

Review of Major Policies of the MSAR Government in 2013

Development of four long-term mechanisms to enhance the well-being of society

	 Social security	 Education	 Medical and health	 Housing
Development of systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of monitoring and periodic adjustment mechanism for the minimum subsistence index. The minimum subsistence index was adjusted upward to 3,450 patacas from January 2013 (up 7.81%, higher than the inflation rate of 6.11% in 2012); Establishment of a cross-departmental study group on the 10-year development plan for rehabilitation services; Establishment of a cross-departmental study group on Macao's retirement protection mechanism; A public consultation on the non-mandatory central provident fund system will be conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the blueprint for the ten-year plan for non-tertiary education (2011-2020); Amendment to the law on the Criteria for Private Schools; Amendment to the bill on the Compulsory Education System; Pilot implementation of the Formal Education Curriculum Framework; Implementation of the Framework for Private School Teaching Staff; Amendment to the law on Tertiary Education; The talent database has completed the report on the assessment of talent requirements in the next five to ten years in the sectors of healthcare services; kindergarten, primary and secondary teaching; social work; hotel operation; convention and exhibition services; and information technology; Formulation of the Long-term Youth Policy for Macao (2012-2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the establishment of the Medical Affairs Committee, and discussion of the Medical Officer Registration System, discussion of the law to regulate house officer training is now in progress; Submission to the Legislative Assembly of the bill on Legal System for Resolving Disputes in Medical Incidents, for its consideration; Enforcement of the Prevention and Control of Smoking Law; Establishment of geriatrics and specialist outpatient departments (memory clinics) as well as a cross-departmental geriatric working group; Implementation of the first development stage of an electronic medical records system for Macao residents; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberation and passing of the Land Law, the Urban Planning Law and the Cultural Heritage Protection Law by the Legislative Assembly; The Legal System of Commitment to Title Transfer of Buildings Under Construction, the Real Estate Agency Law and the Stipulations of the Real Estate Agency Law have already entered into force; Expedited processing of granted land that is not yet being used; Commencement of research on urbanisation planning in northern Taipa; Conduct of studies on the "Macao Property for Macao Residents" policy, with consultations soon to be launched.
Allocation of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a budget allocation of five billion patacas to the Social Security Fund, and increase in the proportion of contribution from gross gaming revenue to the Social Security Fund from 60% to 75%; Increase in various benefits paid through the Social Security System, including upward adjustment of the pension and the disability gratuity from 2,000 patacas to 3,000 patacas, while also raising other subsidies (unemployment, illness, marriage, births, etc) by 70%; A total of 43 social service facilities to commence operations from 2013 to 2015; As at Q3 of 2013, total expenditure on financial assistance was 280 million patacas, providing support to an average of 5,000 families per month, involving about 9,000 persons in total; Regular subsidies to non-government organisations for continuous development in services have been increased by 10% during the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in free education subsidies; Increase in textbook allowances for non-tertiary education; Increase in school fee subsidies, meal allowances and stationery allowances, and subsidies for optimisation of class-teacher ratios and teacher-student ratios; Increase in disbursement of various scholarships and loans for tertiary education; Increase in seats and subsidy amount for the programme to attract outstanding students to enrol in professional teacher training; Participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA); Increase in stationery allowances for tertiary students; Increase in number and value of scholarships for postgraduate students; Completion of the New Hengqin Campus of the University of Macau and commencement of operations; Commencement of the pilot programme of training of young volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gradual commencement of operations of the Emergency Care Building of the Conde S. Januario Hospital, which provides almost 100 beds and offers 24-hour emergency outpatient services; Commencement of operations of the Seac Pai Van Temporary Health Services Station in Coloane; Initiation of the layout planning stage of development of the Islands Medical Services Complex, and the construction of the Coloane Peak Infectious Disease Rehabilitation Centre is underway; Approval for a total of 1,031 patients with financial difficulties to receive medical subsidies, as at Q3 of 2013; Under enhanced cooperation with non-profit medical services institutions, the offer of a total of 370,000 quotas for general outpatient, medical examination and specialist inpatient services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the new round of applications for public housing, with applications for multi-unit Home-Ownership Scheme housing due to commence by the end of 2013; Completion, in August, of the process of allocation of the 19,000 public housing units to families on the waiting list; The four "post-19,000 units" public housing projects are expected to provide about 3,900 public housing units; Commencement of applications for the 1,544 one-bedroom Home-Ownership Scheme housing units offered at Ip Heng Building; Approval, as at Q3 of 2013, of a total of 2,418 applications for subsidies under the Building Maintenance Fund Scheme, involving a total of 264 million patacas for repairs and maintenance of more than 2,000 buildings.
Short-term measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbursement of an extra one-month full subsidy to families registered with the Social Welfare Bureau to receive financial assistance; Disbursement of special subsidies and special living allowances to the three categories of disadvantaged families, and inclusion of autism, dementia and epilepsy under the subsidy umbrella; Substantial increase in rent subsidies from 300-800 patacas to 1,350-2,050 patacas; Continuous implementation of the Community Employment Assistance Scheme and the Positive Life Programme; Extension of each implementation period of the Short-term Food Assistance Programme to eight weeks; Increase in the Old-age Allowance to 6,600 patacas; Increase in disability gratuity to 6,600 patacas and 13,200 patacas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbursement of a one-off grant to honour teachers, made to about 1,000 eligible recipients and involving a total of 60 million patacas; As at the end of Q3 of 2013, approximately 127,000 residents had participated in the Continuing Education Programme, involving a total subsidy of 430 million patacas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering of 600-pataca healthcare vouchers; Launch of the Provisional Supporting Plan for Mothers and Babies, serving almost 4,000 participants, as at Q3 of 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent waivers for public housing tenants for the whole year; Disbursement of temporary housing subsidies to eligible families on the public housing waiting list; Waiver of the first 3,500 patacas of real estate tax; Waiver of real estate stamp duty on the first three million patacas of a home's value, for Macao permanent residents purchasing a residential property for the first time.

Public administration

- Completion of the fifth Legislative Assembly Election in accordance with the amended Legislative Assembly Election Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region;
- Completion of the rectification and adaptation of laws previously in force in Macao;
- Commencement of performance assessment for department heads and compilation of the report on the implementation of government policies;
- Commencement of rationalisation of the functions of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Food safety

- The Food Safety Law has entered into force, and the Food Safety Centre has officially commenced operations.

Public order

- Prevention and combatting of drug-related crime, establishment of a liaison mechanism between the community and the police, enhancement of convenient immigration services and strengthening of crime prevention promotion.

The tenth anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries

- Bolstering of Macao's function as a platform for commercial and trade services between China and Portuguese-speaking and Romance language-speaking countries.

Supports for SMEs

- The Macao Business Support Centre, the SME Service Centre and Macao Ideas are established to provide SME support services;
- Establishment of a support scheme for young entrepreneurs to provide loans of up to 300,000 patacas with a maximum repayment term of eight years;
- Establishment of a cultural industry fund, with an injection of 200 million patacas, to foster local cultural and creative industries and talent in the form of subsidies and awards.

Measures to support SMEs in effect as at Q3 of 2013

Programme	Approval (cases)	Amount (patacas)
Macao Industrial and Commercial Development Fund	50	About 36.91 million patacas
SME Assistance Programme	529	About 192 million patacas
SME Credit Assurance Scheme	64	Credit assurance of about 121 million patacas
SME Special Credit Assurance Programme	4	Credit assurance of about 3.9 million patacas
Interest Subsidy Scheme on Bank Loans to Enterprises	69	About 222 million patacas in the form of subsidies, with a total interest subsidy amounting to about 17.86 million patacas
Conventions and Exhibitions Incentive Scheme	54	About 45.73 million patacas

Assistance to SMEs with market development, organisation of participation in 33 overseas exhibitions involving 283 exhibitors, arrangement of 4,630 business matching sessions, and successful facilitation of contract signings for 115 projects involving a total of seven billion patacas.

Livelihood and employment

- Completion of consultations on the population policy framework;
- Proactive and proper handling of the takeover and transition of the operations of Reolian Public Transport Company Limited, to ensure stable provision of public bus services;
- Protection of local residents' employment rights and interests, enhancement of regulation on hiring non-resident workers, encouragement of businesses to prioritise the promotion of local employees, and support for upward mobility of local employees.

Environmental protection

- As at 31 August, the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund has granted approval to 1,743 applications involving a total subsidy of about 150 million patacas. Further extension of eligibility for subsidies to local schools, in response to community demands;
- Formulation of subsidy scheme to replace highly polluting vehicles in phases;
- Support for bus operators to introduce environmentally friendly LNG buses and conduct pilot tests on electric public buses;
- Completion of the recycled water pipeline network project in the Seac Pai Van new community district and the area within the New Hengqin Campus of the University of Macau.

Community facilities for the public housing estates in Seac Pai Van

Community facilities	Shops	Transport	Environmental protection measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet market Health centre Nurseries / kindergartens and primary schools Library Integrated services centre for the elderly Community activity centre Family and community integrated services centre Vocational training centre Social work centre Home for children and youth Hostel for the disabled Medication centre Post office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Three restaurants Shopping centre Bakery Convenient store Hardware shop Super-market Restaurant Other foods and drinks store Convenient store Pharmacy Medical clinic Four retail businesses One restaurant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus interchange Bus routes 15 25 26 26A 50 N3 Express services (25F, 22F) Serving between Seac Pai Van Bus Terminal and Border Gate Terminal and the Ferreira do Amaral Roundabout Five public car parks Four pedestrian footbridges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of natural gas Use of recycled water Installation of LED street lights Collection of recyclable waste Greening of podium gardens Natural ventilation Natural lighting