relevant law enforcement work. Afterwards, the Government amended the

relevant laws and regulations of the Judicial Police, which came into effect on 12 October.

According to the amended laws, the Judicial Police has exclusive authority to investigate crime against national security. Following organisational restructuring of the Judicial Police, guided by the overall national security perspective, one department and six divisions were added. These new units include the Security Department, which is responsible for national security law enforcement, and its four subordinate divisions: the National Security Intelligence Division, the National Security Crimes Investigation Division, the National Security Operations Support Division and the National Security Affairs Consolidation Division. These four divisions perform duties including intelligence gathering and analyses related to national security, case investigations, counterintelligence and counter-espionage, operational support, research on legal system establishment, and providing support for the Commission for the Defence of National Security of the Government and its office in accordance with the law.

In addition, the Judicial Police established the Terrorism Crimes Alert and Investigation Division, which reports to the Director of Judicial Police, to build an anti-terrorism intelligence system, organise relevant intelligence work, and perform duties such as monitoring terrorism activities, issuing anti-terrorism alerts, carrying out anti-terrorism operations, and facilitating joint anti-terrorism operations. The Judicial Police also established the Cyber Security Division under the IT and Telecommunications Management Department, for coordinating incident alerts and emergency responses regarding cyber security, to help construct a better organisational mechanism of cyber security management, thereby safeguarding the frontiers of national security.

The amendments to relevant laws and establishment of new units were important measures for the Government's perfection of the legal system and law enforcement regarding national security, which were conducive to enhancing law enforcement efficiency, thereby achieving the aims of strengthening prevention of and combating crime, and safeguarding social security and legitimate rights of the public.

## **Protecting cyber security and guarding the frontiers of national security**

Given the rapidly changing internal and external security situation, safeguarding cyber security is undoubtedly an important task of the Government in safeguarding national security. To align with the Cyber Security Law that came into effect on 20 January 2020, the Government established the Cyber Security Committee, which held its first plenary meeting on 20 January 2020. The Chairman of the committee, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, clearly requested all committee members to seriously fulfil their duties, assist the Government to continue enhancing the scientific basis and perspective of cyber security policies, to facilitate implementation of policies of the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre and other supervisory authorities, and prompting key infrastructure operators to strictly comply with the statutory cyber security obligations, thereby ensuring the security of information networks of key infrastructure relevant to Macao people's wellbeing, with great effort and normal operation of the relevant facilities.

In 2020, according to the stipulations of Cyber Security Law, Internet operators were required to fulfil their obligations to check and register personal information of users when providing fixed-network and public mobile and wireless communication services. Before the law came into force



in early 2020, all telecommunication providers had already implemented post-registration of user identification upon activation of prepaid cards. In addition, the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre commenced operation during the year, to protect Macao's Internet security through cooperation between participating entities.

In order to strengthen the centre's communications, coordination and technology, and enhance the capabilities of supervisory bodies and key infrastructure operators when coping with cyber security incidents, the Cyber Security Incident Alert and Emergency Response Centre joined hands with government departments responsible for cyber security supervision and 15 other institutions, including the Macao Water Supply Company and Companhia de Electricidade de Macau, to hold the 2020 Cyber Security Drill on 11 December, simulating the response to multiple key infrastructure operators' computer systems being hacked. This was the first cyber security drill since the Cyber Security Law came into effect.

## **Two approaches to strengthening youth patriotic education**

To safeguard national security through orderly progress, it is important to continuously raise public awareness of the concept of national security. In 2020, the Government promoted youth patriotic education through innovative online promotions and the offline patriotic education base, enabling all sectors in society – especially the younger generation – to have a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of national security, thereby recognising their responsibility to the country and society, and make positive contributions.

Since 2018, the Government has been organising promotional and educational activities on national security on the annual National Security Education Day. In 2020, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and disease prevention, the Government adjusted the format of activities, from holding an annual National Security Education Exhibition in the past two years, to holding an online photo exhibition to promote national security in schools. Through an innovative promotional and education model, the Government introduced and presented to the public an overview of national security, the global security situation, as well as Macao's commencement and implementation of an online platform dedicated to national security.

In addition, the youth patriotic education base in Handover Gifts Museum of Macau was inaugurated in December. The permanent "Rooted to China" education exhibition in the base was divided into three main themes: "Chinese culture", "Save our nation from subjugation" and "Chinese modernisation achievements". The first phase was aimed at schools and youth organisations, serving to teach young people about Chinese history and culture, recent success in development of China, and the history of Macao through on-site guided tours and interactive multimedia presentations.

In order to pass on patriotism and fine traditions, the Government continued to strengthen Macao people's sense of responsibility in proactively safeguarding national security. The Legal Affairs Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau jointly held a training programme on law for teachers in June 2020. Seminars for teachers of primary and secondary schools in Macao were organised, to enhance teachers' legal knowledge regarding the Constitution, the Basic Law of Macao, the Law on Safeguarding National Security and preventing juvenile delinquency, as well as to enrich their understanding of the history, spiritual connotations and

laws and regulations related to the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, thereby enabling teachers to better disseminate such knowledge to students in schools and strengthen their concept of nationality.

## **“Five-rung housing ladder policy” in response to demands for urban planning to create a liveable city**



In 2020, facing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government promptly implemented a series of anti-pandemic and relief measures, to protect public health and maintain social and economic stability. Meanwhile, a series of established livelihood-related projects was implemented, to lay a foundation for economic recovery and the long-term well-being of local residents.

### **Refining housing policies and taking care of the elderly**

To rationalise Macao residents' housing demands in the long run, the Government has proposed a “five-rung housing ladder” policy, and expedited progress with related public consultations, optimisation of the legal system, commencement of planning, and implementation of construction projects.

In 2020, the Government further improved the housing allocation and supply system, based on its original public housing plan. The new Legal System for Public Housing and its supplementary laws and regulations came into effect in August, to establish the mechanism for applying for public housing on a regular basis. During the year, over 2,200 eligible families were allocated public housing units.

Regarding Home-Ownership Scheme Housing: the new round of applications for the Home-

Ownership Scheme Housing has successfully concluded. The Legislative Assembly passed the amendment to the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, to optimise the application process and the mechanism for resale of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing. Penalties have been introduced for tenants who reside in their housing unit for less than 183 days a year, with the aim of fulfilling the purpose of Home-Ownership Scheme Housing units for helping Macao residents to solve their housing problems, and avoiding investment activities related to Home-Ownership Scheme Housing.

To ensure public housing supply is timely in meeting demand, the Government continues implementing the construction of Venceslau de Morais, Toi San and Mong Ha public housing projects. Open tenders for the pile foundation and basement work for the B4, B9 and B10 Home-Ownership Scheme Housing lots in Area A (3,011 units) were completed in 2020, and construction work commenced during the fourth quarter. Site formation of the public housing projects on Avenida Wai Long was also completed, followed by the compilation of building plans for the public facility buildings, the first phase of the public housing project and infrastructure construction. Invitation of tenders for the first phase of slope design and construction has also commenced.

To improve the living condition of mobility-impaired elderly people living in walk-up buildings, the Government has proposed to construct apartments for the elderly and continued to facilitate relevant preparatory work. We are collecting opinions from different social sectors, and on the other hand, planning for the construction of housing for senior citizens, and allocating land to expedite project implementation.

The Government is also committed to satisfying the housing needs of people whose income exceeds the ceiling for public housing application, but face difficulties in the private housing market. In 2020, the Government commenced a public consultation on the housing plan for the sandwich class. After the responses have been collected, a summary report will be released as soon as possible.

Besides housing, the Government also attaches considerable importance to the needs of the elderly and the underprivileged, especially elderly people with special care needs. In 2020, the Government set up two additional elderly day care centres, completed construction of a multi-service centre for the elderly in Praia do Manduco, prepared for the establishment of the first multi-service centre for patients with dementia, and launched the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme in November.

## **Urban construction commences, to help build a full-featured, liveable community**

During the year, in response to society's progress and residents' aspiration for a better life, the Government has completed the drafting of the Macao Urban Development Master Plan (2020-2040) and the related public consultation. The Government listened to the opinions from all sectors of society, and consolidated and analysed the views or suggestions collected during the consultation period. Related legislative work has commenced.

The master plan was drafted based on the Macao Special Administrative Region Urban Development Strategy (2016-2030). It proposes major urban planning concepts focusing on land use, space allocation, residential land, economically important industries, transportation, environmental protection, public facilities, infrastructure, cultural heritage, urban scenery, urban renewal, and disaster prevention; and integrates and utilises social resources to build a liveable

community. Also in 2020, the Government completed the Urban Planning Study of New Urban Zone Area A, to review and refine the original planning of New Urban Zone Area A and formulate guidelines for urban design. Moreover, the report on the consultation regarding the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal was completed. This system will facilitate ongoing promotion of orderly community revitalisation and renewal, to improve residents' quality of life.

Regarding progress with transportation infrastructure construction, work on the pile foundation for the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge commenced in August 2020. The public consultation on the LRT East line was completed during the year, while the project to connect the Macao peninsula and Sai Van Bridge along the LRT Taipa Line began at the end of the year. The construction of A-Ma transport interchange, and the preliminary design of the LRT Hengqin Line in connection with Taipa were completed, following by the commencement of construction of the Seac Pai Van line.

Construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge commenced in March 2020, and the tender invitations for construction of the peripheral transport network will be conducted in phases in accordance with the bridge's construction schedule. The special report on the fifth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour passage, which will be a tunnel, is currently being reviewed by central government ministries.

To ensure proper and timely land development in Macao, the Government successfully recovered, according to the law, over 40 lots with a total area of more than 319,300 square metres of land, by the end of 2020. Among the land concessions being revoked, three have been reused for public facilities, including a government office building that has been completed and put into use, one building that is under construction, and one piece of land for a temporary fire station. The area of these three pieces of land recovered totalled approximately 6,400 square metres.

With the aim of optimising the environment, the Government adopted a two-pronged approach involving environmental protection and urban planning. Environmental pollution control was strengthened, and a series of construction projects were implemented, including a project regarding disposal and transportation of construction waste and marine clay to the landfill, and expansion of the incineration centre. Also, the preliminary design of the centralised food waste processing facility was completed at the end of 2020. On the other hand, environmental optimisation and improvement works in old districts have commenced. Idle land plots are being used to create more quality outdoor activity space. The construction of a green promenade along the south shores of the Macao peninsula commenced in 2020, and will be implemented in phases.

## **Exercising authority according to law, the Legislative Assembly passes 25 laws**

During the third session of the sixth Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2019 to 15 October 2020, a total of 35 plenary meetings and 159 committee meetings were held, with 25 laws, one resolution and 13 simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.

Given the postponement of the legislative assembly's work in 2020 due to the impact of the





pandemic, and as proposed by the Executive Board, at the plenary meeting it was decided to extend the normal session by one month, until 15 September, in order to handle the bills being deliberated.

### **Fulfilment of legislative function**

In regard to public administration and the judiciary, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 19/2019 on the Arbitration Law, thereby integrating and simplifying the arbitration system that was originally licensed under Decree-Law No. 29/96M, and the specialised system on arbitration for external commercial affairs licensed under Decree-Law No. 55/98M, as well as introducing the regulations of the Model Law on International Commercial Conciliation of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, to better promote and popularise the arbitration system in Macao;
- Law No. 20/2019 on Determination of the Non-Effectiveness of Laws and Decree-Laws Published Between 1988 and 1999, to proclaim the abolition of the outdated laws and decrees, thereby explicitly protecting vested rights and retaining the established legal status;
- Law No. 2/2020 on e-Governance, to regulate the conduct and procedures of government departments by electronic means;
- Law No. 19/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 8/2012 on Ancillary Remuneration of Public Security Forces and Security Departments, to ensure fair and reasonable compensation of the security forces and their staff because of the on-call job nature and long working hours; and

- Law No. 9/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 13/2001 on Regulation of the Training Programme and Practical Session for Judicial Officers of Courts and the Public Prosecutions Office, to raise the entry requirements of judicial officers, thereby ensuring their high quality.

In regard to labour and housing, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 5/2020 on the Minimum Wage, thereby ensuring the system on the minimum wage for two types of job in one industry can be extended to cover other industries;
- Law No. 8/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 7/2008 on Labour Relations, to enhance the system of maternity leave and paternity leave, improve the compensation for overlapping leave and working on holidays, and raise the maximum amount of monthly basic remuneration used in calculating termination compensation, thereby responding to society's aspirations for labour rights;
- Law No. 16/2020 on the Employment Agency Law, thereby enhancing the regulations on the licensing, charges, supervision and related aspects of the industries concerned;
- Law No. 10/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 21/2009, the Law on Employment of Non-Resident Workers, to introduce the policy on Entry Permits for Work Purposes, thereby solving the problem of non-residents being employed through entering Macao as tourists; and
- Law No. 13/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 10/2011 on Home-Ownership Scheme Housing, to revise the regulations on the requirements and procedures for applying for, and reselling, public housing.

In regard to public security and monetary supervision, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 4/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 11/2009 Law on Combating Computer Crime, to strengthen criminal law related to protecting online security, and enhance the electronic certificate system;
- Law No. 11/2020 on the Civil Protection Legal System, to establish a permanent authority structure, operational mechanisms, and community support mechanism in related fields, thereby enhancing the safe governance of Macao;
- Law No. 14/2020 on the Amendment to Law No. 5/2006 on the Judiciary Police;
- Law No. 17/2020 on the Judiciary Police Special Ranking System, to provide protection of legal and human resources for the departments concerned, thereby enabling them to more effectively undertake law enforcement, such as safeguarding national security; and
- Law No. 21/2020 on the Amendment to Decree-Law No. 27/97M of 3 June, to enhance the regulations on the entry requirements, means of monitoring, reinsurance, and other aspects of the insurance industry.

In regard to professional accreditation system and education and health, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 18/2020 on the System on Professional Qualifications and Licensing of Medical Workers, to unify the standard of entry and licence registration requirements of medical

workers in public and private sectors, thereby raising the professionalism and recognition of medical services;

- Law No. 20/2020 on the Professional and Practice Regime of Accountants, to formulate new regulations for professional accountancy, thereby supporting the development of Macao's economy and industries;
- Law No. 15/2020 on the Statute of Non-Tertiary Private Schools, to regulate the establishment and management of, and changes to, school sponsors, thereby forming a well-coordinated school sponsorship system with defined accountability; and
- Law No. 7/2020 Law on the Animal Health Control Law, to establish a mechanism for declaring disease outbreaks in animals, and various measures that can be adopted by the administrative authorities, thereby controlling diseases in animals in a systematic manner.

In regard to fulfilment of international duties, the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 21/2019 on the Amendment to Regulations on Profit Tax, in response to Macao joining the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting formulated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in order to implement Macao's commitment to the latest international tax standards of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting - Action 13.

Lastly, to implement the Resolution of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Authorising the Macao Special Administrative Region to Exercise Jurisdiction over Macao's Port Zone at Hengqin Port and Related Extended Areas – thereby achieving interconnection of infrastructure between the Macao SAR and Zhuhai, Guangdong province – the Legislative Assembly passed Law No. 1/2020 on Authorisation of the Macao Special Administrative Region's Jurisdiction over the Macao's Port Zone at Hengqin Port and Related Extended Areas.

All the above-mentioned 21 laws were proposed by the Government.

## **Supervisory functions:**

In accordance with the authority conferred by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Legislative Assembly oversaw the government budget and public finances. This involved tasks including:

- Passing Law No. 22/2019 on the 2020 Government Budget, which was amended by Laws No. 3/2020, 6/2020 and 12/2020;
- Deliberating the Government's Reports on Budget Implementation for 2018 and the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2018;
- Listening to the Review of the Government's Work in the Fiscal Year 2019 and the Financial Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020 delivered by the fourth Chief Executive; and
- Listening to and discussing the 2020 Policy Address delivered by the fifth Chief Executive.

To better listen to and collect legislators' opinions, the Government organised information seminars on the Legal Framework for Urban Renewal, the draft Macao Urban Development Master Plan (2020-2040), the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line Plan, and the New Macao Central

Library Plan and the related work on cultural facilities. During the session, the legislators visited the Pac On Civil Protection Action Centre (Taipa) and Taipa Ferry Terminal, to better understand the Government's civil protection management and progress with public works projects.

During the legislative session, legislators delivered 325 pre-agenda speeches, covering housing policy, public transport, medical and health, economy and culture, technological education, public administration, urban planning, and social security. Moreover, legislators raised 696 written and 85 oral questions, and called for 10 plenary meetings regarding the oral questions.

Lastly, the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs, the Follow-up Committee for Public Finance Affairs and the Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs strived for progress with important issues regarding public administration and the implementation of related laws, and compiled 17 reports.

Other responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include listening to and fully reflecting different views, suggestions, and criticism from the public, and making prompt responses regarding public aspirations. During the session, six residents were personally received by legislators through the roster system. The Legislative Assembly also received 74 submissions and recommendations via personal visits, telephone and email. The Legislative Assembly received two petitions from citizens and groups, and handled these appropriately.

## **CCAC ensures integrity and efficiency, and CA emphasises optimal use of public funds**



Looking back at 2020: there was a plan for long-term, multi-faceted development, and the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) united at all levels and strived to forge ahead without fear



of unexpected changes, fully supported the Government's administrative policy of "strengthening anti-corruption and auditing for a corruption-free, efficient government", and pragmatically implemented each short, medium and long-term promotional and educational mission. The CCAC made great efforts in promoting fulfilment of social responsibility by filing real-name complaints and reporting corruption, strengthening public awareness of reporting corruption, and reported the progress with and results of case investigations to the public in a timely manner, in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of case follow-up work by related departments. The CCAC also continued combating crimes within its remit, especially by investigating cases involving attempts to fraudulently obtain government allowances and subsidies.

During the global pandemic, the CCAC maintained essential external work and exchanges by replacing the traditional way of holding meetings with technological communications, as well as maintaining close contact and exchanges with educational organisations and schools in Macao, to sustain integrity education. The CCAC also strived to enhance its structure and operation, and investigated the feasibility of developing its dedicated information system in future, to meet its needs and enable long-term development of electronic data integration. In addition, the CCAC commenced horizontal communication channels with other departments, including the judiciary, thus aligning with the Government's administrative policy of enhancing cooperation between departments, and laying a good foundation for formulating policies for the next fiscal year ahead of time.

In 2020, the CCAC received 479 complaints and reports. A total of 105 cases were transferred to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, including cases in which the Anti-Corruption Authority and the Directorate of Ombudsman Services intervened, and cases initiated and transferred to the CCAC for investigations by the judiciary<sup>1</sup>; 282 cases were transferred to the Directorate of Ombudsman Services to conduct special investigations, one of which was under full investigation; another 100 cases that did not meet the criteria for initiation were closed; and four cases falling under other organisations' remit were directly transferred.

In addition, the CCAC opened six co-investigation cases with regions outside Macao in 2020. Including cases transferred from 2019, the CCAC concluded 387 cases in 2020. Among the cases concluded by the anti-corruption authority, 18 were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office, two were transferred to other departments, and 129 were closed. Among those concluded by the Directorate of Ombudsman Services, 60 were requested for follow ups by relevant departments and 178 were closed. The CCAC also received 1,521 inquiries of various kinds during the year, 1,200 of which involved criminal offences, while 321 were complaints to the Ombudsman.

Regarding promotion and education, the CCAC continued organising various promotional and educational activities for different sectors of society. In 2020, the CCAC organised 303 talks and seminars, which were attended by a total of 17,232 participants. These events mainly targeted civil servants, members of community organisations, private sector employees, young people, and secondary and primary school students.

In 2020, the CCAC held the "Integrity Lesson Plan Design Collection Activity" and a live show for children on the Children's Day (1 June). The CCAC also enriched the "Database of Education

<sup>1</sup> These included four cases that were integrated into dossiers for follow-up, and not opened as individual dossiers.

on Integrity” website for educators’ use. Besides, to align with the long-term promotion plan of the CCAC, the “Civil Servant Section” of the anti-corruption publicity campaign was launched, to hold a prized quiz game on WeChat public account, and launch the “Integrity information network for civil servants”, with the aim to enhance public awareness of the concept of civil servants stated in the Penal Code.

Regarding external affairs in 2020, the CCAC reduced participation in external exchanges and cancelled non-essential meetings due to the pandemic. However, the CCAC still organised delegations to visit the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the Supreme People’s Procuratorate, the Supreme People’s Court, the Ministry of Public Security and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council in Beijing.

Regarding international conferences, the CCAC attended the international conference organised by the Asia Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the 24th Steering Group International Meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, and the 11th Working Group Meeting on the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, through video conferencing.

In November 2020, the CCAC received a reply from the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Central People’s Government, regarding the self-assessment checklist for implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. After collecting comments from mainland China’s ministries and commissions and the MSAR Government, the CCAC adjusted the length of the checklist and added details of the cases cited, aligning with the review of the convention by the Central People’s Government.

As the seventh Legislative Assembly Election of the Macao SAR will be held in 2021, maintaining integrity of the Election is of great importance for the year. The CCAC devoted its full effort to anti-corruption, by adopting a multi-pronged approach to preventing and combating bribery and relevant crimes. Meanwhile, the CCAC is continuing with the anti-corruption publicity campaign, to comprehensively promote a clean election. Moreover, the CCAC will enhance staff training, especially for popularising electronic publicity activities for the election, update and strengthen staff’s technological skills for investigating bribery crimes arising with the advent of new technologies.

In response to plans for the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area and Macao’s development approach of “One Centre, One Platform and One Base”, the CCAC will strive to commence integrity-related communication channels with sister cities of the Greater Bay Area, to enhance communications and exchanges between relevant law enforcement authorities of the Greater Bay Area, deepen interregional cooperation on corruption-free governance, learn from other regions’ experiences, improve operations and join forces to promote the development of corruption-free governance, in order to create an atmosphere of integrity in the Greater Bay Area.

In addition, the CCAC will continue to attach importance to preventing and combating bribery in the private sector, to promote sustainable development of businesses weakened by the pandemic. The CCAC will continue to focus on integrity education as the cornerstone for building a corruption-free society, encourage the public to be proactive in reporting corruption, and join hands with the

CCAC and all sectors of society to maintain a corruption-free environment in Macao.



In 2020, the Commission of Audit (CA) released seven audit reports comprising the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2019 and the following six performance audit reports:

1. The performance audit report "Operation of the Macau International Airport Company Limited" – reviewed the management and operation of the Macau International Airport, explored whether the management model was properly managed, and analysed the effectiveness of the inspection mechanism, to ensure optimal use of public resources invested by the Government.
2. The performance audit report "Follow-up of Previous Audit Reports" – comprehensively assessed all special and performance audit reports released from 20 December 1999 to 20 March 2017, focusing on 26 projects of high and medium risk. It involved nine audit reports, and aimed to explore whether the bodies involved have responded with measures to redress issues in the reports. The results show that many departments ignored the problems pointed out in the previous audit reports, leaving long-term mistakes and loopholes within the scope of their work unresolved. As the improvements to three projects – Greening Works of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Subsidies Granted by Macao Foundation to Associations, and Continuing Education and Development Plan – were rather unsatisfactory, these projects are subject to individual follow up through intensive investigations.
3. The performance audit report "Follow-up of Previous Audit Reports - Greening Works of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau" – detailed problems that have not been improved by the Municipal Affairs Bureau after some years of being highlighted in an audit report. Although in 2010 the Municipal Affairs Bureau responded to the initial audit report by introducing some measures to improve tree care, the follow-up audit revealed that there were still deficiencies in standardisation and practical implementation of recording data on trees and the mechanism for inspecting trees.
4. The performance audit report "Follow-up of Previous Audit Reports – Subsidies Granted by Macao Foundation to Associations" – revealed that from immediately after the release of the

audit report in June 2012, to December 2018, there were only unsatisfactory improvements to supervision of the obligation of grantees to submit activity reports, sanctions against violators, and follow up and monitoring work after issuance of subsidies.

5. The performance audit report “Follow-up of Previous Audit Reports – Continuing Education and Development Plan” – revealed there were shortcomings in three of four issues that the Education and Youth Development Bureau had to follow up, i.e. the implementation of on-site inspections, the backup plan for enrolment and the fee guarantee system.
6. The performance audit report “Management of Macao Investment and Development Limited (MID)” – explored whether MID had used public funds in a reasonable manner in the process of selecting the development and business model for planning the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park). MID set up the “for rent only and not for sale” principle, applying for grants from the MSAR Government with the anticipation that construction of the entire park would be self-funded. However, MID had not analysed the pros and cons of various development models, or estimated the funds involved in different models, before the decision to make construction self-funded. MID adopted the self-funded construction model – the most expensive development model, due to the “not for sale” principle; however, it simultaneously arranged some measures for preparing land sales in future, showing a contradiction between decision and practice. For the resort-themed hotel business model, MID never considered or compared the pros and cons of self-management and management by enterprises in the park. Its rationale for opting for self-management instead of management by enterprises was contradictory. As a corporation with public capital, MID had to clearly explain how to earn back the original investment cost and make a profit, to prove that public investment is valuable, before deciding to use a large sum of public funds. Since it remains uncertain whether the current development model can pay back the investment or make a profit, MID should review each potential problem.

The Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, emphasised in the text for his speech at the first special video conference of the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP) that, through exchanging experience and sharing knowledge of public audit theories and practice, the institutions play an important role in promoting improvement of technical auditing capabilities, and especially enhancing the public governance of external monitoring and independence, and the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the use of public resources.

The Commissioner of Audit believed that the future challenges and opportunities of public audit will include the challenges in supporting the implementation of the various goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, those faced by audit in the digital environment, and those arising from higher requirements for institutional capabilities and professional proficiency of auditors.

In 2020, the CA completed the upgrading and modification of the “Auditor Office” system. The system was tested with support from the Computer Technology Centre of the National Audit Office, to ensure it is ready for use. The CA also held four video training courses for relevant staff – including system managers, audit project managers, account auditors and non-account audit auditors, to comprehensively strengthen their ability to process data, reform and optimise working



procedures, and facilitate the development of electronic governance in the Government's auditing work. The upgraded "Auditor Office" will be fully deployed for account auditing in 2021.

Regarding publicity and promotion, the CA continued organising talks on auditing culture for public department workers, cadets of the Academy of Macao Public Security Forces who were attending promotion preparation programmes, and newly recruited public administration workers, to promote optimised use of public funds.

## Courts uphold fairness and justice, procuratorate safeguards Macao's interests



### Numbers of cases admitted by the three-tier court system

2020	Court of Final Appeal	Court of Appeal	Base Court (including the Examining Magistracy)	Administrative Court	Total
Cases admitted	216	1,206	16,861	135	18,418
Cases concluded	165	1,276	16,896	134	18,471
Cases pending	99	526	12,342	120	13,087

The majority of the cases in the three-tier court system were criminal cases and criminal labour cases, which totalled 6,207 (excluding Examining Magistracy cases). Ranking second were civil and labour cases, which totalled 4,190. There were also 415 administrative cases, and 7,606 other cases.

## Law promotion and legal consulting services

To strengthen the promotion of the law and foster transparency of the judicial system, starting from 9 October 2013, the court issues press releases about typical concluded cases, and publishes them on the websites of the court and the Government Information Bureau. Various media may republish and report on these cases, which can hopefully promote legal awareness and law abidance in society, and inform the public regarding the judicial approaches and methods for settling various disputes. As at the end of 2020, an accumulated total of 741 articles had been released, 96 of which were released in 2020.

Summary of consulting services provided by the Base Court in 2020:

2020	Criminal Courts	Civil Courts	Small Claims Court	Total
Total number of inquiries	1,646	4,264	1,699	5,910
Number of cases	1,765	4,025	1,699	5,790
Number of cases handled directly	1,703	3,782	1,699	5,485
Number of cases transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office	59	197	---	256
Number of cases transferred to other departments	3	46	---	49
Number of telephone inquiries	404	969	---	1,373

## Legal assistance and enforcement

Regarding delivery of judicial writs and assistance in investigations and evidence collection in civil and commercial cases, in 2020 the Court of Final Appeal received 220 judicial writs from mainland China courts, and delivered 86 judicial writs to mainland China courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

In 2020, the Court of Appeal received 19 requests for reviewing and endorsing judgments made by mainland China courts or arbiters; four judgments endorsed by the Court of Appeal were sent

to the Base Court for enforcement.

The MSAR Government and the HKSAR Government signed the Arrangement Concerning Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region on 7 January 2013; this came into effect on 16 December 2013. As at the end of 2020, the Court of Appeal had admitted four cases requesting an endorsement of an arbitral decision.

Besides, the MSAR Government and the HKSAR Government signed 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 on 5 December 2017; this came into effect on 1 August 2020. As at the end of 2020, the Court of Final Appeal had received two judicial writs from Hong Kong courts, and delivered six judicial writs to Hong Kong courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

### **Declarations of assets and interests**

In 2020, the Court of Final Appeal followed the stipulations in Law No.11/2003, which had been amended according to Law No.1/2013, in the process of receiving individuals for the declaration of assets and interests. It opened 213 individual dossiers, received 2,055 documents for the declaration of assets and interests that involved 1,537 people, and sorted and updated the contents of the individual dossiers according to the law.

According to the stipulations in the aforementioned Law No. 11/2003, the Office of the Court of Final Appeal has uploaded Part IV of the disclosure document of asset declaration to the website of the Courts of the Macao SAR, ensuring it is available in the public domain as required by law. In 2020, the disclosure documents (Part IV) of 588 individual dossiers involving 382 people were published online. In all, there are 3,665 disclosure documents, involving 841 people.

### **Summary of the work by and outlook for the MSAR courts**

Mr Sam Hou-fai, the President of the Court of Final Appeal, delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Judicial Year 2020/2021, giving a comprehensive summary of the work of the courts of the Macao SAR in the Judicial Year 2019/2020.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the three-tier court of the Macao SAR operated at a limited scale, within a restricted time period. Meanwhile, many litigation parties or witnesses who do not reside in Macao could not attend court proceedings as scheduled, due to entry and exit restriction measures. Thus, there were delays in the commencement of some trials, affecting the courts' case admission work. With the prompt implementation of measures in response to the pandemic, and the joint efforts of the judicial sector, the courts were able to maintain normal operations. The conclusion rates of various types of cases of the three-tier court were not affected, and the number of pending cases constantly decreased.

Besides, with the influence of the epidemic, there was a change in terms of type and form of crimes. For example, the proportion of phone fraud and Internet fraud cases increased, especially cases related to fraudulently selling medical products. Moreover, due to restrictions on transportation

between Macao and its neighbouring cities, especially Hong Kong, there was an increase in drug trafficking through waterborne transport, or other clandestine ways such as parcels sent directly by post.

It is worth noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic, to support the Government's anti-pandemic efforts and promptly deal with behaviour violating infection control measures, the Base Court accepted and quickly admitted several COVID-19 pandemic-related cases. For instance, the Civil Courts and Criminal Courts accepted many cases related to compulsory quarantine for infectious disease patients, submission of false health declaration forms, leaving designated quarantine sites, and surgical mask e-shopping scams.

This year marked the 21st anniversary of the return of Macao to the motherland. The implementation of "One country, two systems" in Macao entered an interim phrase. Mr Sam Hou-fai, the President of the Court of Final Appeal, believed that apart from summarising the experience and inadequacies in Macao's implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle, challenges and issues faced throughout the legal adaptation process should also be seriously examined and investigated, given the judiciary system in Macao originated from Portugal, due to historical reasons.

As Portugal is in continental Europe, its judiciary system is affected by many aspects, such as its entrenched ethic and morality, values and attitudes, and customs and traditional culture. In comparison, Macao, an oriental community with a millennium-long history of traditional culture, which is mainly Chinese, is very different. And in fact, the system, which was originally applicable to a population of more than ten million, was transferred from a distant country with an area of approximately 100,000 square kilometres, to a micro jurisdiction, a special administrative region of China with an area of only 32 square kilometres and a population of approximately 0.6 million. Therefore, this difference can only be addressed by being exceptionally prudent throughout the process of formulating and implementing laws.

For example, the avoidance system in relation to conflict of interests that is in force under the public law is a specific system established with a view to ensuring impartiality and justice, and to prevent transfer of benefits. In the light of the stipulations of the laws currently in force in Macao, the avoidance system is established in the operational systems of administration, legislation, and judiciary. Despite some differences in regulatory details, public officials must avoid conflict of interests in exercising their authority in the event that they are considered to have a certain degree of connection to the addressed aim or involved party.

Implementing this system within a large jurisdiction may have limited influence on the functioning of jurisdictional agencies, and the probability of violating this system may also be smaller due to its vast geographic size and large population. But the problem becomes evident in Macao, as it is a small, closely-knit Chinese community with intricately linked interests among community organisations.

Given Macao's social features and environment, law enforcement must be stricter and with higher criteria, in order to safeguard impartiality and justice. Only in this way can the administrative, legislative and judicial agencies in Macao gain people's trust and respect, to uphold their dignity, and effectively safeguard and protect the public interest and fairly ensure justice.





Operations of the MSAR's Public Prosecutions Office in 2020 are summarised as follows:

1. Given the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease in the population flow, there was a drop in the number of cases handled by the Public Prosecutions Office in 2020, compared with the previous year's figure. However, there was an increase in the number of cases for which the Public Prosecutions Office participated in the Court of Final Appeal proceedings, with around 30 percent of these cases involving disputes over land acquisitions. Upholding the principle of impartiality and subjectivity, the Public Prosecutions Office will strive to safeguard the national land resources and benefits of MSAR's public properties.
2. There were varying declines in numbers of cases initiated regarding various kinds of crime; the decrease was particularly marked for crimes related to illegal gambling. However, there were notable increases in numbers of cases initiated regarding "pornography related to minors" and suspected sexual offences against minors. Hence, the Public Prosecutions Office will step up the efforts to crack down on criminal activities violating the rights of minors, increase protection of minors' sense of social awareness, and set up a safety net for minors.
3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, different countries imposed anti-pandemic measures strictly prohibiting group gatherings, which resulted in corresponding changes in types and forms of crime. For instance, there was a decrease in the cases of incoming criminals involved in drug trafficking in Macao. However, drug trafficking was found being conducted in new, rarely seen ways, such as using express parcel services or using boats to deliver drugs. Meanwhile, there was also a rise in the number of cases initiated for cybercrime and fraud cases using "fake notes for bank use".

4. With regard to illegal behaviour which disrupts the anti-pandemic order, the Public Prosecutions Office expedited investigations and made prompt prosecutions. The office also disclosed progress with investigation of related cases to the public in a timely manner, and strengthened protection of the public interest regarding the MSAR's anti-pandemic efforts through litigation procedures.
5. To prevent and curb domestic violence, the Public Prosecutions Office closely cooperated with various departments and related community organisations to provide legal protection for harmony and care in families, and promote social harmony and stability.
6. To safeguard the safety and stability of Macao's financial system, the Public Prosecutions Office closely cooperated with finance-related departments to prevent and curb money laundering. The overall rate of money laundering remained controllable.
7. To ensure the stability and sound utilisation of the human resources comprising judges and judicial support staff, the Public Prosecutions Office will closely cooperate with the legal departments to facilitate the establishment of mechanisms for ongoing occupational training, induction training and internship of judges, to improve the mechanism for managing judicial support staff.
8. Deploying scientific means for improving the quality and efficiency of its work, the Office of the Public Prosecutor-General continues developing and refining the internal case management system of the Public Prosecutions Office. Meanwhile, the Public Prosecutions Office will also closely cooperate with legal departments to consolidate judicial resources, promote e-judicial litigation and develop a digital platform for sharing litigation information in a timely manner.

In 2020, 10,852 criminal cases were initiated by the Public Prosecutions Office, 27 percent less than the 14,923 cases in the previous year. The number of cases concluded was 13,302, 13.87 percent less than the cases in 2019, with 3,658 prosecutions made upon investigation, and 9,378 cases filed; these figures were down 11.39 percent and 14.61 percent, respectively, from 2019. The Public Prosecutions Office initiated 48 criminal case appeals, and 410 replies to criminal case appeals – down by 35.14 percent and 6.82 percent respectively, from 2019.

Breaking down the statistical information on cases initiated in 2020, the five types of crimes with the most investigations were:

1. Theft, robbery and property damage – 3,359 cases (down 33.18 percent year on year)
2. Fraud and extortion – 1,182 cases (down 35.20 percent year on year)
3. Offences involving physical assault – 1,173 cases (down 19.44 percent year on year)
4. Crimes related to traffic accidents – 1,002 cases (down 11.01 percent year on year); and
5. Illegal immigration and immigration-related crimes – 853 cases (down 16.54 percent year on year).

In addition, the Public Prosecutions Office initiated relatively high numbers of investigations of the following crimes:

- Forgery – 566 cases (down 25.82 percent year-on-year);
- Cybercrimes – 372 cases (up 27.40 percent year-on-year);
- Crimes against public authority – 222 cases (down 27.45 percent year-on-year);
- Crimes against sexual freedom and sexual consent – 220 cases (up 44.74 percent year-on-year); and
- Illegal gambling and related crimes – 181 cases (down 78.78 percent year-on-year).

With regard to civil and labour litigation cases, the Office of the Administrative Court participated in handling 588 civil labour cases in 2020, 4.85 percent less than the figure of 618 cases in the previous year; conducted 62 maternity or paternity investigations; initiated 709 civil and labour litigation cases, 8.87 percent less than the figure of 778 cases in 2019; initiated 1,067 pre-suite cases, 15.79 percent less than the figure of 1,267 cases in 2019; and completed 1,372 pre-suite cases, 0.29 percent more than the figure of 1,368 cases in 2019.

With regard to labour cases, there were 367 newly initiated cases involving labour accidents and occupational diseases, and 412 such case were successfully mediated, while 24 cases required litigation due to failure to agree on mediation; 221 ordinary labour litigation cases were newly initiated, with 238 such cases successfully mediated, while further litigation was required for 12 cases; 650 workers were involved in successful mediation procedures conducted by the Public Prosecutions Office, and 137 workers were involved in cases initiated following failure to achieve mediation.

In 2020, the Prosecutorial Office at the Administrative Court received 114 new cases, 50.65 percent less than the figure in the previous year, including four cases of claims involving land concessions forfeited by the Government.

The Prosecutorial Office at the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal participated in 1,248 proceedings of the Court of Appeal, 10.54 percent less than the figure of 1,395 cases in the previous year, with 14 of these cases related to land; participated in 194 cases of the Court of Final Appeal, 22.78 percent more than the figure of 158 cases in the previous year, with 58 of the processed cases related to land.