

Review of the MSAR Government's Major Policies in 2012

Development of the Political System

In strict adherence with the Macao Basic Law and the relevant interpretations and decisions made by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the Government has begun the legislative process on how to modify the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive in 2013, and the formation of the Legislative Assembly in 2014. A high degree of consensus has now been reached within society. After completion of the five-step formulation process, the Government has proceeded to complete amendments to the electoral laws, to ensure the steady development of the Macao SAR political system.

Fiscal Reserve System

In accordance with the Fiscal Reserve System that came into force in 2012, the Government has completed the allocation of reserves assets and funding of foreign exchange reserves, as has achieved effective management of fiscal reserves in line with economic, financial and market developments around the world.

As at September 2012

Macao SAR Fiscal Reserves

Basic reserves:	Excess reserves: 64.635 billion patacas (after the balance auditing of the financial budget of 2011)		
98.801 billion patacas	Capital assets at year commencement 58 million patacas	Return of investment as at 30 September 2012 837 million patacas	Fiscal balance for the term of 2011 63.74 billion patacas

Macao SAR Foreign Exchange Reserves

132.748 billion patacas

Population Policy Framework Consultation

With the completion of the first phase of study of population policy, the Policy Research Office has proposed a set of policy directions to raise the quality of the population, to support the aging population, and to optimise operation of the entrant scheme mechanism. A three-month public consultation is being conducted from 3 November 2012, including five major sessions to collect opinions from the public and various sectors. Following the consultation period, the Policy Research Office will further deepen the study of our population policy framework.



Establish the Emergency Response Committee

The Government has established the Emergency Response Committee, led by the Chief Executive, to enhance crisis response and improve the capability to deal with crises, to put every possible effort into protecting the lives and property of residents.

Tobacco Control

The Prevention and Control of Smoking Law came into force in 2012. In the first three quarters, the Prevention and Control of Smoking Office has inspected over 190,000 locations and issued over 6,000 penalty tickets. During the same period, the outpatient service of counselling on smoking cessation provided by health centres has served about 3,000 people, an increase of nearly 20 percent compared with the same period last year. Meanwhile the Regulation on Smoking Zones Requirements in Casinos has been promulgated, providing technical guidelines for casinos to ensure the health of staff.



CCTV Surveillance in Public Areas

To prevent and combat crime more efficiently, the Government has set up an integrated system comprising more than 1,000 CCTV surveillance cameras in public areas, under the coordination of the Office of the Secretary for Security, conducted according to the Regulation of CCTV Surveillance in Public Areas. In addition, the Unitary Police Service will closely work with public works departments and other related departments to follow up with the installation of some 400 additional video surveillance units.

Conservation of Cultural Heritage

In a bid to further develop the rich local cultural resources, the Government has strived to conserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage; and the bill on Cultural Heritage Conservation has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation to enhance the conservation and revitalisation of historical buildings.

Implement the Framework for Private School Teaching Staff

The Government has implemented the Framework for Private School Teaching Staff to create a system for enhancing teachers' professionalism and working conditions.

Caring for People's Livelihoods

Subsidising Three Categories of Underprivileged Groups

The infirm (single-member family)	Single parent families (two-person family)	The disabled (single-member family)
Special living allowance of 1,900 patacas + 2,000 patacas #	Special living allowance of 3,000 patacas + 3,100 patacas #	Special living allowance of 1,900 patacas + 2,000 patacas #
Disadvantaged families special subsidy # (Maximum applicable if: no relatives in Macao) 800 patacas x 12 instalments	Disadvantaged families special subsidy # (Maximum applicable if: children studying at university) 450 patacas x 12 instalments	Disability allowance: 6,000 patacas (mild to moderate disabilities) 12,000 patacas (severe to profound disabilities)
One-off special subsidy of 3,200 patacas + 3,360 patacas #	One-off special subsidy of 5,920 patacas + 6,200 patacas #	Disability gratuity (contributors to the Social Security Fund) of 2,000 patacas x 13 instalments
Electricity bill subsidy of 200 patacas x 12 instalments	Electricity bill subsidy of 200 patacas x 12 instalments	Disadvantaged families special subsidy # (Maximum applicable if: no relatives in Macao) 600 patacas x 12 instalments
Health care voucher of 500 patacas	Health care voucher of 500 patacas x 2 persons	One-off special subsidy of 3,200 patacas + 3,360 patacas #
7,000 patacas under the Wealth Partaking Scheme	7,000 patacas x 2 persons under Wealth Partaking Scheme	Electricity bill subsidy of 200 patacas x 12 instalments
		Health care voucher of 500 patacas
		7,000 patacas cash
Total 29,960 patacas	Total 41,020 patacas	Total (mild to moderate disabilities) 59,560 patacas (severe to profound disabilities) 65,560 patacas

Family assets assessment and income limit applicable

Additional Initiatives to Support Underprivileged Groups

- Raised the minimum subsistence index, a measure of financial need, by five percent, to include more families in the social safety net;
- Disbursed special subsidies twice to more than 5,000 families receiving financial subsidies who were registered with the Social Welfare Bureau, to help families with difficulties to combat inflation, and provided two instalments of a special living allowance to low-income families and the three categories of the underprivileged;
- Raised the old-age allowance from 5,000 patacas to 6,000 patacas;
- Increased by eight percent the rent allowance to families on the waiting list for public housing to 1,350 patacas per month for single-member or two-member families.

Enhancing Food Safety

The Food Safety Bill has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation, and the preliminary work for the establishment of the Food Safety Centre has been completed. The Government has already established a food industry distribution database, and will gradually implement inspection procedures and food safety standards for targeted food types. These initiatives are intended to promote technical exchanges and training cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, refine food safety inspection systems, and enhance the emergency response capabilities of the two regions.

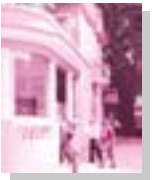


Food Price Monitoring Unit

The Government has established a cross-departmental food price monitoring unit to inspect possible problems during importation, wholesale trade and retail, so that stable food prices can be maintained. During the first month of its operation, the unit inspected 67 wholesalers and 176 retailers looking at 3,546 types of food including rice, oil, salt and sugar. At the same time, the unit monitors changes in the wholesale availability, wholesale price and retail price of live produce.

Environmental Protection

- Focused environmental protection in 2012 on improving air quality and waste management;
- Completed the formulation of the by-law on Limits on Gaseous Pollutant Emissions from New Imported Heavy and Light Motor Vehicles;
- Completed the enactment of the Recommended Technical Specifications for the Installation of Emission Treatment Devices in Diesel Vehicles regulation, and the consultation for Standards of Unleaded Petrol and Light Diesel Fuel for Vehicles; and
- Subsidised organisations and enterprises to use environmentally friendly equipment and products through application of the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund;
- Completed the formulation of Macao's first environmental protection framework, the Macao Environmental Protection Plan (2010-2020).



Increasing Investment in Education

Government Subsidies to Tertiary Students

Programme	Amount of subsidy	Total cost per year	Remarks
Learning material subsidy	2,000 patacas	66.23 million patacas	
Interest Rebate Loan Scheme	Subsidise repayment of bank loan interest during study period, applicable to a maximum loan of 600,000 patacas.	3.65 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	Rebate of 70 percent of loan interest during study period and the remaining 30 percent upon completion of study
Interest-free loan Scheme	Maximum of 4,500 patacas per month during study period	220 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	Family income assessment and means testing required, to be repaid by instalments after graduation.
Scholarship	Maximum 4,500 patacas per month	7.80 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	Subject to certain academic requirements
Special Bursaries	Maximum 5,400 patacas per month	25.2 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	Limited to programmes in the creative sector, nursing, social work, education and rehabilitation, and bachelor degree holders who undertake further study of Portuguese in Portugal; applicants must work in Macao for at least three years after graduation.
Special bursaries for Study in Portugal	Subsidise full tuition fees, a maximum of 1,800 patacas accommodation allowance per month, and a maximum of 6,500 patacas travel allowance for the round trip.	8.78 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	Only for students taking a Portuguese programme or studying for a law degree programmes in Portugal
Overseas Study Subsidy	Maximum of 6,500 patacas travel allowance for the round trip, and a maximum of 1,800 patacas accommodation allowance per month.	27.5 million patacas (2012/2013 academic year)	
Special Scholarship Programme	Maximum of 300,000 patacas per year for family with financial difficulties	40 scholarships per year	For students who have shown outstanding academic achievement, are admitted to one of a select few world-renowned universities, and will work in Macao or the mainland after graduation.
Tertiary Education Subsidy Scheme for Outstanding Students	Maximum of 180,000 patacas per year	2.37 million patacas for 40 students per year (2012/2013 academic year)	Only for students taking teacher-training courses under full-time bachelor degree programmes; fresh secondary school graduates require the recommendation of their school to apply for the subsidy; and each successful applicant must work as a teacher in Macao after graduation.
Postgraduate Scholarship Programme	Amount per year (2012/2013 academic year) Master's degree: 45,000 patacas Joint Master's/doctorate: 54,000 patacas Doctorate: 63,000 patacas	Master's degree: 2.70 million patacas Joint Master's/doctorate: 54,000 patacas Doctorate: 945,000 patacas Total 3.699 million patacas	Up to 60 places for master's degree programmes; one place for joint master's/doctorate programmes; Up to 15 places for doctorate degree programmes.

Progress in Housing and Land Development

- Completed construction of 19,000 public housing units as planned, initiated allocation of those housing units and began reserve planning of "post-19,000 units" public housing programme; continue to reserve more land for the provision of further public housing units beyond the previously announced programme of 6,300 units;
- From 2009 to the end of September this year, the Government has recovered 52 pieces of unlawfully occupied land with a total area of 210,000 square metres;
- Completed the first phase of analysis of 48 cases of idle land involving certain liabilities; as at August, 12 cases among them are under the corresponding legal process of declaring void the previous land grant;



- Completed enactment of the Law on Home-Ownership Scheme Housing, the Real Estate Agency Law, the by-law of implementation period of extension of the temporary housing subsidies to eligible families on the waiting list for public housing; completed the amendments to the Urban Property Tax Regulations and Stamp Duty Regulations; submitted the bill on the Legal Procedure to Transfer Ownership of Property under Construction to the Legislative Assembly for discussion and deliberation; the amendments to the Land Law and the draft Urban Planning Law have been completed and will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for discussion in due course;
- Tightened the housing mortgage ratio of residential property; extended the special stamp duty to transactions relating to business premises, offices and parking spaces; levied additional stamp duty for the purchase of a residential unit by business owners, either a legal entity or a natural person, and by non-permanent residents; refined the procedures for approving master plans for private building construction; and studied new guidelines to regulate pre-sale of uncompleted flats.