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.

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.

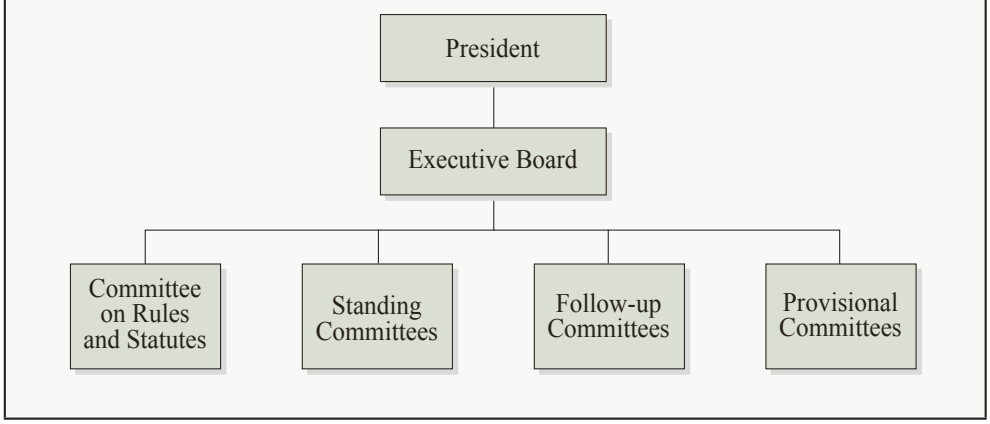
The Legislative Assembly has one president and one vice president, elected by and from among its members. The president and vice president shall be Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of Macao and who have ordinary residence in Macao for at least 15 consecutive years.

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.

Organisation Chart of the Legislative Assembly



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 previous criminal prosecution system 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 2025 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 Chinese mainland authorities in managing Chinese mainland-funded organisations in Macao; promoting social and economic exchanges and cooperation between Chinese mainland and Macao; reporting to the Central People's Government the opinions of Macao people about 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.

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.

In 2025, the Secretary for Economy and Finance attended the Mobile World Congress held in Spain, and visited Portugal, Belgium, Monaco, France and Luxembourg.

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.

In 2025, agreements signed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture included the Detailed

Rules on Operational Cooperation Expenses for 2025 of the Islands Healthcare Complex – Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital, the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism), and the Framework Agreement on Film Industry Cooperation between the China Film Administration and the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

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.

In 2025, agreements signed by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works included the Cooperation Arrangement on the Disposal and Management of Macao's Inert Construction and Demolition Materials in Chinese Mainland Waters.

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 2025, the Commissioner Against Corruption attended the 14th General Assembly of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the 18th General Assembly of the Asian Ombudsman Association, the IOI Asian Regional Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and the 15th General Assembly, the 11th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, and the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption; and separately visited the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the National Supervisory Commission, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, the Supervisory Commission of Jiangsu Province, the Supervisory Commissions of Guangdong Province and of the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and the Supervisory Commission of Zhejiang Province.

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 2025, the Commissioner of Audit attended the ninth Meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on Big Data, the 25th Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, and

the eighth Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Audit Forum; and visited the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the National Audit Office, and the Hong Kong Audit Commission.

Unitary Police Service

The Unitary Police Service is responsible for:

- Preventing and combating crimes related to money laundering, terrorism financing and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- 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 2025, the Director-General of Macao Customs attended the 26th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference and the 145th/146th Sessions of the World

Customs Organization (WCO) Council, among others. He also signed the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Liaison Meeting between the General Administration of Customs and Macao Customs, the Minutes of the 2025 Regular Meeting on Risk Management between the Chinese Mainland and Macao Customs, and the Minutes of the Meeting on Law Enforcement Cooperation between the South China Sea Branch of the China Coast Guard and Macao Customs.

Government Headquarters Affairs Office

The Government Headquarters Affairs Office (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 2025, the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, in close collaboration with various departments of the MSAR Government, completed the drafting of the Policy Addresses for 2025 and 2026, and coordinated work related to Macao under the 15th Five-Year Plan. The bureau also conducted a review of the second Five-Year Plan and preliminary research for the third Five-Year Plan; and completed research and analysis reports on the two major policy priorities of public administration reform and appropriate economic diversification.

The Government implemented the Key Work Arrangements for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in 2025, thus participating in driving the high quality development of the Greater Bay Area and expediting the construction of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The Government deepened exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Chinese mainland provinces and cities, and co-organised the Cultural Week of China-Portuguese-speaking Countries with Chinese mainland cities for the first time. It continued rural revitalisation work; in December, Macao and Xiushui County of Jiangxi Province signed the third batch of cooperation project agreements, with nine agreements, marking the successful conclusion of the three-year counterpart support programme. The Government also continued expanding exchanges and cooperation with countries and regions participating in the Belt

and Road Initiative in the fields of trade, tourism, culture and technology, and continued work on establishing sister-city relationships with Colônia del Sacramento in Uruguay and Brasília in Brazil.

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 improvement of the Wealth Partaking Scheme, the Community Consumption Rewards Programme, the cessation of operations of "satellite casinos", the construction of the four major key projects, and public administration reform.

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 in Beijing reports directly to the Chief Executive, and it represents the MSAR in Beijing with administrative autonomy.

In 2025, 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, thus continuing to promote and publicise Macao's achievements since its return to the motherland under the "One country, two systems" principle spanning political, economic, cultural and tourism sectors, with particular emphasis on the MSAR Government's "1+4" policy for appropriate economic diversification and the latest developments in the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The office attended events including:

- The seminar of the National Association for Hong Kong and Macao Studies on "Studying and Implementing the Spirit of President Xi Jinping's Important Speech at the Ceremony Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland and the Inauguration of the Sixth-term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region";
- The 13th Tianjin Hong Kong and Macao Work Joint Conference and the "Twin Gems of Rivers and Seas – Exhibition of Images of Tianjin and Macao Twin Cities in Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland";
- An inspection and study visit to Tianjin by the Hong Kong and Macao offices in Beijing;
- The Macao Special Fashion Show at the 2025 China International College Student Fashion Week;
- The opening ceremony of the "Training Programme on Strengthening Cooperation with Portuguese-speaking Countries", jointly organised by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau and Beijing Foreign Studies University; and
- The 2025 Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao Young Scientists Congress.

In 2025, to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, the Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region in Beijing provided logistical and support services for delegations attending events in Beijing.

The office organised several seminars on "Studying the Spirit of President Xi Jinping's Important Speeches During His Visit to Macao". In addition, the office, together with the Beijing Liaison Unit of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, the Coordination Department, and the Education and Youth Development Bureau, co-organised the "2025 NPC & CPPCC Sharing Session for Macao University Students"; co-guided the Macao Scholars Development Association and Home of Macao Students in hosting the 2025 Macao University Students Academic Essay Competition; and jointly organised the "2025 Macao University Students Employment and Internship Job Fair" together with the Beijing Liaison Unit and the Economic Department of the Liaison Office, the Labour Affairs Bureau, the Education and Youth Development Bureau, and China International Intellectech Group Co., Ltd.

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; Basic Law lectures organised by the Macao Basic Law Promotion Association; student activities organised by Beijing-Macao student associations; and the "Second Advanced Training Programme on Macao's Appropriate Economic Diversification", co-organised with the Beijing Liaison Unit of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, the Macao Scholars Development Association and the Central University of Finance and Economics.

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 2025 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 Chinese mainland, especially in case of emergencies; issues Proof of Life certificates for Macao residents living in Chinese mainland; and assists Macao residents who have lost their identification documents to complete the formalities for returning to Macao. The office also answers enquiries from Macao residents and assists 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.

Regarding the promotion of economic, trade and cultural cooperation, the office co-organised with relevant MSAR Government departments the promotion sessions and introductory sessions for the "Macao Investment and Business Environment Promotion and Roadshow for the Second China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Economic and Trade Expo (Macao)", the "China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Economic and Trade Expo", the "Scheme to Support the Development of

Macao's First-Store Economy", and "Supporting Macao Cross-boundary E-commerce Businesses in Exploring Commercial Opportunities in Portugal".

In addition, the office actively collaborated with Portuguese public and municipal institutions, Macao organisations, local Chinese-funded institutions, Chinese community groups and private entities to promote and support the organisation of various cultural and arts activities. In 2025, these included supporting the Macau University of Science and Technology in organising the touring exhibition of the outcomes of the Innovative Craftsmanship Talent Training Programme (Lisbon session), the Lisbon Chinese School in organising a youth calligraphy and painting competition, the Exhibition of Outstanding Works from the Portuguese Competition Zone of the "Ink Painting and Chinese Sentiment" event, and the Portugal-China Photographers Association in organising a photography exhibition.

The office continued to strengthen its liaison and cooperation with the Chinese Embassy in Portugal. In 2025, it co-organised a diplomacy lecture with the Portugal-China Economic and Cultural Promotion Association, and participated in a series of Chinese New Year activities in Portugal. The office also attended the reception hosted by the embassy to celebrate the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army; an exchange activity between young embassy diplomats and the HKU SPACE Belt and Road Expedition; the "Film Screening and Thematic Photo Exhibition Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War"; the reception celebrating the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China; the reception marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Portugal comprehensive strategic partnership and the farewell for Ambassador Zhao Bentang and his wife; and the seminar celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Portugal comprehensive strategic partnership and promoting the spirit of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

The office cooperated with various organisations from Chinese mainland provinces and cities including Jiangxi, Shandong, Guangxi, Zhongshan and Zhuhai (including the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin), to jointly organise or support activities promoting economic and trade, tourism, culture and the arts in Portugal. The office also continued its cooperation with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), providing support for the "3rd China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) Lisbon Promotion Session", and cooperated with the China Import and Export Fair to organise the "138th Canton Fair Lisbon Promotion Session".

The office collaborates with 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; and provide Portuguese nationals with information on setting up companies and applying for residency in the MSAR.

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 2025, the office received a delegation led by the Secretary for Economy and Finance that was visiting Belgium, and provided assistance to a delegation led by the Director-General of Macao Customs attending the annual meeting of the World Customs Organization.

The office assisted in producing a special feature on business and trade opportunities in Macao for broadcast within Europe.

The office participated in events organised by the Chinese Mission to the European Union and the Chinese Embassy in Belgium, including the Chinese New Year reception, Army Day, National Day activities, events marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-EU diplomatic relations, a reception commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, the premiere of Ne Zha 2, and a Mid-Autumn Festival concert. The office also participated in various activities organised by EU institutions, the Belgian Government, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels, and various Belgian chambers of commerce, including the European Commission's New Year reception and Belgian National Day celebrations.

The office continued providing Macao-related information and timely assistance to Macao residents in Europe and local residents, including referring applications for Macao residents in the EU and their family members holding foreign passports to settle in Macao to the relevant MSAR Government departments, and providing EU residents with information on entry to and exit from Macao.

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.

The office represented the Macao Special Administrative Region in WTO meetings, participating in the General Council, the Trade Negotiations Committee, informal Heads of Delegation meetings, the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services, the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the Committee on Trade in Financial Services, the Committee on Specific Commitments, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, informal special sessions on agriculture, meetings on fisheries subsidies, the Committee on Market Access, the Committee on Trade and Environment, the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft, the Committee on Rules of Origin, the Committee on Import Licensing, the Committee on Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, and the Trade Policy Review Body.

The office also attended joint initiative meetings, including on the Agreement Facilitating Investment for Development, the Informal Working Group on MSMEs, the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP), and the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD).

In 2025, the office received a delegation led by the Labour Affairs Bureau attending the 113th International Labour Conference.

The office also attended events organised by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, 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, including Chinese New Year celebrations, a reception marking the 28th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and a reception celebrating the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The office paid a courtesy visit to newly appointed Ambassador Li Yongjie of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization.

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 2025. 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. Nine community seminars were organised in 2025, and attended by representatives of 105 associations and organisations, and over 337 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 into Macao's cultural, social, economic, educational, scientific, academic and philanthropic activities, including activities aimed at promoting the Macao SAR.

Work on Subsidies

In 2025, the Macao Foundation launched academic projects, exchange activities, community projects, operational funding for associations, charity gift bags, and the Integrated Subsidy Scheme. It also signed a cooperation agreement with the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the MSAR Government to provide financial support for the "Bay Area Rising Moon" 2025 Greater Bay Area Movie Music Gala. During the year, subsidies for 2,289 projects were approved, totalling approximately 266 million patacas.

Scholarships and Awards

In 2025, 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. The foundation granted various scholarships and awards to 13,792 individuals, with grants totalling approximately 38.36 million patacas.

Youth Cultivation

In 2025, 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 2025" 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; and
- Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Annual Conference on Youth Community Work.

Academic Research

In 2025, the Macao Foundation co-organised academic seminars and conferences including the "International Academic Symposium on East Asian Humanities and the 14th Annual Conference of the Society for East Asian Poetics", the "Global Bay Area Economic Forum 2025", and the "Fifth Annual Conference of Macao Studies (2025)". The Foundation also continued compiling works, including *The Macao Volume of the Chinese Folk and Ethnic Culture and Arts Collection, Macao in Contemporary China*, and *the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cities Chronicle.* During the year, it finished compiling the *Chinese Folk Songs Collection – Macao Volume* and the *Chinese Quyi Music Collection – Macao Volume.*

Knowledge Exchanges

The Macao Foundation has established the Macau Memory cultural history website (macaumemory.mo). In 2025, it organised nine online events and associated offline activities, including the "Prosperity, Harmony and Inclusiveness – Online Photo Exhibition Commemorating the Return of Macao to the Motherland", as well as 55 "Memory Salon" themed lectures. As of 31 December 2025, Macau Memory had recorded over 6 million cumulative pageviews, 12,067 registered members, and 59,232 followers across its social-media pages and channels.

The Macao Virtual Library website (macaudata.mo) was launched in 2000, and is the first and largest online reading platform in Macao. As of 31 December 2025, a total of 2,860 books and issues of periodicals, as well as 192 theses, are available for the public to read. Since the launch of a new version of the website in 2022, over 2,060,000 visits have been recorded.

In 2025, the Macao Foundation published nine volumes (sets) of books and two issues of journals, and participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair.

Arts and Cultural Events

In 2025, the Macao Foundation held one exhibition by a renowned artist, and invited celebrated author Wang Meng to Macao for a symposium. It co-organised the "Macao-Hengqin Sanxingdui Special Exhibition", comprising the "Treasures of Ancient Shu: Sanxingdui and Jinsha" cultural relics exhibition and the "Brilliant Stars – The Civilization of Ancient Shu Immersive Digital Art Experience"; the "Glory of the Haojiang – Photo Exhibition Commemorating the 80th Anniversary

of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the 26th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland"; and the "Prosperity, Harmony and Inclusiveness – Photography Exhibition Commemorating the Return of Macao to the Motherland". It also organised the "Masters of Literature and Arts – Portrait Exhibition Paying Tribute to Macao's Literary and Artistic figures"; co-organised the 31st Book Review Contest for Secondary School Students in Macao; and held the Chinese Peking Opera Arts Troupe Performance and Exchange Activity in Macao.

History and Cultural Affairs

In 2025, the Culture and History Committee of the Macao Foundation organised the sixth History Knowledge Contest for Macao Secondary School Students, the 9th History and Culture Ambassadors Training Programme, and the Macao Division activities of the Annual Chinese Historical Figures Selection.

External Cooperation and Exchange

In 2025, the Macao Foundation participated in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference and supported the 11th International Invention Exhibition, presenting the Macao Foundation Invention Award. Through the Integrated Financial Support Scheme, the foundation granted approximately 44.16 million patacas in funding to qualified local, Chinese mainland and international organisations.

In accordance with approval from the Chief Executive, the Macao Foundation initiated a special funding procedure, granting 30 million Hong Kong dollars to the HKSAR Government to support relief and subsequent reconstruction efforts following the serious fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, Hong Kong.

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 2025, the Personal Data Protection Bureau opened 93 cases of administrative irregularities; received 39 requests for opinions, 1,131 personal data processing notifications, 28 authorisation applications, and 1,272 legal inquiries; and held or co-organised 23 explanatory sessions and six lectures on the Personal Data Protection Act, with a total attendance of 1,378 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; 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 MSAR Government reformed the civil service training system to optimise training planning and arrangements, and continued cooperating with the Chinese mainland to deepen national affairs education for civil servants, offering training courses on topics including the national leadership's philosophy regarding governance, national development, and national security, with a focus on national affairs, e-governance, rotation training in the Chinese mainland, and talent reserve development, to further enhance staff competence and governance capability.

e-Governance

In 2025, the MSAR Government continued furthering e-governance development, advancing the integrated development of online and offline services, enhancing administrative management and operational efficiency, promoting high-quality and convenient public services, and creating a more convenient environment for residents' daily lives, business operations, and the functioning of community organisations. Phases of e-governance development have reached the expected targets.

1. Accelerating Development Based on the Legal Framework

The e-Government Law provides a legal basis for building a digital government and advancing the digitalisation of public services. In accordance with provisions on the reduction of document submissions and data sharing, the Government advances data interconnection, process reengineering

and procedural simplification through cross-departmental collaboration, laying a solid foundation for public administration reform and the long-term development of e-governance.

2. Three Government Platforms Expanding Convenient Services

The MSAR Government launched Macao One Account, the Business and Associations Platform and the Government Affairs Platform in phases, achieving full digitalisation of the MSAR Government's services for both the public and internal operations.

Public Services

Since Macao One Account was launched in 2019, the MSAR Government has progressively transformed its service model, evolving from individual digitalised services to integrated single-transaction and one-stop services. As of 31 December 2025, Macao One Account had integrated over 480 electronic services and functions, with 670,000 registered electronic accounts, making it the primary channel through which residents access electronic services.

Macao One Account

The new version of Macao One Account, released in March 2025, optimised the facial recognition and identity verification functions. In addition, several new convenient services were added in response to the MSAR Government's people-centred initiatives and livelihood improvement measures, including:

The "2025 Wealth Partaking Scheme Enquiry" service was launched, enabling residents to easily check their eligibility for the disbursement; the subsequent "Application for Disbursement of Wealth Partaking Funds" service simplifies procedures through cross-departmental data interconnection, shortening processing times.

The application service for the Childcare Subsidy Scheme was integrated into a "single-transaction integrated service", allowing residents to apply directly through the one-stop integrated service function on Macao One Account, reducing the need for in-person visits and repeated document submissions.

In addition, the "My Vehicle" function on Macao One Account, in collaboration with insurance companies, added a vehicle insurance renewal feature, making it more convenient for residents to handle and pay renewal fees.

Services for Businesses and Associations

Since its launch in 2024, the Business and Associations Platform has attracted considerable interest from enterprises and associations. By the end of 2025, the platform offered 200 services, with 20,000 registered entities.

Following the launch of the one-stop online licence application service for catering and beverage premises, in 2025 the platform launched one-stop licence application services for Chinese medicine pharmacies, Western medicine pharmacies and tutorial centres, achieving fully electronic application and approval processes. The platform also introduced the "Business Vehicle" function, enabling enterprises and associations to link their vehicle information to the platform for convenient viewing

and payment of traffic violation fines and vehicle tax.

Regarding licence renewals, the Business and Associations Platform has continued expanding its service coverage, adding over 50 categories of licence renewal services across different sectors. Users need only link their licences with a single tap to handle renewals and payments online in one place, without having to submit separate applications.

Internal Administration

The Government Affairs Platform provides shared functions covering personnel management, official document handling and internal administration, reducing duplication of efforts across departments and achieving standardised and unified administrative management. Currently all government departments are using the platform, with a cumulative total of over 1.7 million tasks processed and over 1.6 million electronic official letters sent and received. In 2025, the scope of document workflow was further expanded with the addition of proposal, report and opinion functions, achieving fully electronic drafting and approval processes, and continuing to enhance internal administrative efficiency.

3. Advancing the Integrated Development of Online and Offline Government Services

In addition to developing online services, the MSAR Government has also advanced the integration of online and offline services, including by improving Government Service Centres, and establishing 24-hour self-service Government Service Centres, "Smart Collect" smart lockers and Remote Service Counters to meet the needs of different groups.

The Macao Government Services Centre in Avenida de Venceslau de Morais, which opened in October 2025, provides over 300 services from 24 departments, and includes a 24-hour self-service Government Service Centre equipped with self-service application and collection kiosks, "Smart Collect" smart lockers and multifunctional self-service machines, offering over 70 self-service services from 12 departments.

There are currently eight 24-hour self-service Government Service Centres across Macao (Nam Van, Avenida de Venceslau de Morais, Fai Chi Kei, Rotunda de Carlos da Maia, Flora, Taipa Central, Taipa Lago Building and Seac Pai Van in Coloane), together with two MSAR Government 24-Hour Self-Service Centres in Hengqin (the Cooperation Zone Government Service Centre and the Macao New Neighbourhood). As of December 2025, the ten centres had cumulatively served nearly 730,000 people.

The "Smart Collect" smart lockers provide a self-service collection service for certificates and licences. In 2025, 51 new services from eight departments were added, bringing the cumulative total to 126 services across 11 departments. As of the end of 2025, cumulative usage had reached nearly 30,000 times.

4. Achieving Efficient Cross-boundary Services Integration

The MSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government continued deepening cooperation in cross-boundary government services. In 2025, the Macao SAR Government e-Services self-service kiosks were deployed in Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and the Hengqin Macao Youth Entrepreneurship Valley, offering 37 commonly used government services

for Macao residents in seven categories covering 11 departments.

The Macao Government Services Centre in Avenida de Venceslau de Morais features a designated cross-boundary self-service zone equipped with Guangdong e-government self-service machines and Hengqin "Business Matters" self-service kiosks, enabling residents and businesses to handle more than 200 commonly used services covering eldercare, employment, taxation, transport and housing.

In addition to the "Smart Collect" smart lockers installed at the Macao New Neighbourhood in Hengqin in 2024, further "Smart Collect" smart lockers were added in December 2025 at the Hengqin Resident Services Centre, adding to the locations where residents can collect documents.

To advance the integration of Hengqin-Macao livelihoods and enable two-way cross-boundary service handling, in 2025 the MSAR Government cooperated with the Commercial Services Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to introduce three Remote Service Counters at the Macao Government Services Centre in Avenida de Venceslau de Morais, enabling Macao residents to handle 120 services from six Cooperation Zone departments without crossing the boundary. On the Hengqin side, in addition to the original counter in Macao New Neighbourhood, two more counters were added at the Hengqin Municipal Service Centre, providing 175 services from 11 Macao departments.

5. Infrastructure Development

The MSAR Government's dedicated Cloud Computing Centre is a key piece of infrastructure for e-governance, ensuring stable and reliable services. To support long-term development, the expansion of the Cloud Computing Centre is nearing completion. The expanded centre will enable centralised resource management, avoid duplicated investment across departments, and enhance the efficiency and controllability of the overall information technology architecture.

Building a Quality Public Service Network with e-Governance Development

The MSAR Government continued deepening e-governance, aligning with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Hengqin-Macao integration trend, by connecting the online Macao One Account livelihood platform and the Business and Associations Platform with offline one-stop integrated service points and 24-hour self-service Government Service Centres, to build an efficient public service network with connectivity between cross-boundary government services.

On 6 October 2025, the Areia Preta Integrated Government Services Centre relocated to Mong Son Building on Avenida de Venceslau de Morais, and the Macao Government Services Centre in Avenida de Venceslau de Morais officially commenced operations. The new location has 57 service counters, integrating over 300 services from 24 departments, and includes a 24-hour self-service Government Service Centre and a cross-boundary self-service zone; it has since been upgraded as follows:

- On 4 November, the centre added three Remote Service Counters to support Hengqin affairs handled in Macao (120 services from six Cooperation Zone departments); also, the Hengqin

Municipal Service Centre added two Remote Service Counters to support Macao affairs handled in Hengqin (175 services from 11 MSAR Government departments).

- On 29 December, the centre added Hong Kong cross-boundary self-service kiosks and "iAM Smart" self-registration stations, providing approximately 70 services from the HKSAR Government and supporting "iAM Smart+" digital authentication.

As of the end of December 2025, the one-stop integrated Government Service Centres had handled a cumulative total of over 880,000 cases and received over 1.19 million visitors; ten 24-hour self-service Government Service Centres had been established in Macao and Hengqin, with the scope of cross-boundary government services continuing to expand; and the "Smart Collect" smart lockers had recorded over 28,000 reservations.

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.

Up to 2025, the Chief Executive had signed administrative orders to award decorations of honour, medals and certificates to 25 batches of individuals and entities.

Flag and Emblem of the MSAR

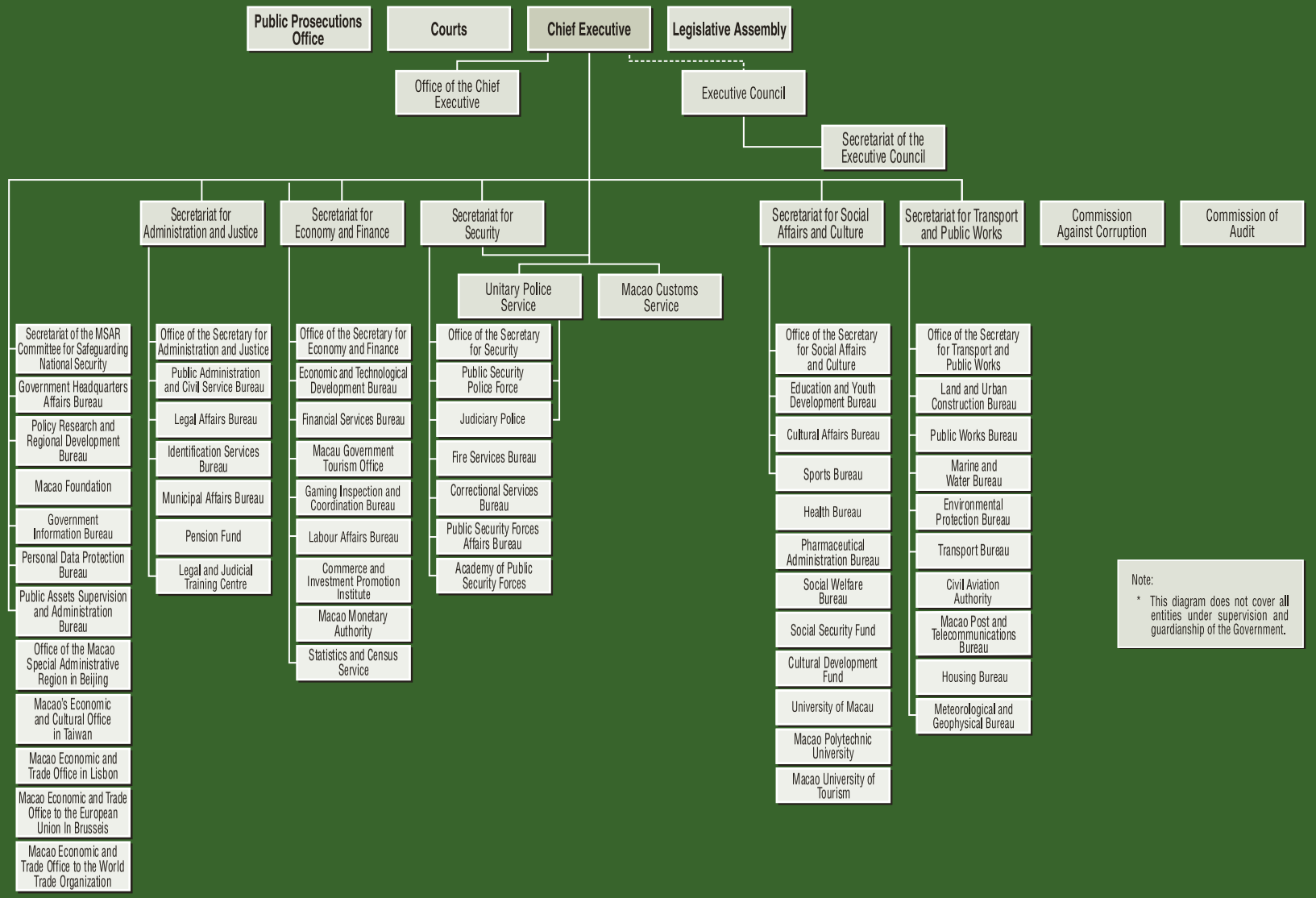
The flag of the MSAR has identical patterns and colours on both sides, with the five stars, lotus flower, bridge and seawater design on the front and back. The rectangular flag has a green background and a 3:2 length-height ratio. A white, three-petal lotus flower is in the centre of the flag. Five golden 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 "Macau" 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.

Macao Yearbook 2026

Government Headquarters Open Day

The Government Headquarters holds an annual Open Day, with large, themed display areas set up in the Protocol Palace and gardens. Macao residents and tourists may tour the Multi-function Room and Lotus Room on the ground floor of Protocol Palace; the main hall, the Green Room, the Yellow Room and the Blue Room on the upper floor; as well as the gardens. There are also performances for them to enjoy. The theme of the 2025 Open Day flower display was “The 15th National Games”.