

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

and the oath administration system, and include members of the Chief Executive Election Committee as oath takers; and

- Law No. 21/2023 - Law on Guarding State Secrets, to stipulate the definition of state secrets, criteria for classifying state secrets, confidentiality measures, periods of classification, declassification procedures, and the system of penalties for contravening the law, thereby ensuring appropriate and stringent protection of state secrets.

With regard to combating crime and controlling weapons:

- Law No. 18/2023 and Law No. 16/2024 on Amendments to Law No. 17/2009 Prohibiting the Illegal Production, Trafficking and Consumption of Narcotics and Psychoactive Drugs were passed during urgent procedures, to incorporate 21 substances into the list of controlled substances in response to decisions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and society's need to align with neighbouring regions and the international community in preventing and combating drug-related crimes; and
- Law No. 12/2024 on the Legal System for the Control of Weapons and Related Items was also passed, to improve the approval system and regulatory mechanisms concerning various weapons and related items, implementing tiered management based on their threat level and clarifying the obligations and responsibilities of various entities.

With regard to the streamlining of public administration and the promotion of e-governance, the Legislative Assembly passed:

- Law No. 23/2023 on Amendments to Law No. 1/2001 - Unitary Police Service of the Macao SAR, to establish a technically and operationally independent subordinate body within the Unitary Police Service, thereby incorporating the Financial Intelligence Office into the Unitary Police Service;
- Law No. 17/2024 on Amendments to Law No. 10/2000 on the Organisational Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region, to clearly define the mission and scope of work of the Commission Against Corruption and update its investigation system;
- Law No. 2/2024 on the Vehicle Registration System, to strengthen collaboration and data interconnections among public departments, and simplify vehicle registration application procedures and required documents by implementing a fully electronic process;
- Law No. 11/2024 on Amendments to the Civil Registration Code, to implement electronic birth and death registration and marriage applications, expand the scope of consensual divorces that can be handled by the registry, and empower private notaries to officiate marriages; and
- Law No. 13/2024 on Amendments to Law No. 2/2020 - Electronic Governance Law and Law No. 5/2022 - Submission of Legal Procedure Documents and Electronic Payment of Procedural Costs, to further refine a series of administrative procedural regulations related to the promotion of e-governance and expand the application of various electronic documents and certificates.

With regard to enhancing the quality of higher education: Law No. 3/2024 on the Legal Framework for Macao Polytechnic University and Law No. 4/2024 on the Legal Framework for Macao University of Tourism were passed, thereby providing greater flexibility in academic development, daily operations, and personnel management of the two higher education institutions.

With regard to protecting labour rights: Law No. 19/2023 on Amendments to Law No. 5/2020 - Law on Minimum Wage, and Law No. 6/2024 - Union Law were passed. The former increased the rates for the minimum wage to 7,072 patacas, 1,632 patacas, 272 patacas and 34 patacas per month, week, day and hour, respectively; while the latter regulates the formation, registration, operation, rights, and obligations of trade unions.

With regard to promoting responsible gaming and strengthening the regulation of the financial services sector:

- Law No. 7/2024 on the Legal System on Regulating Credit Related to Gaming was passed, clarifying that only concessionaires can engage in gaming-related credit business, and that gaming promoters can act as agents for concessionaires in credit business through agency contracts in the name of and for the benefit of the concessionaires, while also establishing the obligations of credit entities and a penalty system; and
- Law No. 15/2024 on the Insurance Intermediary Activities Law was passed, to strengthen the supervision of insurance intermediaries in order to enhance public trust in the industry.

To address land issues arising from the transfer of government-owned properties, Law No. 14/2024 on the Transfer System for Individual Units of Home-Ownership Scheme and Housing for the Sandwich Class was passed, proposing targeted solutions to fill in gaps in the existing system.

Finally, Law No. 10/2024 on the Authorisation of the Macao Special Administrative Region's Jurisdiction over the Relevant Land and Maritime Areas Southeast of the Gongbei Port in Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province, was passed, to clarify the application of Macao laws in the relevant areas, thereby implementing a decision by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, in order to better realise Macao's jurisdiction over these areas and maximise the socio-economic benefits of the LRT East Line construction project.

All 20 above-mentioned laws were initiated by the MSAR Government.

Fulfilment of supervisory functions:

The Legislative Assembly supervised the government budget and public finances by exercising the powers enshrined in the Basic Law, including by passing Law No. 22/2023 on the 2024 Government Budget; passing Law No. 1/2024 on Amendments to Law No. 2/2018 on the Stamp Duty on Acquisition of Second and Subsequent Residential Properties, and Law No. 5/2024 on the Elimination of Tax Measures Related to Real Estate Demand Management, to ease and eventually eliminate tax and regulatory measures related to property demand; deliberating the Government's Reports on Budget Implementation for 2022 and the Commissioner of Audit's Report 2022 submitted by the Government; and hearing and discussing the 2024 Policy Address delivered by the Chief Executive.

To enhance communications and interactions between the executive and legislative systems, a question-and-answer session with the Chief Executive was held in April, for legislators to put questions to the Chief Executive on government policies and issues of public concern – such as safeguarding national security, improving the mechanism for talent development, promoting urban renewal of old districts, fostering the integration of culture, sports and tourism, accelerating Hengqin-Macao integrated development, promoting the implementation of new quality productivity, and optimising the business environment.

To better solicit and gather the views of Legislative Assembly members, the MSAR Government organised dedicated briefings and exchanges for legislators on the Master Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and the Opinions on Supporting the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin Through Relaxing Special Measures for Market Access. During the session, to strengthen communications and understanding between the executive and legislative systems, legislators were also invited to visit six key historical areas, and actively participated in a subsequent presentation session organised by the Government on revitalisation of these old areas, providing recommendations and advice for Macao's appropriate economic diversification.

During the legislative session, legislators delivered 327 pre-agenda speeches, covering safeguarding national security, strengthening patriotic education, implementing the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, intensifying the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, promoting industrial diversification, improving the system for scientific innovation, strengthening food safety supervision, and increasing the application of digital technologies. In addition, legislators raised 812 written and 97 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 to make progress with important issues regarding public administration and the applicability of related laws, and compiled seven reports on the following issues:

- Follow-up regarding the public project tender process;
- Follow-up regarding measures related to land security in the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028);
- Follow-up regarding the Government's Interim Reports on Budget Implementation for 2023;
- Follow-up regarding the Government's Reports on Investment Planning and Budget Implementation for the Second and Third Quarters of 2023;
- Follow-up regarding the Government's Reports on Investment Planning and Budget Implementation for the Fourth Quarter of 2023 and the First Quarter of 2024;
- Follow-up regarding the Current Situation and Development Prospects of the Logistics Industry in the Inner Harbour; and

- Follow-up regarding the Executive Authorities' Mechanisms for Suicide Prevention and Related Support Measures.

Other responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include listening to and fully reflecting different views, suggestions and criticisms from the public, and making prompt responses regarding public aspirations. During the session, 11 residents were personally received by legislators. The Legislative Assembly also received 128 opinions and suggestions from the public through visits, phone and email. Moreover, the Legislative Assembly received two petitions from groups, and handled these appropriately.

During the session, the Legislative Assembly Open Day was also reinstated for the first time after the pandemic, attracting a total of 2,340 visitors and 30 visiting groups. Through the Open Day, the public gained a detailed understanding of the functions, structure, and basic operations of the MSAR legislature, particularly the process of deliberating and voting on bills.

Finally, starting with this legislative session, in addition to existing e-governance development and applications – including the online meeting registration system, the Legislative Assembly electronic document receiving system, and the Legislative Assembly electronic document download system, which provide convenient and efficient services for members – the Legislative Assembly has also begun adopting the newly launched Government communication system to enhance the efficiency of personnel management.

Enhancing Mechanisms for Ensuring Integrity and Preventing Corruption, and Strengthening the Audit Team

