

values for inclusiveness and harmony, uphold the core values of patriotism, love for Hong Kong, and love for Macao, and promote exchanges and integration between different cultures, to unite all positive forces to support the “One country, two systems” at home and abroad.

President Xi put forward four hopes for the new MSAR Government: promote appropriate economic diversification; enhance the effectiveness of Macao’s governance; build a platform for higher level of external opening-up; and safeguard social harmony and stability.

Afterwards, President Xi met with Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, and the principal officials of the executive, legislative, and judicial bodies of the new-term MSAR Government. President Xi stated that the Central Government would fully support Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai and the MSAR Government in fulfilling their duties. He also expressed his hope that the principal officials of the executive, legislative, and judicial bodies of the new-term MSAR Government would uphold their oaths and missions, be accountable to the country and Macao, and deliver outstanding performance for the nation, Macao, and themselves.

After concluding his activities in Macao, President Xi departed on his special plane on the afternoon of 20 December. Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai; Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, Edmund Ho Hau Wah; former Chief Executive Chui Sai On; leading officials of Central Government offices stationed in Macao; and principal officials of the MSAR Government saw President Xi off at the airport.

## **Upholding Integrity and Innovation, Sam Hou Fai Elected to Chief Executive by High Percentage of Votes**



The election for the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government was held on 13 October 2024. Sam Hou Fai was elected as the sixth-term Chief Executive-designate with 394 valid votes. The Chief Executive election was conducted successfully, marking another sound practice and vivid demonstration of the comprehensive and accurate implementation of the principles of “One country, two systems,” “Macao people governing Macao,” and a high degree of autonomy, as well as the maintenance of the constitutional order of the Macao SAR established by the Constitution and the Macao Basic Law.

## **Joining hands to build a bright future**

The Chief Executive Election for the sixth-term MSAR Government was the first major election held in accordance with the newly revised Chief Executive Election Law that became effective on 1 January 2024, marking the effective implementation of the principle of “patriots governing Macao” with both pioneering and symbolic significance.

The former president of the Court of Final Appeal of the Macao SAR, Sam Hou Fai, held a press conference on 28 August, announcing his candidacy for the sixth-term Chief Executive of the MSAR. In his declaration of candidacy, he stated that the fundamental motivation for his candidacy was the comprehensive, accurate, and unwavering implementation of the “One country, two systems” principle, driven by the call of the times to promote the construction of a strong nation and the great cause of national rejuvenation; whilst, during the new era and new journey, safeguarding Macao’s long-term prosperity and stability, and demonstrating Macao’s new responsibilities and new endeavours with a strong sense of mission; and arose from the aspiration and desire to create a better future for Macao, enabling better lives for the whole population.

Mr Sam Hou Fai said he would lead the Government with the philosophy of “Striving Together, Upholding Integrity and Innovating”. At this new historical starting point, he demands unifying different sectors of society, rallying all forces, working together to promote development, and jointly creating prosperity and stability, allowing the whole population to share the fruits of economic and social development, and build the biggest united force possible for patriotism and love for Macao.

Mr Sam Hou Fai promised that if successfully elected, he would fully and accurately implement “One country, two systems” and uphold its fundamental rationale. He would strictly perform his duties in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law, seize the historical opportunities arising through national development, and work hand-in-hand with the new administration team of the MSAR Government and all sectors of society to create a better future for Macao.

On 20 September, Sam Hou Fai was confirmed as a Chief Executive Election candidate. As the sole nominee of the election, Sam Hou Fai garnered nominations from 386 members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, accounting for about 96 percent of the committee members.

The successful completion of the highly significant election for the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao SAR fully reflects Macao society’s heartfelt support for the “One country, two systems” principle and its firm confidence in the development path and achievements of the Special Administrative Region over the past 25 years.

In his speech after being elected, Sam Hou Fai said that, according to the provisions of the Basic Law, the Chief Executive must be accountable to the Central Government and to the Macao SAR. He would firmly undertake this significant responsibility, faithfully fulfil his election principle and political platform, and make the pursuit of citizens' expectations for better lives the highest goal of his administration. He would adhere to the comprehensive, accurate, and unwavering implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle as the fundamental guide; uphold national sovereignty, security, and development interests as the highest tenet; and embrace the mission and vision of accelerating the promotion of appropriate economic diversification and better integrating into and serving overall national development.

Mr Sam Hou Fai said he would unite and lead all sectors of society and the public; enhance the guiding role of the Government; fully mobilise the initiative, enthusiasm, and creativity of all parties; listen to public opinion; gather public wisdom; and pool public strength to promote comprehensive development of society, the economy, culture, and people's livelihoods. Sam Hou Fai also said he would diligently fulfil his duties for the people, for Macao, and for the country; wholeheartedly dedicate himself to his role as chief executive; continue to uphold social fairness and justice with the rule of law as the core; conform to the will of the people; continuously improve governance capabilities and levels; ensure that citizens have a higher sense of wellbeing while experiencing continuously optimised public services; and work diligently and pragmatically on practical services for the people, thus living up to the expectations of the population.

President Xi Jinping met Sam Hou Fai, the newly elected sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, after his appointment was officially acknowledged by the Central Government, in the Great Hall of the People on 1 November.

Witnessed by President Xi, Premier Li Qiang delivered the State Council Decree No. 794 to Sam Hou Fai, officially appointing him as the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao SAR.

President Xi pointed out during the meeting that Sam Hou Fai had a firm stance of patriotism and love for Macao, and had made positive contributions to Macao's prosperity and stability. The Central Government fully affirms and trusts him, hoping that he will bravely shoulder heavy responsibilities and live up to his mission.

## **Fortifying the defence of national security and safeguarding the stability and harmony of the Macao SAR**

In 2024, the MSAR Government continuously improved the mechanisms for safeguarding national security, strengthened the social and political foundation of patriotism and love for Macao, and consistently enhanced the construction of the urban security system.

The Government improved the legal system for safeguarding national security; and made further progress in supporting legislation for safeguarding national security. The Law on Guarding State Secrets, the Legal System for the Control of Weapons and Related Items and its related regulations, and the Law on Oath-taking upon Assumption of Office have come into effect. Research on improving the anti-terrorism legal system has been basically completed.

The Government continuously improved the mechanisms for safeguarding national security; fully supported the National Security Advisor and the National Security Technical Advisors in performing their statutory duties; adhered to bottom-line thinking to strengthen prevention, early warning, and targeted deployment in accordance with the law; effectively carried out anti-interference and anti-infiltration work; and effectively managed various cyber security risks.

The construction of the urban security system has been continuously improved. Comprehensive security control has been strengthened, to ensure the safe conduct of large-scale events. The sixth phase of the research and planning of the ‘Sky Eye’ camera surveillance has been completed. The construction of the maritime operations command centre has been continuously enhanced, focusing on maintaining maritime safety. The new civil defence model has been fully implemented. Regional police cooperation has been strengthened, to effectively prevent and combat various illegal and criminal activities.

In 2024 – the 10th anniversary of the holistic approach to national security, the MSAR Government and the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR jointly held the National Security Education Exhibition for the seventh consecutive time, with the theme “Holistic National Security Concept, Leading Innovation for the 10th Anniversary”. The number of visitors reached a new high, achieving excellent results with publicity and education. Citizens, social groups, youth organisations, educational institutions, public departments, and private organisations enthusiastically visited the exhibition, with the number of visits exceeding 220,000 and the dedicated webpage receiving nearly three million views. The exhibition has become the most influential national security education platform in Macao.

The Macao SAR has gradually formed a full-echelon patriotic education system, including the Patriotic Education Camp for first-year junior secondary school students to cultivate a sense of national identity; the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin Study Tour for first-year senior secondary school students, which connects to the National Defence Education Camp for the second-year junior secondary school students and the Outdoor Camp for the third-year junior secondary school students, thus forming a “national security education chain”. As regards the curriculum, higher education has achieved full coverage of courses on the Constitution and the Basic Law, and in the 2024/2025 academic year, supplementary teaching materials on ‘National Security Education’ covering universities, secondary schools, primary schools, and kindergartens were introduced to widely enhance residents’ awareness of national security and deeply cultivate the core values of patriotism and love for Macao.

## **Implementing the Central Government’s Favourable Policies for Macao and Achieving New Developments in Economic Diversification**

In 2024, the MSAR Government fully implemented a series of Central Government policies for benefiting Macao, and adopted a proactive fiscal policy to increase infrastructure investment, to expand domestic demand and promote steady economic recovery. The annual GDP reached 403.3 billion patacas, representing year-on-year growth of 8.8 percent in real terms, with the overall scale of the economy recovering to 86.4 percent of the 2019 level.