

## Optimising the transportation system and municipal facilities

The Civil Aviation Activity Law and the Road Traffic Law have been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation. The new Road Traffic Law will include stronger penalties for offences such as driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and speeding and other violations. It will also expand the mandatory use of seat belts and prohibit the use of mobile phones, other telecommunications devices, and audiovisual equipment while driving.

The annual vehicle growth rate in Macao has been kept below three percent. A total of 33 traffic improvement and efficiency enhancement projects have been completed. Several elevated pedestrian corridors and footbridges have also been brought into use, effectively improving road traffic conditions. Five hundred new taxis with licences valid for eight years have been put into operation.

Work on the second phase of the green promenade along the southern shores of the Macao peninsula has commenced, covering a total area of approximately 60,000 square metres. The project design focuses on three main themes for its functional spaces: family recreation, leisure and fitness, and waterfront scenery, providing residents with a high-quality, large-scale waterfront leisure and recreation space.

Enhancements to public wet markets are being implemented, optimising their management and business operations to revitalise their image. This work included the two-year project on renovating the Almirante Lacerda Market, which reopened to the public in the second quarter of 2024.

## Endeavouring to Improve People's Livelihoods and Enhancing the Living Standards of Macao Residents



The MSAR Government persists in upholding the principle of serving the public and has implemented the administration philosophy of “comprehensively improving the overall living standards of Macao residents”. Despite the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic posed to the economy and government revenue, the Government ensures that people’s livelihoods are given top priority. Various measures have been introduced to enhance people’s livelihoods and public spending on people’s well-being has been steadily increased. The proportion for education, healthcare, social welfare, and housing in the general integrated budget rose from 39.2 percent in 2019 to 44.8 percent in 2024, with a view to unwaveringly safeguarding and improving the well-being of Macao residents.

In 2024, the MSAR Government implemented several policy initiatives to significantly improve people’s livelihoods, including expanding welfare measures, optimising housing supply, promoting employment for residents, enhancing social security systems, and optimising healthcare services.

### **Continuing to promote welfare measures**

The MSAR Government extended various tax incentives and welfare measures to relieve the burden on the public and enhance the quality of life, with the total estimated expenditure for 2024 reaching 24.677 billion patacas, accounting for 28.07 percent of the general consolidated budget expenditure. The subsidies for the general public were budgeted at around 8.514 billion patacas in 2024, spanning the Wealth Partaking Scheme, the Medical Subsidy Scheme, the electricity bill subsidy for residential units, and the Continuing Education Programme.

Regarding social security, the Government has provided appropriate security benefits for the elderly and underprivileged sectors. In 2024, the Government continued to disburse old age allowances, pensions and disability gratuities, whilst providing free education and tuition fee subsidies to students, with an estimated expenditure of 13.063 billion patacas.

Pursuant to the law on the Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System, the Government injected a special allocation of 7,000 patacas from the budgeted surplus to individual accounts of eligible residents. This benefited about 390,000 residents, involving approximately 3.1 billion patacas.

### **Implementing the five-rung housing ladder policy**

Housing has always been a major concern of the community. The MSAR Government places a high priority on solving residents’ housing problems, and in 2024 achieved significant progress in public housing under the five-rung housing ladder policy. Over the past five years, the Government has completed six public housing projects, increasing the number of public housing units to 57,117; and more than 14,000 public housing units are under construction.

Public housing and Home-Ownership Scheme housing are the major housing components of the MSAR Government. In 2024, the Mong Son Building of the Mong Ha Public Housing project was completed, providing 1,590 residential units with commercial facilities and car parks. Regarding Home-Ownership Scheme housing, construction of the Home Ownership Scheme lots B4, B9 and B10 in New Urban Zone Area A was completed, fulfilling the demand for Home-Ownership Scheme housing applications made in 2019, with a subsidy rate of 64.5 percent.

With the increasing ageing of the population, the MSAR Government has proposed the construction of Government Housing for Senior Citizens, to help solve the housing problems of the elderly. In 2024, the Government Housing for Senior Citizens in Lot P in the Areia Preta New Reclamation Zone was completed, providing 1,815 units to satisfy demand from first-time applicants.

Under the MSAR Government's housing for the sandwich class policy, which serves as a type of buffer for the Home-Ownership Scheme housing and private property markets, a project is underway to construct sandwich-class housing on Rua Oito do Bairro lao Hon. The tender process for the foundation and basement work has been completed, and construction has begun, with the project set to create around 250 residential units.

### **Strengthening care for the elderly, young people and the underprivileged**

The MSAR Government attaches great importance to care for the elderly, women, children and the underprivileged, and has increased the number of service places. By the end of 2024, there were about 2,510 subsidised places in homes for the elderly and 505 day-care service places in Macao. Also in 2024, the Government promoted collaboration between home care and social service organisations, and launched the “Pilot Project on Support Services for Senior Citizens Living Alone”, which incorporates a step monitor mobile phone app, with staff taking the initiative to check on abnormalities when detected.

The Government continued improving healthcare services for the elderly, with the Denture Installation Programme covering all eligible senior citizens, colorectal cancer screening and cataract surgeries for the elderly, as well as the expansion of the remote out-patient services to several residential care homes for the elderly.

Regarding rehabilitation and early treatment services, the number of places increased by about 1,010 from 2019 to 2024, especially for support services for high-functioning autistic persons, and endeavoured to shorten waiting times for early treatment services for children.

Regarding education, the Government completed the revision of the Framework for Formal Education Curriculum of the Local System, promulgated the legal frameworks for Macao Polytechnic University and Macao University of Tourism, and commenced the construction of a new main building of the university.

### **Enhancing healthcare services and ensuring capability to treat serious illnesses in Macao**

With strong support and help from the nation, Macau Union Hospital became officially operational in 2024, with the aim of becoming a “national medical centre”, providing high quality medical services and nurturing medical talents, to ensure the capability of treating serious illnesses in Macao. The hospital has 26 operating theatres, with a planned capacity of over 1,000 beds, featuring advanced medical technologies.

The Government completed the construction of healthcare infrastructure, such as the Public Health Specialist Building, and launched pre-employment training for medical specialists to reserve medical and administrative staff for the new hospital.

In compliance with the Healthy China 2030 plan, in 2024 the MSAR Government formulated the Healthy Macao Blueprint, and worked with health centres to finalise the diabetes performance assessment process, thus facilitating the development of the quality assessment system for chronic disease management, in order to improve residents' health. Programmes such as “Healthy Restaurants” and “Healthy Enterprises” were launched, to encourage residents to make use of “My Health” function on the Macao One Account to enhance their personal health management capabilities.

## Legislative Assembly Fulfils Supervisory Function to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Macao

During the third session of the seventh Legislative Assembly, from 16 October 2023 to 15 October 2024, a total of 35 plenary meetings and 145 committee meetings were held, with 23 laws, one resolution and nine simple-majority resolutions passed during the plenary meetings.



### Fulfilment of legislative function:

With regard to safeguarding national security, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 20/2023 on Amendments to the Chief Executive Election Law, and Law No. 8/2024 on Amendments to Legislative Assembly Election Law, to strengthen the vetting mechanisms for candidates in both elections and improve the electoral management process;
- Law No. 9/2024 on Amendments to Law No. 4/1999 on the Law on Oath-taking upon Assumption of Office, to increase ways of oath-taking, refine oath-taking requirements