

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

labour cases, which totalled 4,119. There were also 247 administrative cases, and 8,796 other cases.

Law promotion and legal consulting services

To strengthen 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 judicial approaches and methods for settling various disputes. As at the end of 2024, an accumulated total of 1,156 articles had been released, 83 of which were released in 2024.

Summary of consulting services provided by the Base Court in 2024:

2024	Criminal Courts	Civil Courts	Small Claims Court	Total
Total number of inquiries	1,807	4,254	1,349	7,410
Number of cases	1,773	3,747	1,349	6,869
Number of cases directly handled by the information centre	1,701	3,571	1,349	6,621
Number of cases transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office	71	130	---	201
Number of cases transferred to other departments	0	46	---	46
Number of telephone inquiries	478	970	---	1,448

Legal assistance and enforcement

Regarding delivery of judicial writs and assistance in investigations and evidence collection in civil and commercial cases, in 2024 the Court of Final Appeal received 304 judicial writs from mainland courts, and delivered 125 judicial writs to mainland courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

In 2024, the Court of Appeal received 40 requests for reviewing and endorsing judgments made by mainland courts or arbiters; 22 judgments endorsed by the Court of Appeal were sent to the Base Court for enforcement. The Base Court received one request under the “Arrangements Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings between the Chinese Mainland and the Macao Special Administrative Region”.

The MSAR Government and the HKSAR Government signed the “Arrangements Concerning Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Hong Kong Special

Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region” in January 2013, which officially came into effect on 16 December 2013. As at the end of 2024, the Court of Appeal had accepted nine cases requesting the confirmation of arbitral awards.

In addition, the MSAR Government and the HKSAR Government signed the “Arrangements 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, which officially came into effect on 1 August 2020. As at the end of 2024, the Court of Final Appeal had received 63 judicial writs from Hong Kong courts and delivered 97 judicial writs to Hong Kong courts on behalf of courts in Macao.

Declarations of assets and interests

In 2024, the Court of Final Appeal followed the provisions in Law No.11/2003, which had been amended by Law No.1/2013, in the process of receiving individuals for the declaration of assets and interests. It opened 163 individual dossiers, processed 2,079 documents for the declaration of assets and interests that involved 1,777 people, and organised and updated the contents of the individual dossiers according to the law.

In accordance with the provisions of the same law, the Office of the Court of Final Appeal ensures that the public can access the contents of Part IV of the declaration of assets through the official website of the Courts of Macao. In 2024, the disclosure documents (Part IV) of 469 individual dossiers involving 355 people were published online and could be retrieved. A total of 2,566 disclosure documents involving 1,092 people have been published online and can be retrieved.

Summary of the work in 2024 by and outlook for the MSAR courts

In the past judicial year, Macao’s three-tier court system operated smoothly, and the number of cases handled continued to follow the upward trend seen after the end of the pandemic.

Since the end of the pandemic, criminal cases arising from gambling-related activities have been rising. It is believed that this situation is closely related to Macao’s economic recovery, the gradual increase in tourist arrivals, and the revival of related industries.

Fraud-related crimes remain at a high level, particularly telecommunications network scams that involve impersonating “public security, procuratorate, and judiciary” personnel, and phone scams targeting the elderly. Crimes involving telecommunications networks often have a cross-boundary nature, complicating investigations, and it is often challenging to trace their origins back to the criminal groups. On the other hand, the number of cases involving “money exchange gangs” decreased in the past judicial year, which is largely related to the comprehensive efforts by mainland public security authorities to combat illegal cross-boundary currency exchange activities.

In addition, there was a significant increase in judicial assistance requests between Macao and the Chinese mainland, as well as cases requesting the confirmation of judgments by the Chinese mainland. The majority of judicial writs from mainland courts were from courts in Guangdong Province, particularly from the nine cities within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, especially the People’s Court of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone

in Hengqin.

In 2024, in addition to performing judicial functions in accordance with the law, the MSAR courts also carried out the following:

- I. Promotion of judicial reform with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of legal proceedings and improving the quality of trials. The MSAR courts actively cooperated with the Government in the legislative process for the mediation system for family cases, hoping to achieve the goals of diversified dispute resolution and appropriate diversion of family affairs cases through the establishment of a mandatory pre-trial mediation procedure;
- II. Actively carried out external judicial assistance and judicial exchanges. Judicial exchanges with other countries and regions were strengthened by participating in the Supreme Court Presidents Conference of Portuguese-speaking Countries and Regions, as well as the Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific. Furthermore, the MSAR courts placed particular emphasis on exchanges with the courts of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In March 2024, a delegation from the MSAR courts conducted a series of focused visits to nine courts or tribunals in the Greater Bay Area, engaging in in-depth discussions on topics such as further improving the judicial assistance mechanism between Guangdong and Macao, intensifying judicial exchanges and cooperation between the two regions, simplifying judicial assistance procedures, mutually learning from rules for legal proceedings, expanding channels for finding facts related to the law, and establishing a long-term mechanism for exchanging information on cases.

In future, the MSAR courts will facilitate a pilot programme at the People's Court of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin by appointing Macao judges as non-permanent judges, who will form joint panels with Chinese mainland judges to hear civil and commercial cases involving Macao.

To further expedite the handling of civil cases, a new civil court will be established. This new court will help reduce the workload of existing courts, shorten the time required for scheduling civil cases, and ensure the timely protection of public interests.

To enhance the quality and efficiency of trials, the provision of assistants to judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal will be considered, aiming to improve the quality of trials, achieve efficient operation of legal proceedings, and alleviate the pressure on making judicial decisions.

In addition, the digitalisation of the litigation processes will continue, with plans to launch electronic exchanges of official documents between the courts and government departments, as well as to introduce electronic notifications and electronic certificate services by the courts in 2025, to improve the efficiency of document transmissions and provide more convenient services to the public.

Furthermore, close cooperation with the National Judges College will be continued, with national affairs training classes to be held in the mainland. These programmes aim to deepen judges' and judicial support staff's understanding of national affairs, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and the "One country, two

systems” principle, thereby ensuring the accurate implementation of “One country, two systems” in Macao.

Efforts will also be made to actively review and revise the promotion and training systems, as well as the additional remuneration scheme for judicial support staff. This aims to motivate staff enthusiasm and enhance efficiency, while ensuring rational use of public resources, thereby contributing to the stable operation of the entire judicial system.



Regarding the main function of the Public Prosecutions Office, in 2024 the number of criminal cases was 15,840, 13.7 percent higher than the figure of 13,931 cases in 2023, marking the highest number of criminal cases filed in any year to date. Also, 14,722 cases were concluded, 18 percent more than the 12,476 cases concluded in the previous year. Among them, 3,671 cases resulted in prosecutions following investigations, while 10,622 cases were archived due to reasons such as victims being unwilling to take the cases further, insufficient evidence, and inability to determine the identity of offenders after investigations; the figures are 8.19 percent and 20.59 percent higher than in the previous year, respectively. A total of 7,460 cases were carried over from 2023 to 2024, representing an increase of 32.15 percent compared to 5,645 cases carried over from 2022 to 2023.

The number of cases reopened due to discovery of new evidence was 264, representing a decrease of 23.7 percent compared to 346 cases in the previous year. This indicates a gradual reduction in the reopening of archived cases, due to a reduction in a “backlog” of numbers of individuals involved having to enter Macao to make reports to the authorities, following the resumption of normal boundary crossings.

A data analysis reveals that the top five categories of crimes in terms of numbers of cases prosecuted in 2024 were as follows:

1. 4,946 cases of offences against property (theft, robbery, damage, etc.), up 17.12 percent year-on-year;
2. 3,152 cases of offences against assets (various types of fraud, extortion, etc.), up 9.79 percent year-on-year;
3. 1,696 cases of offences involving physical assault, up 22.10 percent year-on-year;
4. 999 cases of offences related to violation of road traffic laws, up 11.25 year-on-year; and
5. 981 cases of computer crime, up 83.71 percent year-on-year.

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

- 857 illegal immigration and immigration-related crimes, down 15.04 percent year-on-year;
- 437 cases of illegal gambling, up 163.25 percent year-on-year;
- 378 cases of forgery, up 19.24 percent year-on-year;
- 240 cases crimes against personal freedom, such as threats and imprisonment, up 17.65 percent year-on-year; and
- 239 cases of infringement of sexual freedom and self-determination, down 4.02 percent year-on-year.

In 2024, the Public Prosecutions Office conducted a series of tasks to ensure that courts proceed according to the law. It also lawfully fulfilled its functions regarding civil and labour matters, including labour rights, parental authority, social protection, guardianship, adoption, incompetence, and bankruptcy.

In terms of criminal prosecutions, in addition to routine tasks such as acting as prosecutors in court and participating in the enforcement process, the Public Prosecutions Office at the Base Court filed 45 appeals against Base Court judgments during the year, and responded to 468 criminal appeals filed by parties involved in criminal cases.

Regarding civil and labour litigation, the Public Prosecutions Office at the Base Court participated in 962 civil cases, representing a 7.61 percent increase compared to 894 cases in the previous year. It also participated in 380 labour cases, marking a 15.56 percent decrease compared to 450 cases in the previous year.

Cases involving labour litigation are summarised as follows:

- 277 newly initiated cases involving work accidents and occupational health, representing a 3.48 percent decrease compared to 287 cases in the previous year. The Public Prosecutions Office attempted mediation for 285 of the labour litigation cases, with 13 cases proceeding to litigation after failure to agree on mediation.
- 103 ordinary labour litigation cases were newly initiated, representing a 36.81 percent

decrease compared to 163 cases in the previous year. Among these, the Public Prosecutions Office conducted 84 mediations, with 30 cases proceeding to litigation after mediation agreements were not reached.

- During 2024, 368 workers were involved in the successful mediation procedures conducted by the Public Prosecution Office, 21.37 percent less than in the previous year.

In 2024, a total of 1,435 pre-litigation cases concerning parental authority, association statutes, social protection, and other matters were opened, with 1,373 of these cases completed. Additionally, 779 procedures were initiated, including for the execution of litigation costs, tax settlements, and interdiction proceedings. The Public Prosecutions Office also provided 1,901 legal consultations to citizens. These figures are little changed from those in 2023.

In 2024, the Office of the Administrative Court at the Public Prosecutions Office participated in 78 newly opened administrative, tax, and customs cases, representing a slight decrease of 4.88 percent compared to 82 cases in the previous year. These included 47 judicial appeals, 15 litigation cases, one case involving urgent procedures, 11 cases of objection to administration of taxation, three litigation procedures on behalf of the Public Prosecutions Office, and one case involving another procedure. The case volumes for each type of litigation were broadly similar to those in the previous year.

In 2024, the Public Prosecutions Office before the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal participated in 1,011 criminal (including misdemeanours related to traffic and labour), civil and commercial (including labour civil litigation), and administrative proceedings of the Court of Appeal, in the Court of Appeal, representing a 7.32 percent increase compared to 942 cases in the previous year. It also participated in a total of 155 cases in the Court of Final Appeal, representing a 32.48 percent increase from 117 cases in the previous year.

In 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General's work mainly covered the following:

- 1) Ensured the administrative and financial operations of the Public Prosecutions Office were in accordance with the law, and provided technical support to judicial officers;
- 2) Coordinated and promoted information technology infrastructure development of the Public Prosecutions Office;
- 3) Submitted 11 legal advice documents and reports to the Chief Executive, in accordance with the instructions of the Prosecutor General and at the request of the Chief Executive;
- 4) Provided 115 external documents with legal advice or responses to legal consultations;
- 5) Opened 55 international and regional judicial assistance cases;
- 6) Handled 1,056 inquiries regarding litigation procedures;
- 7) Represented the Public Prosecutions Office in 178 opening of public tenders; and
- 8) Organised 68 external exchange activities for the Public Prosecutions Office.

The overall work of the Public Prosecutions Office of the Macao SAR in 2024 can be summarised as follows:

- (1) The total number of newly registered criminal cases reached a historical high, with the incidence of various crime categories generally increasing compared to the previous year, indicating a relatively clear trend of more active criminal activity. In response to the new public security situation arising from the rising number of cases, the Public Prosecutions Office, in close cooperation with the security authorities, actively enhanced the quality and efficiency of its work. As a result, the overall social order and public security in the SAR remained stable and peaceful;
- (2) Numbers of fraud cases continued rising, accounting for over one-sixth of the total number of criminal cases initiated, posing a severe threat to society. The Public Prosecutions Office will continue to work closely with security authorities and all sectors of society, strengthen judicial cooperation with the Chinese mainland and overseas jurisdictions, and enhance efforts in prevention and enforcement to rigorously combat this trend;
- (3) Crimes related to gaming activities saw a significant increase. Given the importance of the integrated tourism and leisure industry to the Macao SAR's economic development, it is essential to strengthen prevention and control efforts, eliminate potential risks, and ensure healthy and orderly development environment for the integrated tourism and leisure industry;
- (4) Cases involving sexual assault of minors have declined, with an increase in self-reported instances by minors, indicating that related enforcement and preventive education measures have had some effect. However, the number of serious sexual offense cases has risen significantly. Investigations suggest that a considerable portion of these cases may be linked to prostitution-related activities. Therefore, it is necessary to further strengthen measures targeting the control of prostitution and related illegal activities, in order to further improve the safety and security of society;
- (5) The overall number of drug-related cases have generally declined, and no cases involving minors were recorded, indicating that anti-drug measures and educational campaigns have achieved a certain level of effectiveness. However, law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities must remain vigilant, to strictly prevent and curb any emerging signs of this serious social threat;
- (6) In 2024, the Public Prosecutions Office closely aligned its work with the new developments and requirements for improving the legal framework for safeguarding national security in the Macao SAR, and actively strengthened the operational mechanisms for fulfilling its statutory duties in safeguarding national security;
- (7) The Public Prosecutions Office followed up regarding the trial proceedings of three major criminal cases in accordance with the law: the "Suncity" case, the "Tak Chun" case, and the corruption case involving former officials at the Public Works and Transport Bureau. Following the final judgements in these cases, the Public Prosecutions Office has been fully committed to enforcing them, further upholding judicial justice and the public interest in the Macao SAR;
- (8) The number of reports and cases related to money laundering criminal activities has increased. The Public Prosecutions Office continues to strengthen cooperation with other

functional departments to effectively combat financial crimes such as money laundering, monitor the risks of money laundering, and prepare for related assessments by international organisations;

- (9) There has been a reduction in demand for services related to international and regional judicial assistance cases. Through participation in negotiations for the Macao SAR's agreements on foreign judicial assistance and representing the SAR in technical exchange activities with international judicial cooperation organisations, the Public Prosecutions Office supports and facilitates the SAR's efforts to expand its scope of judicial cooperation in various fields;
- (10) Successfully hosted the 57th Executive Committee Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors, ensuring the representation of the "One China" sovereignty principle within the International Association of Prosecutors. The event also showcased the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy and the sound legal environment and development achievements of the Macao SAR;
- (11) The Public Prosecutions Office strengthened the supervision of law enforcement, the protection of public interest, and the safeguarding of the legitimate rights and interests of specific vulnerable groups such as workers and minors. The Public Prosecutions Office has assisted over 1,000 workers in obtaining more than 82 million patacas in wage compensation, effectively ensuring the protection of labour rights;
- (12) Combining judicial practice with internal research, the Public Prosecutions Office provided prosecutorial opinions on legislative, amendment-related, and other legal matters to the administrative authorities through various means. It actively participated in and promoted development of Macao SAR's legal system, jointly building a legal framework that aligns with the new trends in social development;
- (13) The Public Prosecutions Office further improved and perfected its internal operational oversight mechanism by implementing concrete measures such as strengthening supervisory responsibilities, optimising procedural guidelines, clarifying the scope of authority and responsibilities, incorporating technological support, and enhancing internal education and awareness, to ensure the quality and efficiency of prosecutorial and judicial work; and
- (14) Accelerated the development of prosecutorial informatisation by building internal digital applications and management systems within the Public Prosecutions Office, establishing internal data connectivity and sharing mechanisms to enhance the efficiency of prosecutorial work, and continuously implementing judicial services that facilitate public access.