

Review of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government's Major Work in 2023

In 2023, the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, in unity with various sectors of society, firmly implemented the overall national security concept and the principle of "patriots governing Macao"; spare no effort to promote economic recovery and actively implemented the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy; continued to enhance people's livelihoods and accelerated urban infrastructure construction; facilitated new achievements in the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and promoted external exchanges – thereby maintaining Macao's social stability and promoting sustainable development in various areas.



Review of the Government's Work in 2023



Public projects with a budget exceeding 100 million patacas

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Effective Implementation of Safeguarding National Security

- The newly revised **Law on Safeguarding National Security** has officially come into effect, and the bill on **Guarding State Secrets** has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- The Government has fully implemented the principle of "patriots governing Macao". The bill to amend the **Chief Executive Election Law** passed its first reading at the Legislative Assembly, while the bill to amend the **Legislative Assembly Election Law** was submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- The Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region has fully supported the **National Security Adviser** and **National Security Technical Adviser** in fulfilling their duties in accordance with the law;
- A series of activities were held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao SAR and the **National Security Education Day**, to continue patriotic education; and
- The Government has completed the fifth phase of the "Sky Eye" CCTV system and the revision of the **Civil Protection Master Plan**, and deepened regional collaboration in policing to effectively curb various illegal activities.



Continuous Improvement in People's Livelihoods

- To secure residents' employment rights, the Government completed the biennial review and adjustment recommendations for the minimum wage. During the first nine months of this year, the Government assisted **10,581** local residents in successfully finding employment, offered over **600** vocational training courses, and organised **318** sessions of the **subsidised training scheme**;
- The Government steadily implemented the housing ladder policy. The regular application mechanism for public housing operated smoothly. A total of **5,415 Home-Ownership Scheme housing** units were introduced, effectively resolving the longstanding problem of insufficient supply in this scheme. **The Legal System for Housing for the Sandwich Class** was passed by the Legislative Assembly. Eligibility criteria and usage fees for **senior citizen housing units**, which totalled 1,815, were announced, and applications were accepted from 6 November onwards;
- To enhance social services and social security, the Government has regularly reviewed relevant indicators and parameters for adjusting social security benefits, and expanded the **Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme**;
- Measures related to people's livelihoods and social welfare remain unchanged;
- The Public Health Specialist Building of the Health Bureau has been put into operation, while services of the **Macao Union Hospital have been phased in**;



Orderly Advancement of Urban Construction

- Detailed planning has commenced for districts including Eastern District-2, Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2, Northern District-1 and Taipa Central District-2;
- Draft bills on marine zoning based on function, planning of maritime areas and the Law on Use of Maritime Areas were submitted for consultation with the Central Government in accordance with the law;
- Steel deck construction and installation work for the **fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge** has been expedited. The first phase of the Islands District Medical Complex has been completed. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Macao Cross-Border Cargo Transfer Terminal and the **overpass connecting the University of Macau and the Hengqin Checkpoint** have been put into operation;
- The **extension of the LRT Taipa Line to Barra Station** was scheduled to open by the end of 2023. The main structural work for the **Seac Pai Van Line and Hengqin Line** was set to be completed by 2023;
- The "Electronic Vehicle Promotion Scheme" and the second phase of "Subsidy Scheme for Replacing Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles" have been launched, and
- Compilation of building plans for constructing a sports park at the original site of Macao (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club has begun.



Continuous Economic Recovery

- The economy has been rapidly recovering, with major economic indicators showing stable and positive growth. In the first half of 2023, the local gross domestic product (GDP) grew by **71.5** percent in real terms compared to the previous year, and the overall economic output reached **71** percent of the level in the same period of 2019. In the first half of this year, Macao was the top destination for mainland Chinese residents' outbound travel. In the first eight months of this year, the number of inbound tourists increased by **3.6** times year-on-year. While the number of overnight visitors increased by **5.2** times. The overall inflation rate for the 12 months until August 2023 was **0.86** percent;
- The job market has continued to improve. From June to August 2023, the unemployment rate among local residents dropped to **3.1** percent, and the underemployment rate decreased to **2.3** percent;
- Investment in public projects has expanded. The number of completed or ongoing projects whose budget each exceeded **100 million patacas** totalled **51** as of October this year; and
- The Government launched the Strolling through Almeida Ribeiro Avenue - Pedestrian Area Pilot Project, prepared to **revitalise six historical and cultural areas**, implemented a pilot revitalisation plan for the Rua da Felicidade pedestrian zone, and organised festivals and events, to enrich community tourism elements.



Advancement of Appropriate Economic Diversification

- The Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028)** was compiled and published, defining specific goals, key tasks, and priority projects for industrial development in the next five years;
- The Government has promoted diversified development in the integrated tourism and leisure industry, fostered **tourism crossover synergy**, and promoted the orderly, lawful and healthy development of the gaming industry;
- The registration system for Chinese patent medicines has been effectively implemented, to establish **an evaluation and approval system for Chinese patent medicines with Macao characteristics**, and to promote research and development and transformation of research achievements in traditional Chinese medicine;
- The Government has accelerated work on fostering the bond market. As of September 2023, the value of outstanding bonds issued or listed in Macao reached **447.2 billion patacas**;
- New financial institutions that provide financing services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises have been established in Macao, and several licensed financial institutions have commenced operations;
- To attract technology enterprises to establish their bases in Macao, the **Technology Enterprises Certification Programme** has been launched;
- As the convention and exhibition industry has gained increasing international recognition and competitiveness, Macao was selected as the **Best Convention City (Asia)**;
- Macao has developed branded art and cultural festivals and events, organised high-standard large-scale sports events, and showcased a variety of sports and art performances at integrated resorts;
- To intensify solicitation of investments, **272** investment projects were processed through **one-stop investment services** from January to September this year; and
- The Government has supported the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and enhanced the brand image and visibility of "Made in Macao" products.



- The Government has implemented new policies for talent importation, and opened applications for programmes for importing talented people;
- The Government has promoted diversification in higher education enrolment and established **industry-academia-research demonstration bases**, to further promote the high-quality development of higher education;
- The Government has strengthened the non-tertiary education system and continuously developed vocational education courses. The results of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) have affirmed Macao's education and student capabilities;



- the Government has supported young people with integrating into national development, and has established a "One country, two systems" Study Base;
- The Government has expedited construction of "One Base" and promoted cultural conservation and heritage. The Shipyard at Lai Chi Vun and the **Black Box Theatre in Macao Cultural Centre** have been put into operation; and
- Preparations for the 15th National Games Macao Venue have commenced. The Macao delegation achieved **remarkable results** in the 19th Asian Games and the 2023 East Asian Youth Games.



Steady Progress in Administrative Reform

- As of September 2023, over **541,000** individuals have registered for "Macao One Account", which provides over **300** services and functions. Residents can make electronic appointments for more than **600** counter services across **28** departments;
- As of September 2023, over **267,000** individuals have registered their **electronic identity**. Starting from December 2023, the new generation Macao Special Administrative Region Resident Identity Card will be issued;
- To promote electronic services in the business sector, the basic development of a **digital commercial service platform** was completed;
- The restructuring of **26** public departments and entities – **five** public departments, **four** funds, **14** committees and **three** welfare associations – has been completed, to enhance administrative efficiency;
- Drafting of all bills for the 2023 legislative plan has been completed. As of September 2023, a total of **17** laws had been formulated, and **36** by-laws had been promulgated;
- The Legal System for Corporations with Public Capital** has come into effect, further improving the system for supervising public assets; and
- The Commission Against Corruption (CAC) and the Commission of Audit (CA) have diligently fulfilled their responsibilities, contributing to the construction of an **efficient and clean** government.



New Progress in the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin

- The four nascent industries** have made initial achievements, with continuous integration of Macao elements. From January to June, the total operating income of the four nascent industries (excluding the modern financial services industry) increased by **29.9** percent compared to the previous year, and the value added by the modern financial services industry increased by 2.9 percent year-on-year. As of September 2023, the number of registered Macao-owned enterprises in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin had increased by 13.8 percent compared to the previous year;
- Significant policies and regulations, such as the **Regulations for Promoting Development, the Thirty Financial Measures** and the **Catalogue of Encouraged Industries**, have been introduced in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin;
- Progress has been made in aligning and interconnecting regulations and mechanisms between the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone and Macao;
- To establish a diverse dispute resolution mechanism, the Hengqin-Macao International Legal Services Cluster has been officially inaugurated, providing **one-stop legal services**;
- Some of the permanent passenger and cargo lanes of the phase-2 construction of Hengqin Checkpoint have been opened for trial operation, along with implementing an innovative clearance mechanism of "joint inspections for one-stop crossing", further enhancing the facilitation of customs clearance; and
- The Macao New Neighbourhood** integrated residential project in Hengqin was completed in August 2023, with demonstration units opened for viewing. It includes schools, health stations, senior citizen service centres, and community service centres, creating a liveable environment that aligns with Macao's standards.



Integration into Overall National Development

- Implement permit issuance policy for talented people travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao on a pilot basis, implement and **continued to optimise the "Northbound Travel for Macao Vehicles"** policy, implement **mutual recognition of mainland China and Macao driving licences**, and commence operation of the "One-stop Service Window for Guangdong-Macao Social Security (Hengqin Counter)", for the convenience of Macao residents to work and live in the Greater Bay Area;
- To deepen cooperation with the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region and strengthen cooperation between Hong Kong and Macao, the cooperation mechanism with mainland China provinces (regions and cities) has been implemented, including **support for rural revitalisation in Jiangxi province**;
- A series of events were held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao); and
- The Government has continuously expanded external exchanges and cooperation. Delegations have visited Portugal, Luxembourg, and Belgium. Efforts have been made to establish friendship cities and contribute to the development of the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

