

- 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



In 2024, the Commission Against Corruption of Macao (CCAC) actively forged ahead with its anti-corruption work, and achieved results in preventing and combating corruption as well as perfecting its systems.

In 2024, the newly amended legal system and related administrative regulations of the CCAC came into effect, clarifying the mission and remit of the CCAC, with an emphasis on economic and financial crimes; optimising the authority of the CCAC with the added authority to collaborate with the public and private sectors to promote corruption-free operations and management; updating the investigators' management system with the introduction of a long-term service bonus; and refining the organisational structure with the addition of a new investigative department. These amendments to the laws and regulations help the CCAC to better perform its duties and safeguard the public interest.

Regarding anti-corruption, the CCAC persevered in investigating unlawful practices identified in the previous year's cases; and proactively initiated an investigation into a public fund, and referred the administrative issues and supervisory loopholes identified therein to the relevant entities so they could be rectified.

In addition, the CCAC also handled several cases involving false attendance reports by civil servants. During the year, for the first time, several integrated tourism and leisure enterprises took the initiative to report suspected bribery of their internal employees to the CCAC, reflecting a change in the community's attitude towards the handling of bribery cases in the private sector.

Regarding complaints to the ombudsman, most cases are related to public services, municipal services, and lands and public works. In line with the policy objective of encouraging self-confidence in administration, the CCAC has, during the course of investigations, made its views and stance known to the relevant departments or authorities regarding areas that need to be improved, enabling them to rectify and improve their operational mechanisms or systems in a timely and independent manner.

The CCAC has also leveraged its advantages to fully utilise its functions in combating corruption and handling cases involving administrative grievance. Regarding cases involving false sick leave, the CCAC has opened a comprehensive investigation file with the Ombudsman to follow up on these cases and made recommendations for improvements, to assist the executive authorities in tackling the problem at root and achieve the objective of continuous monitoring, to facilitate continuous enhancement of the Government's administration.

In 2024, the CCAC received 1,667 requests for assistance; and 768 complaints, reports and sources of information. Among the complaints or reports, 113 anti-corruption cases and 33 cases on file for mutual assistance were sent to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for investigation; and 147 cases were sent to the Ombudsman for investigation after merging similar cases which met the conditions for being placed on file. There were 393 cases which did not meet the conditions for being placed on file and were sent to the Complaints Management Centre for handling; 208 of these cases were directly archived and 185 were referred to the relevant departments for conducting follow-up work.

Together with the cases carried forward from 2023, the CCAC concluded a total of 263 cases in 2024. Among the 120 cases concluded by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (including 91 corruption cases and 29 mutual assistance cases), 19 have been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office, and the

remainder have been archived. Among the 143 cases concluded by the Ombudsman Bureau, there were 28 cases in which the departments concerned have improved and optimised their measures and work and given positive responses, and six cases that were included in the “retrospective review” list in order to conduct further reviews.

As regards cases involving mutual assistance, together with the cases carried forward from the previous year, the CCAC handled 62 cases in 2024; 49 of the cases were filed at the request of counterparts outside the region, 29 have been concluded, and 20 are still being followed up. Also, 13 requests for assistance with cases were made by the Macao CCAC to its counterparts outside the region, including Chinese mainland agencies and the Hong Kong ICAC.

Regarding promotion and education, the CCAC organised 622 events, talks and seminars throughout the year, attracted 41,901 participants. In 2024, the CCAC launched a new programme on promoting integrity, focusing on the essence of the law on Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector and the law on Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in External Trade. The programme included an extended training activity on integrity titled “Workshop on Value of Integrity”, and an informative programme on corruption prevention that was jointly produced with youth associations to promote the progressive development of a corruption prevention culture in the private sector.

Other major promotion and education initiatives included strengthening support for integrity education for teaching staff; and implementing the youth-oriented approach in promotion activities, to provide more opportunities for young people to directly participate in work on building integrity.

Regarding external exchanges, in 2024 the CCAC organised delegations to visit the Supervisory Commission of Liaoning Province, as well as the Supervisory Commissions of Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, and received visits from Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and overseas counterparts, thus maintaining bilateral and interregional exchanges and cooperation. In addition, the CCAC continued supporting the country’s participation in reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and sent a delegation as part of the China delegation that attended a conference on anti-corruption work held in Vienna, Austria.

In fulfilling its obligations as a member of international or regional organisations, the CCAC sent personnel to participate in online and offline meetings, forums, seminars and workshops organised by organisations including the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) of the United Nations, the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), to share experience in law enforcement with international counterparts.

In addition, the CCAC signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong, to facilitate information exchanges, and establish a long-term partnership.

In 2025, the CCAC will continue enhancing its standards, coordination and synergy, and strive to implement its various policy objectives, helping the Macao SAR to enhance the effectiveness of its governance and build an efficient and just society under the rule of law.



In 2024, the Commission on Audit (“CA”) published the performance audit report on “Barrier-free Pedestrian Facilities for Visually Impaired Persons” and the Commissioner of Audit’s Report 2023.

The performance audit report on “Barrier-free Pedestrian Facilities for Visually Impaired Persons” examined the work of the related interdepartmental group, and revealed that the group’s performance in planning, implementation and reporting was unsatisfactory, including as during the formulation of the Ten-year Plan of Rehabilitation Services 2016 - 2025, the proposals related to barrier-free pedestrian facilities for visually impaired persons were only described in general terms, without a formal document stipulating the division of work, resulting in difficulties in monitoring and assessing the work that was conducted. Also, the group failed to perform an effective review of the content of the evaluation report, resulting in the report failing to reflect the actual implementation of the work.

According to the CA, the discontinuities and dispersed nature of barrier-free facilities in Macao needed to be addressed by various departments. Regardless of whether an interdepartmental group has been set up or not, the participating departments should work towards the same objective, to ensure that public funds are reasonably utilised, whilst enabling the various types of barrier-free facilities constructed by the Government to perform their intended roles, and to provide convenience to the needy, in order to help build an inclusive society.

In accordance with Article 3 of Law No. 11/1999, requiring auditing supervision of the implementation of the budget of the MSAR Government, the Commission of Audit completed the Commissioner of Audit’s Report 2023. During the Legislative Assembly’s plenary meeting on 28 October 2024, the Commissioner of Audit explained in detail the main contents of the report, and the details of implementation.

In addition to auditing, the Commission of Audit conducted the following activities in 2024:

From 3 July to 5 July, the 8th Seminar of the Organization of the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (OISC/CPLP) was held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Representing the Commission of Audit of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China as an observer of the OISC/CPLP, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, gave a speech on the seminar's theme, "Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance", and initiated a discussion with the delegates to introduce the results of exchanges and cooperation between the National Audit Office and the Commission of Audit of Macao SAR in recent years. Mr Ho cited the important speech given by General Secretary Xi Jinping at the meeting of the Central Auditing Committee, which stressed that the basic requirement for performing sound auditing work in the new era is to establish a centralised, comprehensive, authoritative and efficient supervision system for auditing; the government's audit work should be commanding, pervasive, and impactful, to strengthen the management and control of audit quality, deepen and implement research-based auditing, and enhance the supervisory function of auditing, thereby providing strong and effective auditing services for Macao's high-quality development.

As a member of the China Audit Delegation, the Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, attended the 16th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions held in New Delhi, India, from 21 September to 27 September. During the assembly, Mr Ho exchanged views on the assembly's theme and the management and development of audit authorities with the Commissioner of Audit of the National Audit Office, the Director of Audit of Hong Kong Audit Commission and leading officials from the audit authorities of various Asian countries.

In 2024, the Commission of Audit sent delegations to participate in the following United Nations audit projects organised by the National Audit Office:

- March and October – participated in training newly-appointed United Nations auditors in Beijing, organised by the Office of the United Nations Audit Committee Members Working Group of the National Audit Office;
- April – participated in the final audit project of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility for the financial year 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya; and
- November – participated in the audit work of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, the United States.

Regarding training, the CA is committed to strengthening the audit team and implementing the policy objective of promoting good governance through auditing. Also, through organising targeted training activities, the CA has further examined issues beneficial to improving the system for auditing and the promotion of reforms. To help achieve these goals, on 6 November and 7 November, experts from the National Audit Office were invited to Macao to exchange experience in corporate auditing, financial auditing and big data auditing, through seminars. Apart from introducing the relevant technologies, the delegation also shared their experience with case studies and the latest development trend.

On 2 December and 3 December, the CA invited experts from the Beijing Municipal Audit Bureau to Macao to discuss and share practical experience on topics such as performance auditing, engineering investment auditing and data analysis auditing, and to encourage auditors to actively learn new auditing concepts and effective work approaches.

Regarding promotion and publicity, to enhance the public's understanding of the Government's auditing work, the CA introduced its work to members of the Youth Committee of the Macau Civil

Servants Federation during their visit to the Commission of Audit. In addition, the CA continued promoting the importance of optimising the utilisation of public resources to public administration staff, to boost their awareness of audit supervision.

## Enhancing Efficiency of Legal Proceedings, and Performing Prosecution Duties in Accordance with the Law



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

2024	Court of Final Appeal	Court of Appeal	Base Court (including the Examining Magistracy)	Administrative Court	Total
Cases admitted	163	1,004	18,024	86	19,277
Cases concluded	132	1,112	17,463	92	18,799
Cases pending	100	329	13,499	85	14,013

The majority of the cases in the three-tier court system were criminal cases and criminal labour cases, which totalled 6,115 (excluding Examining Magistracy cases). Ranking second were civil and