

1

# **POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTRATION**



## **Political Structure**

### **Macao People Governing Macao with a High Degree of Autonomy**

Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 20 December 1999. The MSAR's constitutional document, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, also came into force on the same day.

The Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region establishes, at the highest level of legal authority, the guidelines and policies of the Central People's Government regarding Macao. It stipulates the system to be practised in Macao, and lays down the political and administrative framework of the MSAR for 50 years from 1999.

The systems and policies of the MSAR – including its social and economic systems; safeguards for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its residents; the executive, legislature and judiciary; and Government policies – are all based on the provisions of the Basic Law.

Under the Basic Law, the MSAR is entitled to a high degree of autonomy in all areas except defence and foreign affairs. It enjoys executive autonomy, legislative autonomy, an independent judiciary and the right to final adjudication. The executive and the legislature of the MSAR comprise only permanent Macao residents.

The MSAR maintains the status of free port and independent tariff region, along with the free flow of capital and the freedom of operations of financial institutions. It may, under the name "Macao, China", independently maintain, develop relations with and sign agreements with various countries, regions and international organisations in fields such as the economy, trade, finance, transportation, communications, tourism, culture and sports.

The principles of "One country, two systems", "Macao people governing Macao" and a high degree of autonomy have been infused into Macao's social and political culture.

"Macao people governing Macao" means that the people of Macao are in charge of their own affairs. Macao's Chief Executive, principal officials, members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly, the President of the Court of Final Appeal and the Prosecutor General shall be permanent residents, and some of these positions may only be assumed by permanent residents of Macao who are also Chinese citizens.

"A high degree of autonomy" means that the National People's Congress (NPC) authorises the MSAR to exercise a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the Basic Law, and that the central government will not interfere in affairs that fall within the autonomy of the MSAR. The MSAR enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power and the power of final adjudication, as well as other powers authorised by the NPC, the Standing Committee of the NPC and the Central People's Government.

However, a high degree of autonomy does not mean full autonomy. In order to maintain a unified China and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the Central People's Government retains certain essential powers – for example, the Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's foreign affairs and defence.

## Chief Executive

The Chief Executive is the head of the MSAR and is accountable to the Central People's Government and the MSAR.

The Chief Executive is charged with the responsibility of:

- Leading the MSAR Government;
- Implementing the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and other laws applicable to Macao subject to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region;
- Signing bills passed by the Legislative Assembly and promulgating laws;
- Signing budgets passed by the Legislative Assembly and reporting those budgets and final accounts to the Central People's Government for the record;
- Making decisions on Government policies and issuing executive orders;
- Formulating by-laws and promulgating them for implementation;
- Nominating candidates for the Central People's Government's appointment of the following principal officials: Secretaries, Commissioner Against Corruption, Commissioner of Audit, and leading officials of the Police and Macao Customs Service;
- Recommending to the Central People's Government the removal of the above officials;
- Appointing a proportion of the members of the Legislative Assembly;
- Appointing and removing members of the Executive Council;
- Appointing or removing presidents and judges of the court at all levels and prosecutors through legal procedures;
- Nominating candidates for the Central People's Government's appointment of the Prosecutor General and recommending his or her removal;
- Appointing or removing civil servants through legal procedures;
- Executing the orders on related affairs issued by the Central People's Government in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao SAR;
- Addressing external affairs and other affairs on behalf of the MSAR Government as authorised by the Central People's Government;
- Approving motions regarding fiscal revenue and expenditure proposed to the Legislative Assembly;
- Deciding whether government officials and other civil servants concerned shall testify and give evidence before the Legislative Assembly or its subordinate committees in accordance with the needs of the security and major public interests of the country and the Macao SAR;
- Awarding medals and honorary titles of the Macao SAR according to the law;
- Pardoning persons convicted of criminal offences or commuting their penalties according to the law; and
- Handling petitions and complaints.

The Chief Executive of the first and second MSAR Governments was Edmund Ho Hau Wah; the Chief Executive of the third and fourth MSAR Governments was Chui Sai On; the Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government was Ho Iat Seng, and the Chief Executive of the sixth MSAR Government is Sam Hou Fai.

## **The Executive Council**

The Executive Council assists the Chief Executive in policymaking. Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that, except for the appointment, removal and disciplining of officials and the adoption of emergency measures, the Chief Executive shall consult with the Executive Council before making important policy decisions, introducing bills to the Legislative Assembly, formulating by-laws or dissolving the Legislative Assembly. If the Chief Executive does not accept a majority opinion of the Executive Council, the specific reasons should be put on record.

Article 57 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be composed of 7 to 11 Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of the MSAR. The Chief Executive shall appoint them from among principal officials, members of the Legislative Assembly and other public figures. The Chief Executive shall decide the appointment or removal of Executive Council members. The term of office of each member shall not last beyond that of the Chief Executive who appoints them, but existing members shall remain in place until the new Chief Executive takes office.

Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region stipulates that the Executive Council shall be presided over by the Chief Executive and meet at least once a month. The proceedings of the Executive Council meetings are confidential, but a spokesperson announces important decisions to the public.

The first- and second-term Chief Executive Edmund Ho appointed 10 members to the Executive Council in both his terms.

The Chief Executive of the third and fourth MSAR Governments, Chui Sai On, appointed 11 members to the Executive Council during his two terms in office.

The Chief Executive of the fifth MSAR Government, Ho Iat Seng, appointed 11 members to the Executive Council.

The Chief Executive of the sixth MSAR Government, Sam Hou Fai, likewise appointed 11 members to the Executive Council: one secretary, three members of the Legislative Assembly and seven public figures.

## **The Legislature**

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the MSAR enjoys legislative autonomy and the Legislative Assembly is its sole legislature.

The Macao SAR has full legislative autonomy, which embodies and guarantees Macao's high degree of autonomy. The legislative power of Macao is exercised solely by the Legislative Assembly.

No other body or entity has legislative power. Laws formulated by the Legislative Assembly shall conform to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Legislative Assembly exercises its legislative power and supervisory power under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

## **Legislative Authority**

The term “legislative authority” broadly refers to the power to formulate general and abstract laws that are applicable to the MSAR and its residents. More specifically, the powers of the Legislative Assembly include the right to make laws, the right to amend laws, the right to suspend the execution of laws, and the right to abolish laws.

According to the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Assembly members and the Government have the right to introduce bills and propose amendments. The Government has exclusive sponsorship rights in the four following respects: electoral law for the Legislative Assembly, public income and expenditure, political structure and Government operation.

Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly shall come into effect only after being signed and promulgated by the Chief Executive.

## **Supervisory Authority and Other Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly include: examining and passing budgets introduced by the Government; examining the Government’s reports on budget implementation; deciding on Government motions on taxation; approving debts to be taken on by the Government; and debating the Chief Executive’s policy addresses.

The term “issue of public interest” encompasses all aspects of Macao society; the Legislative Assembly may hold meetings to discuss such issues, and may require relevant Government officials to attend those meetings.

The Legislative Assembly receives and handles residents’ complaints; it receives complaints concerning the existing legal system, but it does not directly handle individual cases or applications for legal consultations.

The Legislative Assembly also has the authority to impeach the Chief Executive.

When exercising the above-mentioned powers, the Legislative Assembly may summon, as required, persons to testify or give evidence.

Moreover, members of the Legislative Assembly are also entitled to address enquiries regarding the Government’s work.

## **Composition and Term of Office of the Legislative Assembly**

Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be permanent residents of the MSAR. The majority of

them are elected and the term of office, except for the first term, is four years.

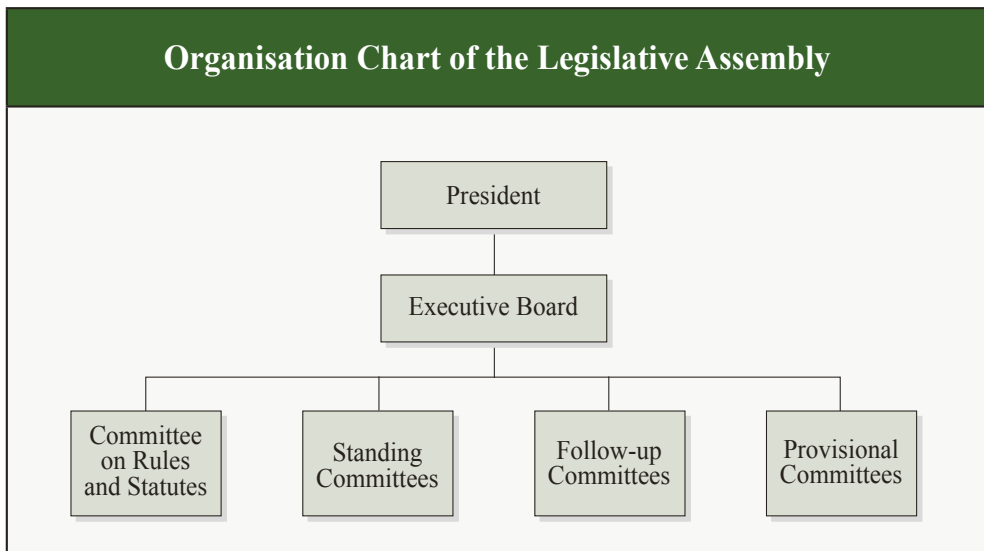
The first Legislative Assembly of the MSAR had 23 members, eight of whom were elected directly, eight indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term of office expired on 15 October 2001. The second Legislative Assembly had 27 members, 10 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. Their term expired in 2005. The third and the fourth Legislative Assemblies likewise had 29 members, 12 of whom were elected directly, 10 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive. The fifth Legislative Assembly has 33 members, 14 of whom are elected directly, 12 indirectly and seven appointed by the Chief Executive; so too will subsequent Legislative Assemblies. However, the aforementioned does not apply to the amendments made through legal procedures to the method for forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Legislative Assembly has one president and one vice president, elected by and from among its members. The president and vice president shall be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of Macao and who have ordinary residence in Macao for at least 15 consecutive years.

### Structure and Operation of the Legislative Assembly

The structure of the Legislative Assembly comprises the president, the Executive Board, the Committee on Rules and Statutes, standing committees, follow-up committees and provisional committees. The president represents the Legislative Assembly and leads and coordinates the assembly’s work. The president performs his or her duties in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

Each Legislative Assembly usually serves four sessions. Each session lasts one year, normally from 16 October to 15 August of the following year. The Legislative Assembly uses Chinese and Portuguese, Macao’s two official languages.



## **Administrative Agencies and Technical Support Offices**

The administrative agencies of the Legislative Assembly include the president, the Executive Board and the Administrative Committee, all of which are responsible for the administrative affairs of the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly's technical support offices report directly to the Executive Board. If the term of the Legislative Assembly expires or if the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Executive Board shall retain its responsibilities until the first meeting of the new Legislative Assembly. The technical support offices are led by the president and the Executive Board, and they report directly to the secretary-general. The technical support offices are divided into sections to handle different portfolios and to provide the administrative agencies and members of the Legislative Assembly with technical and administrative support.

## **The Legislative Assembly's Public Feedback System**

The Legislative Assembly has established a public feedback system to collect opinions, suggestions and criticisms concerning legislation, Government activities, policies and other issues of public interest. The system also aims to explain the work of the Legislative Assembly and help citizens to exercise their rights to submit petitions and make complaints.

Citizens may voice their opinions via the feedback system in person or by telephone, post, fax or e-mail. Public reception is available during normal hours of government service.

In addition, legislators receive citizens by appointment at the Legislative Assembly building from noon to 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Legislators make themselves available according to a roster compiled by the Legislative Assembly.

## **Electoral Law**

Macao's electoral system is based on Law No. 12/2000 – the Voter Registration Law (as amended by Law No. 9/2008) – and Law No. 3/2001 – the Legislative Assembly Election Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (as amended by Laws Nos. 11/2008, 12/2012, 9/2016, and 8/2024). The two laws govern the direct and indirect elections of the Legislative Assembly, and the appointment of legislators as prescribed in Annex II (1) of the Basic Law.

The Voter Registration Law contains 60 articles, which govern the voter registration procedures for natural persons and legal persons, whereas the Legislative Assembly Election Law contains 222 articles, which govern the direct and indirect elections of members of the Legislative Assembly.

## **Electoral System for the Legislative Assembly**

Under the Legislative Assembly Election Law, there are direct and indirect elections.

In direct elections, any individual aged 18 years or older who is a permanent resident of the MSAR may, after registration under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 14 directly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.



In indirect elections, representatives of legal persons who are confirmed as members of the relevant sectors for at least four years may, after being registered with and given legal personality by the Identification Services Bureau for at least seven years under the Voter Registration Law, vote for the 12 indirectly elected members of the Legislative Assembly.

Under the two election systems, the method used for converting the number of votes into seats in the Legislative Assembly is as follows: the first candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to the number of votes recorded for that list. The second candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to half the number of votes recorded for that list. The third candidate on each list receives a quotient equal to a quarter of the number of votes recorded for that list, and so on. Legislative Assembly seats are then awarded to the candidates who, among all lists, have the highest quotients. As regards the assignment of the final seat: if two candidates from different lists have equal quotients, the seat shall be given to the candidate from the list that has yet to win a seat. If both lists have won one or more seats, the seat shall be given to the list that received the most votes. If both lists have won the same number of votes, the winner of the seat shall be determined by the open drawing of lots.

The Chief Executive shall appoint seven legislators to the Legislative Assembly within 15 days of receiving the final verified results, as stipulated in Clause 2 of Article 133 of the Legislative Assembly Election Law.

### **Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election**

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election is responsible for promoting, coordinating and supervising the elections of the Legislative Assembly.

The members of the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election are appointed by the Chief Executive. The commission has one chairman and at least five members, appointed from among appropriately qualified permanent residents of the Macao SAR. The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau provides support to the commission.

### **The Judiciary**

The courts of the MSAR have judicial autonomy. They are subordinate only to the law and are guaranteed to be free from any interference. The MSAR has a Court of First Instance, a Court of Appeal and a Court of Final Appeal. The power of final adjudication is vested in the Court of Final Appeal.

The Court of First Instance may, when necessary, establish special courts. The original system of Examining Magistracy has been maintained since the establishment of the MSAR.

The MSAR also has an Administrative Court, which is responsible for administrative and tax litigation. Defendants and plaintiffs who find the ruling of this court unsatisfactory can file an appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Judges at all levels are appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of an independent commission composed of local judges, lawyers and prominent members of the community. The Chief Executive appoints the presidents of the courts from among the judges.

The President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. Any appointment or removal of the President of the Court of Final Appeal shall be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record.

The Public Prosecutions Office is independent and free from interference, as defined by law.

The Prosecutor General shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. He or she shall be nominated by the Chief Executive and appointed by the Central People's Government. Other prosecutors shall be nominated by the Prosecutor General and appointed by the Chief Executive. The structure, powers, functions and remit of the Public Prosecutions Office are prescribed by law.

## **Relationship between the MSAR and the Central Government**

The MSAR is a local administrative region with a high degree of autonomy under the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. No department, province, autonomous region or municipality under the Central People's Government may interfere in the MSAR's internal affairs as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Any person from another province, autonomous region or municipality must apply for an entry permit to enter Macao. If there is a need for a central government department, province, autonomous region or municipality to set up an office in Macao, they must obtain the consent of the MSAR Government and the approval of the Central People's Government.

The Central People's Government is responsible for the MSAR's defence and foreign affairs. However, it authorises the MSAR to conduct certain external affairs on its own, under the name of "Macao, China" as specified in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Central People's Government appoints and removes the Chief Executive, principal officials and the Public Prosecutor-General.

Laws enacted by the legislature of the MSAR must be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for the record. However, such reporting shall not affect the entry into force of such laws.

National laws shall not be applied in the MSAR except the following, which shall be promulgated or legislated by the MSAR.

The national laws applicable in the MSAR as of 2024 were:

- Resolution on the Capital, Calendar, National Anthem and National Flag of the People's Republic of China;
- Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China;
- Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities;
- Regulations of the People's Republic of China Concerning Consular Privileges and Immunities;

- Law of the People’s Republic of China on the National Flag;
- Law of the People’s Republic of China on the National Emblem;
- Law of the People’s Republic of China on Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone;
- Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf;
- Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China;
- Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Immunity of the Property of Foreign Central Banks from Judicial Compulsory Measures; and
- Law of the People’s Republic of China on the National Anthem.

The MSAR has no jurisdiction over acts of state such as defence and foreign affairs.

Chinese citizens who are residents of the MSAR are entitled to participate in the management of state affairs according to law.

### **Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the MSAR**

As a working agency stationed in Macao by the Central People’s Government, the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the MSAR shall, in the light of the principles of “One country, two systems” and “Macao people governing Macao”, support the SAR Government in administration in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, and be responsible for liaison between the Chinese mainland and Macao.

The liaison office is responsible for contacting the MSAR Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the People’s Liberation Army Macao Garrison; contacting and assisting mainland authorities in managing mainland Chinese-funded organisations in Macao; promoting social and economic exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese mainland and Macao; reporting to the Central People’s Government the opinions of Macao people about the Chinese mainland; handling Taiwan-related affairs in the MSAR; and handling any other matters assigned by the Central People’s Government.

In addition, the liaison office shall, through various channels, promote ties with all social segments in Macao, pay attention to development and stability issues, and provide assistance wherever necessary.

### **Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region**

Under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Central People’s Government is responsible for handling foreign affairs related to the MSAR. To this end, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the MSAR was established on 20 December 1999.

The duties of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the MSAR are:

- Handling foreign affairs issues related to the MSAR that are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government;
- Handling and coordinating affairs related to the MSAR's participation in international organisations and conferences; issues concerning international organisations and associations that establish branch offices in the MSAR; and matters related to inter-governmental conferences to be held in the MSAR;
- Handling matters concerning the application of international treaties in the MSAR; and assisting with issues concerning the Central People's Government's processing of authorisation for the MSAR Government to negotiate bilateral agreements with foreign countries;
- Coordinating and handling issues related to the establishment of foreign consular bodies, or other official and semi-official organisations in the MSAR, and dealing with relevant consular affairs; and
- Handling any other responsibilities assigned to it by the Central People's Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison

The People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison took up its role in Macao on 20 December 1999, with the establishment of the MSAR.

According to the Garrison Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Macao garrison is responsible for the defence of Macao without interfering in the local affairs of the MSAR. The MSAR Government may, if necessary, ask the Central People's Government for assistance from the Macao garrison in maintaining social order and relieving natural disasters. The Macao garrison has strictly observed the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Garrison Law, loyally fulfilled its duty, strengthened exchanges with various sectors of Macao society, and actively participated in charitable activities.

## Executive Structure

The MSAR Government is the executive authority of the MSAR. The Chief Executive is the head of the Government, supported by secretariats, bureaux, departments and divisions.

**Secretariats:** there are five secretariats in the Government, namely the Secretariat for Administration and Justice, the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, the Secretariat for Security, the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, and the Secretariat for Transport and Public Works. Each is headed by a secretary. The secretaries, in the above order of seniority, stand in for the Chief Executive when the Chief Executive is unable to perform his or her duties.

**Bureaux:** units directly under the secretariats, performing designated functions.

**Departments:** units affiliated to the bureaux, responsible for establishing operational procedures.

**Divisions:** units affiliated to the bureaux or departments, responsible for operational duties.

The Government structure includes affiliated units, such as teams and sections.

The principal officials of the Government are the secretaries, the Commissioner Against Corruption, the Commissioner of Audit, and leading police and customs service officials. Principal officials of the MSAR shall be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of Macao and have ordinarily resided in Macao for a continuous period of not less than 15 years.

The Government is responsible for formulating and implementing policies; conducting administrative affairs; managing external relations as authorised by the Central People's Government under the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region; drawing up and introducing budgets and final accounts; introducing bills and motions and drafting by-laws; and designating officials to attend meetings of the Legislative Assembly to listen to opinions or to speak on behalf of the Government.

The Government must abide by the law and be accountable to the Legislative Assembly; implement laws passed by the Legislative Assembly and already in force; present policy addresses regularly to the Legislative Assembly; and answer questions raised by members of the Legislative Assembly.

According to By-law No. 6/1999 on Organisation, Authority and Functioning of Public Departments and Entities amended and re-promulgated by By-law No. 2/2021, the authority of each Secretary in various areas encompasses the follow:

## Secretary for Administration and Justice

The Secretary for Administration and Justice holds authority in areas including:

- Public administration and civil servant affairs;
- Legislative affairs, legal promotion, legal aid, international and regional legal affairs;
- Regulation of the registration and notarisation system;
- Civil and criminal records;
- Municipal affairs;
- Production and publication of the *Macao SAR Gazette*; and
- Legal and judicial training.

In 2024, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, in his capacity as a member of the Chinese Government delegation, attended the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland. He also signed the Agreement on Civil and Commercial Legal and Judicial Cooperation Between the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and Mongolia, and the Agreement on Mutual Exemption from Visa Requirements Between the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## Secretary for Economy and Finance

The Secretary for Economy and Finance holds authority in areas including:

- Supervision of industry, commerce, technology development and external trade (except those under the jurisdiction of other secretaries);
- Administration of public finances and the tax system;
- Gaming and tourism;
- Labour, employment and vocational training;
- The currency, foreign exchange and monetary system (including the insurance sector);
- Statistical data; and
- Consumer rights protection.

## Secretary for Security

The Secretary for Security holds authority in areas including:

- Civil protection;
- Internal security of the Macao SAR;
- Customs affairs;
- Criminal investigations;
- Immigration control;
- Fire services;
- Correctional services;
- Public security forces and officer training for public security departments; and
- Financial intelligence.

## Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture holds authority in areas including:

- Education and youth development;
- Culture and cultural industry development;
- Sport;
- Healthcare;
- Social work;
- Social security; and

- Social rehabilitation.

## **Secretary for Transport and Public Works**

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works holds authority in areas including:

- Land management, urban planning and cadastre management;
- Infrastructure, public and private projects;
- Waters and water resources management and port affairs;
- Environmental protection and energy development;
- Land transport, maritime and civil aviation management;
- Postal affairs and telecommunications;
- Public housing; and
- Meteorology.

## **Commission Against Corruption**

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) functions independently. The Commissioner Against Corruption shall be appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive. The commissioner is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The Commission Against Corruption is responsible for:

- Preventing and suppressing corruption and corruption-related fraud in public departments and the private sector;
- Investigating, in accordance with criminal law and criminal procedural law, corruption and corruption-related fraud committed by civil servants, without prejudice to the duties conferred by law on other bodies to investigate such matters;
- Investigating, in accordance with criminal law and criminal procedural law, corruption and corruption-related fraud in the private sector, without prejudice to the duties conferred by law on other bodies to investigate such matters;
- Investigating, in accordance with criminal law and criminal procedural law, corruption and corruption-related fraud in voter registration and elections, without prejudice to the duties conferred by law on other bodies to investigate such matters; and
- Handling complaints to the ombudsman, to promote the protection of human rights, freedom, legal guarantees, and legitimate rights and interests, and aiming to ensure the legitimacy of the exercise of power, and justice and efficiency of public administration through approaches as stated in organisational law and other unofficial approaches.

In 2024, the Commissioner Against Corruption attended the 8th International Conference of the Commission Against Corruption, and the 5th Plenary Meeting and the eighth Steering

Committee Meeting of the Global Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities; and led delegations to visit the Chinese People’s Police University, the Liaoning Provincial Supervisory Commission, and the Supervisory Commissions of Zhuhai, Zhongshan, and Shenzhen.

## Commission of Audit

The Commission of Audit has been set up in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. It functions independently and is not subject to interference. The Commissioner of Audit is accountable to the Chief Executive.

The major duties of the Commission of Audit are:

- Monitoring the implementation of the Government budget;
- Compiling an audit report on the overall Government accounts;
- Monitoring the implementation of target departments’ budgets and final accounts, as well as the management and expenditure of capital not included in the budget, together with making comprehensive assessments including assets, debts, profits, losses, and accounts, and verifying that all public expenditure is according to the proper purview of audit; and
- Conducting “value-for-money” assessments, through reviewing efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The following bodies are subject to audit: (1) Those deriving over half their income from the Government; (2) Those with less than half their income from the Government, but subject to audit by written consent.

For public interest, the Chief Executive can issue written authorisation to the Commissioner of Audit to audit and inspect any person of interest.

In 2024, the Commissioner of Audit, in the capacity of an observer and as a member of the Chinese delegation, attended the 8th Symposium of Supreme Audit Institutions of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the 16th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

## Unitary Police Service

The Unitary Police Service is responsible for:

- Commanding police units in the performance of their duties;
- Effectively allocating operational resources of police units;
- Centralising and coordinating all criminal investigations of police units;
- Collecting, analysing, processing and disseminating by lawful means all information, including inter-connected data, and all necessary intelligence and information for performing its functions;
- Overseeing execution plans, instructions and tasks of police units;



- Inspecting and coordinating operational capability of police units; and
- Planning, coordinating and monitoring work on the civil protection system, and providing technical, administrative and logistical support to security committees.

The Commissioner-General is the head of the Unitary Police Service, and he or she is appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws.

## **Macao Customs Service**

The Macao Customs Service (Macao Customs) has been established in accordance with the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

It is a public body with administrative autonomy, which is responsible for directing, implementing and supervising customs policies, as well as conducting policing functions such as customs administration and supervision (as specified in Article 1 of Law No. 11/2001).

The head of the Macao Customs, the Director-General, is appointed by the Central People's Government on the nomination of the Chief Executive, to whom he or she reports. However, this shall not affect the supervisory power of the Secretary for Security granted through by-laws (as specified in Clause 6 of Article 50 in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region and Article 6 of Law No. 11/2001).

In 2024, the Director-General of Macao Customs attended the 25th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference, the sixth WCO Global Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Conference, and the 143rd/144th Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Council. He also signed the Memorandum of Understanding Between Gongbei Customs and Macao Customs on Law Enforcement Cooperation at the Hengqin Port, the Memorandum of Understanding Between the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and Macao Customs on Automatic Exchange of AEO Enterprise Data, and the Arrangements for Cooperation on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Customs Clearance Information Platform.

## **Government Headquarters Affairs Bureau**

The Government Headquarters Affairs Bureau (DSASG) is a public department established under By-law No. 44/2020, to provide assistance and support to the Chief Executive's Office, all secretaries' offices and various departments of the Government Headquarters, including the entities designated by the Chief Executive, regarding administration, finance, technology, protocol, logistics and other affairs essential to the normal operations of the Government Headquarters. The DSASG is directly under the Chief Executive.

## **Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau**

The Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau is a public department of the MSAR

Government, directly under the Chief Executive.

The bureau's duties include providing scientific background and other information to support decisions made by the Chief Executive, the Government's administration and policy making, Macao's role in national cooperation and development strategies. It also coordinates work on major national strategies and national policies related to Macao and regional development, including exchanges, cooperation and development work with the Chinese mainland and other regions; coordinates implementation of major policies according to instructions from the Chief Executive, and facilitates policy implementation and other regional development work.

In 2024, under the leadership of the Chief Executive, the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, in close collaboration with various departments of the MSAR Government, completed the Review of the Government's Work in the Fiscal Year 2024, the Summary of Policy Implementation by the fifth-term MSAR Government, and important reports of the Chief Executive. It also carried out policy research, including in-depth studies on Macao's business environment, Macao's development as a "City of Performing Arts", the growth of the traditional Chinese medicine and Big Health industries, and an analysis of Macao's economic and social situation.

Among pragmatic steps to advance exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Chinese mainland provinces, municipalities and regions, in 2024 the Government held Shanghai-Macao, Guangxi-Macao, Shandong-Macao, Shaanxi-Macao and Jiangxi-Macao high-level meetings, aiming to achieve greater outcomes of cooperation.

There was steady progress with the mechanism dedicated to cooperative taskforces, including through studying and devising a new round of lists of cooperative tasks. In line with national overall deployment, the Government continued to promote rural revitalisation. During March, Macao and Xiushui county of Jiangxi province, signed 12 agreements on the second batch of cooperative projects.

In October, the MSAR Government and the National Development and Reform Commission held the sixth Joint Meeting on the Belt and Road Initiative, and jointly finished compiling the List of Work Spanning Five Years to Support Macao's Full Participation in and Contributions to the Belt and Road Initiative (2024–2028). A sister-city relationship between Macao and Dili, Timor-Leste, was established, bringing the total number of Macao's sister cities to 13. Additionally, Macao and Zhuhai jointly organised the "International Sister Cities Week" event.

In 2024, the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, as coordinator of the inter-departmental Coordination Group on Policy Promotion, carried out publicity and interpretation work for multiple major projects, including the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland, the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024–2028), various major policies of the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the Central Government's favourable policies and measures for Macao, the commissioning of elderly apartments, and the opening of Macao Union Hospital.

## **Public Assets Supervision and Administration Bureau**

The Public Assets Supervision and Administration Bureau is a public-sector body of the Macao SAR, responsible for coordinating, overseeing, implementing and evaluating policies and measures

related to supervising and managing the MSAR’s public assets. It operates under the Office of the Chief Executive.

## Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing

The Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing reports directly to the Chief Executive, and it represents the MSAR in Beijing with administrative autonomy.

In 2024, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Macao’s Return to the Motherland, the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing actively participated in various events, continuing to promote and publicise Macao’s achievements since its return to the motherland under the “One country, two systems” principle across the political, economic, cultural and tourism sectors.

The office attended events including:

- “2024 Spring Gathering for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Journalists stationed in Beijing”, organised by the China National Journalists Association;
- The 12th Online Exchanges between NPC & CPPCC Delegates and Macao University Students, organised by the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the MSAR;
- Macao-Hengqin Tourism Promotion Conference, cohosted in Beijing by the MSAR Government Tourism Office and the Economic Development Bureau of the GuangdongMacao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin;
- “Diploma in Fashion Design and Production” exhibition by outstanding graduates during the 2024 China International College Student Fashion Week, organised by the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center; and
- Opening ceremony of the “2024 Hong Kong-Macao Youth Internship Programme at the Palace Museum”, organised by the Palace Museum and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the MSAR Government.

The Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing, together with the Beijing Liaison Unit of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR, and the Social and Cultural Division of the Institute for Hong Kong and Macao Studies of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, co-guided the Macao Scholars Development Association and Home of Macao Students in hosting the Academic Essay Competition in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of Macao’s Return to the Motherland, selecting 75 award-winning papers and compiling them into a volume; also, together with the Beijing Liaison Unit of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR, the office co-guided the Beijing (Higher Education) Macao Students’ Union in editing *Beijing Macao University Students* (Special Issue in Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao’s Return to the Motherland).

The office also assisted MSAR Government departments and community organisations with launching activities on the Chinese mainland, including:

- Recruitment seminars for the University of Macau, Macao Polytechnic University and Macao University of Tourism, and participation in the 29th China International Education

Exhibition Tour (CIEET 2024);

- Basic Law lectures organised by the Macao Basic Law Promotion Association; and
- At the invitation of China Global Television Network (CGTN), the office authored an article introducing the leapfrogs Macao has achieved in economic, socio-cultural and regional development over the 25 years since the handover, safeguarded by the “One country, two systems” principle and strong support from the Central Government.

Since 2011, the number of followers of the office’s Weibo account (<http://weibo.com/draemp>) has exceeded 1,010,000, while from the second half of 2013 to 2024 there were approximately 18,000 followers of its WeChat account (macaubeijing).

The office introduced Macao’s overall developments by disseminating information about Macao’s culture, tourism and news through the Internet.

The office provides Macao residents with appropriate services and assistance in working, studying, and travelling in the Chinese mainland, especially in case of emergencies; issues Proof of Life certificates for Macao residents living in the Chinese mainland; and assists Macao residents who have lost their identification documents to complete the formalities for returning to Macao. During the pandemic, the office answered enquiries from Macao residents regarding the pandemic, and assisted in case referrals.

## **Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon**

The Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon represents the MSAR, and supports the MSAR Government in economic and cultural cooperation between Macao and Portugal.

In 2024, the office attended a meeting organised by the Chinese Mission to Portugal, between Zhao Leji (Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress) and Chinese community associations and students in Portugal. It also received delegations led by Rao Quan, Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China; and delegations from the Commissioner of Audit, Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the Education and Youth Development Bureau, the Economic Development Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Macao Lawyers Association, City University of Macau, Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau, and Macao Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology.

The Identification Services Bureau, the Social Welfare Bureau, the Social Security Fund Authority, the Education and Youth Development Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office—in order to assist Macao residents in Portugal with applying for Proof of Life certificates, renewing MSAR passports, and applying for Certificates of Criminal Record; and to support Macao students in Portugal with applying for Portuguese residence permits and taxpayer numbers.

The office also organised a reception to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, and co-hosted the 2024 Macao Photo Exhibition with the Macao Government Tourism Office.

Additionally, the office attended a roadshow marking the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal and the 25th anniversary of Macao’s

return to the motherland; the conference marking the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland, the celebrations of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Dongfang College, and the celebrations of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal; and the collective exhibition of contemporary Macao artists entitled "Here and Now" organised by the Alliance of Capitals of Portuguese-Speaking Countries to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR.

Regarding the promotion of bilateral relations and supporting the facilitation of economic, trade and cultural cooperation, the office participated in events including:

- The Spring Festival Joy activities;
- The "Hello! China" Cultural Week hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Portugal and organised by the Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon;
- The Macao-Hengqin Investment Promotion Conference 2024 (Portugal Session) co-organised by the MSAR Government, the Cooperation Zone and Portuguese institutions in Oeiras;
- The fifth Seminar on China-Portugal International Cooperation;
- The Seminar on China-Portugal Relations Under the New Situation hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Portugal;
- The China-Portugal Economic and Trade Seminar and the 2nd Expo Promotion Conference on Promoting China's International Supply Chain;
- The Reception of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao);
- The reception celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Portugal; and
- An event marking the Centenary of Bilateral Aviation Relations Between Lisbon and Macao.

## **Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union**

Based in Brussels, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union represents the MSAR, has administrative autonomy, and assists the Chief Executive with economic and trade liaison and cooperation between the MSAR, the EU and related organisations.

In 2024, the office received a delegation led by the Director-General of Macao Customs which participated in the annual meeting of the World Customs Organization. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the office also co-organised the 2024 Macao Photo Exhibition with the Macao Government Tourism Office.

The office participated in the reception at the Chinese Embassy in Belgium celebrating Army Day; the farewell reception for Ambassador Fu Cong of the Chinese Mission to the European Union; and the welcome reception for Ambassador Fei Shengchao upon his assumption of duties as Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Belgium.

The office also participated in the New Year reception of the Belgium-Luxembourg Association of Chinese-Funded Enterprises, the 20th-anniversary celebrations of the Belgium-Luxembourg Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Spring Festival reception hosted by the Belgium-Hong Kong Society and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels, and provided full support to the screening of Hong Kong films at the Brussels International Film Festival.

## **Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization**

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization (WTO) represents the MSAR, promotes and handles economic and trade relations, and is responsible for cooperation between the MSAR and WTO members.

As one of the Macao, China delegations, the office participated in preparing and attended the 13th Ministerial Conference held by the WTO in Abu Dhabi in February 2024, and made preparations for the next Ministerial Conference.

In 2024, the office received the delegation led by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture attending the 77th World Health Assembly, and the delegation led by the Labour Affairs Bureau attending the 112nd International Labour Conference and the 17th International Labour Inspection Association Meeting and General Assembly.

The office also attended events organised by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva.

## **Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan**

Macao's Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan provides comprehensive services for Macao citizens working, studying, travelling, doing business or living in Taiwan; promotes economic, trade, cultural, education, health, social services exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Taiwan; and enhances crime fighting and judicial support. (The office was temporarily closed from 19 June 2021.)

## **Municipal Services**

On 1 January 2019, the Municipal Affairs Bureau was established according to Law No. 9/2018, as a municipal organisation which is not an organ of political power. It includes the Municipal Administration Committee and the Municipal Affairs Consultative Committee.

As a management body of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Municipal Administration Committee is responsible for leading the daily operations of the Municipal Affairs Bureau and performing other duties as assigned by law, including providing services related to culture, recreation, environmental hygiene, food safety and greening in accordance with the law, with a view to improving residents' quality of life.

As a consultative body of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Municipal Affairs Consultative Committee comprises representatives of different sectors of the community, who listen to residents'

opinions on municipal affairs, provide opinions and make recommendations to the Municipal Administration Committee, or to the Government through the Municipal Administration Committee, so that the Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Government can more effectively serve the public.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau holds public sessions every month to allow Macao residents to give suggestions and raise queries regarding the bureau's duties and functions. Twelve public sessions were held in 2024. The Municipal Affairs Bureau management also hosts community seminars in various community centres and districts, to introduce municipal works in the districts. Local organisations and residents of the districts are invited to attend and express their opinions on municipal affairs. Eleven community seminars were organised in 2024, and were attended by representatives of 111 associations and organisations, and over 344 residents.

The real-time feedback platform, IAM Connect, was launched on 1 January 2019. Through this, residents can provide opinions on 19 municipal services in four categories: environmental hygiene, gardens/green areas and leisure areas, equipment and facilities, and food safety. In 2019, a total of 10,900 cases were received through IAM Connect, with the two major categories of environmental hygiene and equipment and facilities accounting for 54 percent and 18 percent of the total cases, respectively.

In October 2021, the Municipal Affairs Bureau launched the IAM Connect mobile app, through which – apart from giving opinions – users can enquire about streamline procedures, make advance bookings, carry out decimal conversions, and access public toilet navigation and market information, as well as receive the latest information and promotions of the Municipal Affairs Bureau.

## **The Macao Foundation**

The Macao Foundation's goal is to promote, develop and implement research relating to Macao's cultural, social, economic, educational, scientific, academic and philanthropic activities, including activities aimed at promoting the Macao SAR.

## **Work on Subsidies**

In 2024, the Macao Foundation launched academic projects, exchange activities, community projects, operational funding for associations, Fu Bao projects, and the Integrated Subsidy Scheme.

Additionally, the Macao Foundation launched the Love for Macao and Hengqin Financial Subsidy Scheme, to support associations organising residents' visits and exchanges to the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. During the year, subsidies for 2,362 projects were approved, totalling approximately 2.126 billion patacas, including support for the University of Macau's acquisition of educational land in the Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and for the Macau University of Science and Technology Foundation to undertake the "Macao Science 2" satellite project; the agreed subsidies for these two projects totalled approximately 1.53 billion patacas.

## **Scholarships and Awards**

In 2024, the Macao Foundation launched the Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education Degree

Programme Students, and signed cooperation agreements with the Education and Youth Development Bureau and the Manpower Development Committee on issuing the Macao Foundation Award (Primary and Secondary Student Scholarships) and the Incentive Scheme for Talent Cultivation and Accreditation. Also, during the year, the foundation granted various scholarships and awards to 13,459 individuals, with grants totalling about 34.74 million patacas.

The Preparatory Office of the Peking Union College Hospital Macao Medical Centre/Macao Hospital, in cooperation with the Macao Foundation, saw all five medical specialists from the first batch of pre-employment training for medical specialists pass their training assessments and, from June 2024, take up their positions at Macao Union Hospital.

## Youth Cultivation

In 2024, the Macao Foundation, in partnership with the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and other organisations, departments and entities, co-organised multiple social-practice and learning-exchange activities aimed at nurturing young talent, including:

- Macao College Students’ Tianjin Learning Exchange Programme;
- Hong Kong and Macao College Students Cultural Practice Activity;
- “Youth Gathering, Cultural Affinity, Chinese Sentiment 2024” Youth Study Camp;
- Shanghai Study and Internship Programme for Macao Youth;
- Shaanxi Experiential Training Programme for Community Workers in Macao;
- Macao Youth Student Aerospace Science Popularisation Exchange Activity;
- The 20th Macao University Students Portuguese Speech Contest; and
- Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Annual Conference on Youth Community Work.

## Academic Research

In 2024, the Macao Foundation organised academic seminars, including the Fourth Annual Conference on Macao Studies 2024.

In addition, the Foundation continued advancing the compilation of *The Macao Volume of the Chinese Folk and Ethnic Culture and Arts Collection*, issued the *Chinese Quyi Chronicle – Macao Chapter*, and participated in the compilation of *The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cities Chronicle*.

## Knowledge Exchanges

The Macao Foundation has established the Macau Memory cultural-history website (macaumemory.mo). In 2024 it organised eight online events and associated offline activities, as well as 47 “Memory



Salon” themed lectures. Macao Memory received the Global World Heritage Education Innovation Case Award from the Hangzhou Asia-Pacific World Heritage Training Center.

As of 31 December 2024, Macao Memory had recorded over 4 million cumulative pageviews, 10,780 registered members, and 50,258 followers across its social-media pages and channels.

The Macao Virtual Library website (macaadata.mo) was launched in 2000, and is the first and largest online reading platform in Macao. As of 31 December 2024, a total of 2,432 books and issues of periodicals, as well as 185 theses, are available for the public to read. Since the launch of a new version of the website in 2022, over 1,330,000 visits have been recorded.

In 2024, the Macao Foundation published 28 books and four issues of journals, including the *Macao Literature Series*, the *Macao Knowledge Series*, the Portuguese version of *Chinese Ancient Books* and *Macao Studies*. The foundation also resumed participating in non-local book fairs, such as Hong Kong Book Fair and the National Book Expo.

## Arts and Cultural Events

In 2024, the Macao Foundation held seven exhibitions by renowned artists and co-organised the Fourth Art Exhibition on China’s Tiangong Space Station, which comprised a series of events taking place simultaneously in space and on Earth. The exhibition featured artworks (including those by Macao students) simultaneously on the Chinese Space Station, in the Palace Museum in Beijing, and in the Macao Science Center.

The foundation also co-organised the 14th Macao Literature Awards and the 29th Book Review Contest for Secondary School Students in Macao; and held the Chinese Peking Opera Arts Troupe Performance and Exchange Activity in Macao.

In partnership with Chinese mainland and Hong Kong institutions, the foundation co-organised the 8th World Chinese Tourism Literature International Academic Symposium and the 15th Cross-Strait and Hong Kong-Macao Arts Forum.

## History and Cultural Affairs

In 2024, the Culture and History Committee of the Macao Foundation organised the 5th History Knowledge Contest for Macao Secondary School Students, the 8th History and Culture Ambassadors Training Programme, and published two volumes of the children’s picture-book series *Huaxia Little Spirits: Family and National Sentiment – “The Twenty-Four Solar Terms”*, as well as three volumes of the *Macao History and Culture Children’s Picture Books*.

## External Cooperation and Exchange

The Macao Foundation participated in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024 and organised a delegation of Macao Portuguese and English media to attend the Training Seminar on the National Conditions for AIPIM (Macao Portuguese and English Media Association) in Shanghai. It also supported the 26th, 27th and 28th National Invention Exhibition by offering

the Macao Foundation Award. Through the Integrated Financial Support Scheme, the foundation granted approximately 44.22 million patacas funding to qualified Macao, Chinese mainland and international organisations.

## Personal Data Protection Bureau

The Personal Data Protection Bureau operates under the Office of the Chief Executive, and is responsible for monitoring and coordinating compliance with and enforcement of the Personal Data Protection Act.

In 2024, the Personal Data Protection Bureau opened 74 cases of administrative irregularities; received 48 requests for opinions, 1,324 personal data processing notifications, 48 authorisation applications, and 1,502 legal inquiries; and held or co-organised 25 explanatory sessions and 15 lectures on the Personal Data Protection Act, with a total attendance of 1,596 people.

## Civil Service System

The general eligibility requirements for civil servants are that they are permanent residents of the MSAR, who are between 18 years and 64 years old; possess relevant educational qualifications or work experience and are capable of performing the roles required; have no criminal record or other conditions as laid down by law that would render a person inappropriate for the post or job concerned on a full-time or part-time basis; and are of sound health and mind.

Civil servants are recruited either by appointment or on contract terms. The promotions and relocations of civil servants are prescribed by law. Civil servants who breach disciplinary rules may be sanctioned by written warnings, fines, suspension, forced retirement or dismissal.

Concerning the continued service, appointment and employment of civil servants, under Articles 98 and 99 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao's serving civil servants – including the police and supporting members of the judiciary – remained in employment after the establishment of the MSAR. They may remain in the civil service and retain their seniority with pay, allowances, benefits and conditions of service no less favourable than before. The Government shall pay such civil servants, or their dependents, all pensions and allowances due to them on terms no less favourable than before, and irrespective of their nationality or place of residence.

The Government may employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals previously employed in the civil service who are permanent residents of the MSAR to serve as public officials in Government departments at all levels, unless otherwise prohibited by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Government may also employ Portuguese and other foreign nationals as advisers or to fill professional and technical posts. These persons shall be employed only in their individual capacities and shall be responsible only to the Government.

## Civil Servant Training

The Civil Servant Training Centre, under the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, is

responsible for studying, developing and coordinating the civil servant training system, promoting the culture of continuous learning among civil servants, and organising and arranging training activities covering middle management, for promotions of civil servants.

The Government attaches great importance to the training and development of civil servants. In accordance with the Rank and Grade System for Civil Servants, training has been designated as a key aspect of professional development. Participation in training is a civil servant's right and obligation. Emphasis is placed on courses in national affairs, leadership and e-governance, to enhance civil servants' service awareness and uphold a spirit of responsibility and public service.

## e-Governance

In 2024, the MSAR Government continued furthering e-governance development, making new progress in the legal framework, the “Three Links” electronic platform and infrastructure.

### 1. Improving the Legal Framework

Through Law No. 13/2024 on Amendment to Law No. 2/2020 on e-Government and Law No. 5/2022 on Electronic Submission of Litigation Documents and Payment of Litigation Fees, the scope of official communications and e-certification has been expanded; provisions allowing electronic documents to replace paper have been enhanced; electronic notices have been granted legal effect; digital reception has been optimised; it has been clarified that public-sector bodies may transfer case files and documents to judicial authorities in digital form; and the scope of electronic registration and notarisation has been amended, thereby creating new institutional space for deepening public administration reform and boosting e-governance development.

### 2. Completion of the “Three Links” electronic platform

The MSAR Government intensively integrated its previously dispersed services. Through data interconnections and cross-departmental collaboration, three e-government service platforms – Macao One Account, Business & Associations Platform and Government Affairs Platform - were launched, targeting the public, businesses and associations, public departments and civil servants.

- Continued expansion of Macao One Account's public services

Since its launch, Macao One Account has continued providing personalised services to citizens. As of 31 December 2024, the number of users had exceeded 620,000, achieving near-universal coverage; it offers over 440 fully online services, covering the public services most frequently used by the public.

To align with the completion of the amendment to the Civil Registry Code in 2024, Macao One Account launched One-Stop Marriage and One-Stop Birth services, enabling integrated processing of marriage applications and birth registrations.

- Launch of Business and Associations Platform

In January 2024, the Business and Associations Platform was launched. It comprises four

functional modules: one-stop services, integrated single-transaction services, licence renewal and consolidated government information.

The Business and Associations Platform also introduced a onestop online licence application service for catering and beverage premises, achieving fully electronic processing through the Unified Approval Platform, and established a preworks approval system and integrated firesafety inspection procedures, allowing merchants to commence renovation work once specific conditions are met, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency and transparency.

As of 31 December 2024, the Business and Associations Platform offers over 100 services, including licence renewal, employee entry/exit applications, association operation applications and subsidy services, and licensing for catering and beverage premises; over 16,000 physical accounts have been opened, more than 11,000 of which are corporate accounts.

- Launch of Government Affairs Platform

In January 2024, the Government Affairs Platform was launched for use by public departments, available as both a web portal and a mobile app. It covers personnel management, official document handling and internal administration functions, standardising and unifying administrative tools. Civil servants can use the platform to manage attendance, sick leave and allowance applications, as well as track incoming and outgoing documents, prepare electronic official correspondence and oversee document workflows, thereby enhancing government personnel management and internal operational efficiency.

### 3. Promoting Cross-Boundary Integration of Online and Offline Government Services

The MSAR Government continued enhancing crossboundary egovernment cooperation by extending its “Macao One Account” appointment counter service to the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Macao residents can now make advance bookings for ten of the most frequently used services at the Hengqin Government Service Centre—ranging from social security and notarisation to realstate registration—thereby essentially covering all the mainland administrative services that Macao residents commonly require.

In June 2024, 24-hour self-service Government Service Centres across all districts of the MSAR were outfitted with Smart Locker intelligent document lockers. After applying for services online or offline, citizens can retrieve paper documents at their convenience via self-service, eliminating the need to visit counters during office hours.

Meanwhile, the MSAR Government extended the 24-hour self-service centre model to the Cooperation Zone. In October 2024, the Hengqin Macao New Neighbourhood MSAR Government 24-Hour Self-Service Centre officially began operations. In addition to self-service kiosks for issuing and collecting certificates, Smart Locker intelligent document lockers and multifunctional self-service machines offering services from multiple government departments, the centre features a remote service counter, enabling Macao residents in Hengqin to connect via video with frontline staff in Macao public departments, and make enquiries or complete procedures remotely.

#### 4. Infrastructure Development

The Cloud Computing Centre provides a secure, stable operating environment for e-governance in the MSAR Government. As of 31 December 2024, it is used by over 40 public departments and supports multiple key systems. The MSAR Government will continue with planned expansions of the Cloud Computing Centre and enhancements to cloud and network security to meet and support the long-term development of e-government.

### **Building a Quality Public Service Network with e-Governance Development**

The MSAR Government continues its efforts to optimise service procedures to build a service-oriented government for the convenience of the public and the businesses, strengthen interdepartmental collaboration, and actively promote e-government development through data sharing and integration.

Currently, through the online platforms—Macao One Account for livelihood services and the Business and Associations Platform—together with offline departmental service points and “One-Stop” integrated service counters, including eight 24-hour self-service centres located in Macao and the Macao New Neighbourhood in Hengqin, a round-the-clock public service network has been established to integrate online and offline services, catering to the needs of different users and groups.

In 2024, the two convenient, integrated service centres – the Integrated Government Services Centre and the Islands District Integrated Government Services Centre – provided over 310 services to 27 public departments, with a total of 973,000 cases handled, over 680,000 of which were handled in the Government Integrated Service Centre, while 293,000 cases were handled in the Islands District Integrated Government Services Centre. The Government Integrated Service Centre and the Islands District Integrated Government Services Centre received over 905,000 and some 423,000 visitors, respectively, totalling 1,329,000 visitors.

Following the establishment of seven 24-hour self-service centres on the Macao peninsula, Taipa and Coloane, the MSAR Government launched the eighth centre in October 2024, located within the Macao New Neighbourhood in Hengqin. Each centre is equipped with self-service application and collection kiosks, multifunctional self-service machines providing services from various government departments, Smart Locker intelligent document lockers, and—at the Macao New Neighbourhood—a newly introduced Remote Service Counter.

As of the end of December 2024, reservations for the smart document lockers exceeded 7,700.

### **The Pension Fund**

The Pension Fund was established in 1987, as a public corporate body with administrative, financial and property autonomy. Its main responsibilities are to administer and enforce the system for retirement, widow and orphans’ pensions, and the system for the civil servants’ provident fund.

## Official Languages

In accordance with Article 9 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, in addition to the Chinese language, Portuguese may be used as an official language by the executive authorities, the legislature and the judiciary of the MSAR.

## Awarding of Decorations, Medals and Merit Certificates

To commend individuals and organisations for their outstanding performance in terms of personal achievements, contributions to the community or service to the MSAR, in November 2001 Chief Executive Edmund Ho promulgated By-law No. 28/2001, which established rules for awarding decorations, medals and merit certificates to them. It stipulated four categories of decorations and merit certificates in the MSAR: the Decoration of Honour, Medal of Merit, Medal for Distinguished Services and Certificate of Merit.

As of 2024, the Chief Executive had signed administrative orders to award decorations of honour, medals and certificates to 24 batches of individuals and entities.

## Flag and Emblem of the MSAR

The flag of the MSAR has identical patterns and colours on both sides, with the five stars, lotus flower, bridge and seawater design on the front and back. The rectangular flag has a green background and a 3:2 length-height ratio. A white, three-petal lotus flower is in the centre of the flag. Five golden stars, including a larger one in the middle, form an arch over the lotus flower. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes (See Appendix II of Law No. 6/1999).



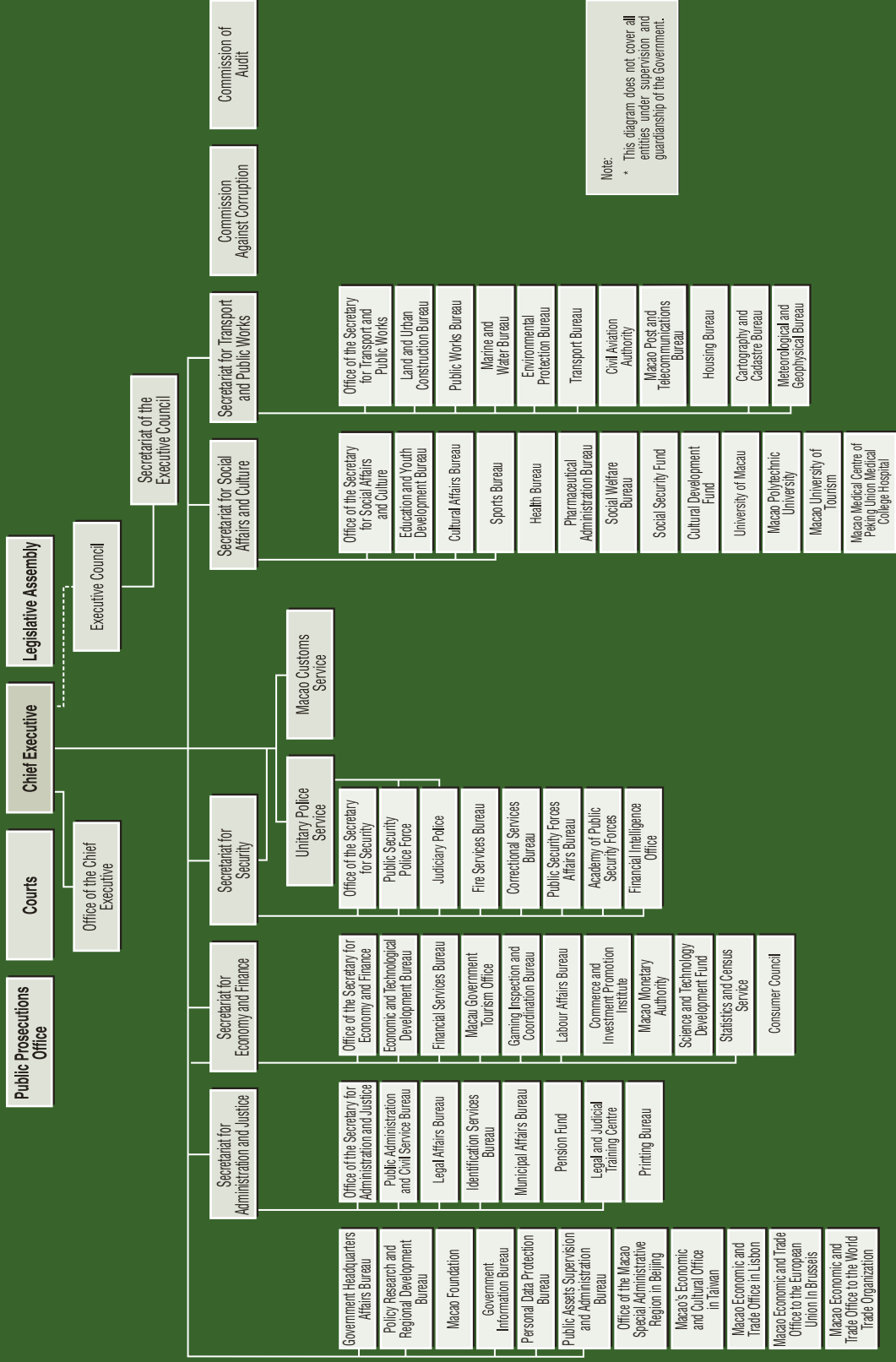
The Flag of the MSAR

The circular MSAR emblem consists of a narrow green border, a ring of characters on a white background, a green inner circle and elements including stars, a lotus flower, a bridge and seawater. The outer ring of characters lies between the narrow green border and the green inner circle. In the upper half of the ring of characters, 14 Traditional Chinese characters meaning “The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” are set in a standard traditional font, evenly distributed along the width of the arch. The lower portion of each character points to the centre of the emblem. In the lower half of the ring of characters, the Portuguese word “Macao” is printed in a standard font. The letters are evenly spaced, with the upper portion of each letter pointing to the centre of the emblem. Both the Chinese and Portuguese characters are distributed symmetrically on opposite sides of a vertical axis through the emblem. A white lotus flower with three petals is in the centre of the green inner circle. Above the lotus flower, five golden stars, of which the middle one is largest, radiate from the centre of the emblem. The lower points of the stars are directed at the centre of the emblem. Below the lotus flower, a white bridge and seawater are represented as green and white stripes.



**The Emblem of the MSAR**

# Structure of the Macao SAR Government \*

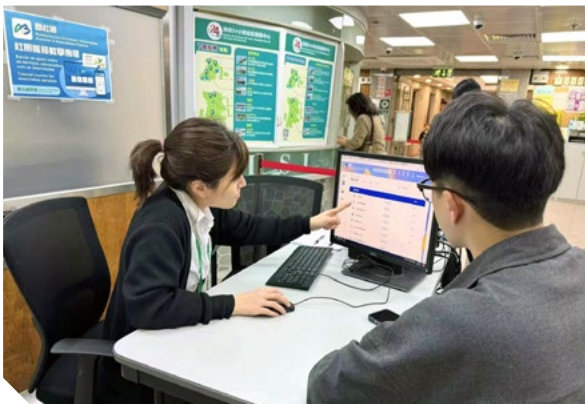


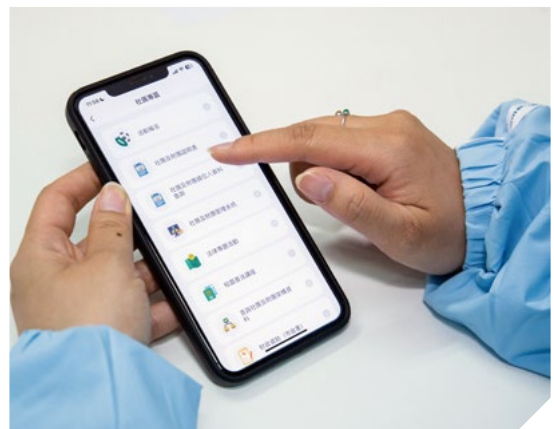
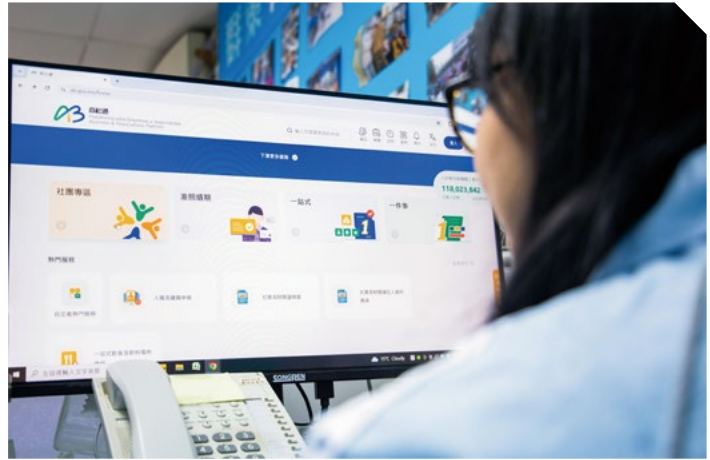
Note:  
\* This diagram does not cover all entities under supervision and guardianship of the Government.





## The Three E-Government Platforms





The Macao SAR Government continually introduces innovative ideas to streamline administrative and service procedures, and achieves a high degree of integration for former fragmented services. Through data interconnectivity and interdepartmental collaboration, three e-government service platforms have been launched: “Macao One Account” for residents, “Business & Associations Platform” for enterprises and associations, and the “Government Affairs Platform” for public departments and civil servants. These platforms are designed to serve residents, businesses and associations, public departments and civil servants, respectively. The Government continues introducing convenient functions and promoting integrated online and offline services, with the aim to build a higher quality public service network, meeting the needs of different users and groups.