

Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024

Consolidate Development and Enhance Diversification

**The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
14 November 2023**

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Preface

The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

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Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng

14 November 2023

President, members of the Legislative Assembly,

On behalf of the Macao SAR Government, I now present to the Legislative Assembly the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2024 for its deliberation.

In 2023, the Macao SAR Government diligently implemented the development strategies presented in the report to the 20th National Congress and the spirit of the series of instructions from President Xi Jinping; unswervingly, comprehensively and accurately upheld the principles of “One country, two systems”, “Macao people governing Macao” and a high degree of autonomy; united and led various sectors of society to actively seize the opportunities for post-pandemic recovery; and implemented a series of measures to boost the economy and expand tourist sources, to significantly increase the numbers of inbound tourists, in order to promote fast economic recovery, and facilitate rejuvenation in society.

Also, the Government has implemented the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy, and formulated the first comprehensive and systematic industrial development plan for Macao – the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028).

The revisions to the Law on Safeguarding National Security have been completed and come into effect, and work on amending the Chief Executive Election Law and the Legislative Assembly Election Law is in progress; these revisions will further diligently implement the overall national security concept and the principle of “patriots governing Macao”.

The Government has continuously improved people’s livelihoods, steadily expedited urban infrastructure construction, implemented public administration reform in an orderly manner, and achieved progress in the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. We have also broadened and deepened external exchanges and cooperation, to further consolidate and enhance our functions as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Overall, Macao has maintained strong momentum for economic recovery, social stability and sustainable development spanning various areas. However, we are keenly aware that the recovery and development are not balanced, and some industries, businesses and residents have not fully overcome the difficulties and issues resulting from the pandemic over the past three years.

Over the past year, Macao has successfully navigated through an arduous

downturn, and has now entered a new phase of gradual recovery and development. This achievement would not have been possible without the concerted efforts and cooperation from people in all sectors and all walks of life, as well as the invaluable support from the Central People's Government, all its representative offices in Macao and mainland China provinces (regions and cities). I would like to express my sincere gratitude to various sectors and all Macao people, and to the Central People's Government and all its representative offices, the Guangdong Provincial Government, and the governments of other mainland China provinces (regions and cities).

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland, and the final year of the current Government administration. The Macao SAR Government shall persistently uphold the spirit of the important speeches and instructions from President Xi Jinping; strictly follow the Constitution and the Macao Basic Law; firmly safeguard the absolute power of governance of the Central People's Government and the sovereignty, security and development interests of the country; fully implement the principle of "patriots governing Macao", and join hands with all sectors of society to achieve greater accomplishments.

In accordance with the overall policy direction of "Strengthening Recovery, Fostering Diversification, Improving Livelihoods, and Enhancing Development", the Government shall consolidate the strong momentum for economic recovery, implement the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy, and achieve progress with appropriate economic diversification in an efficient, effective and pragmatic manner.

We shall continue improving people's livelihoods, further enhance overall quality and standards of governance, expedite the development of a smart and liveable city, and promote sustainable development in various areas.

We shall closely cooperate with Guangdong Province, to ensure the completion of the first phase of the development goals for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, actively integrate into overall national development, and facilitate the country's high-quality development and national rejuvenation.

I. Review and Summary of the Government's Work in the Fiscal Year 2023

Now, I will briefly review and summarise the Government's work in 2023.

(1) Effective Implementation of Safeguarding National Security

The Government has attached great importance to and diligently fulfilled its constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security. As the legal system for safeguarding national security continued to improve, the enforcement mechanism was consistently optimised. The Law on Safeguarding National Security, along with a series of supporting laws and regulations, collectively forms a systematic legal framework, providing solid legal protection for safeguarding national security.

The Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the Macao SAR has fully leveraged its coordinating and leadership functions. The Office of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security, as a permanent executive and supporting department under the Committee, has fulfilled its statutory responsibilities by coordinating with the Judiciary Police as the law enforcement unit responsible for safeguarding national security, and supporting the operations of the Committee. Through multi-dimensional efforts encompassing intelligence work, criminal investigations, operational support, legal systems and policies, and publicity and education, the enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security has been continuously optimised and perfected.

In summary, thanks to the persistent efforts of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security, Macao's ability and capacity to safeguard national security have continued improving. Moving forward, we will further strengthen the top-down design, improve the organisational structure, and enhance comprehensive effectiveness of measures to safeguard national security.

Based on an extensive consensus in society, the revised Law on Safeguarding National Security officially came into effect on 30 May 2023, and the bill on Guarding State Secrets has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation, to continuously improve the legal system for safeguarding national security. 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 fully supported the National Security Adviser and National Security Technical Advisers in fulfilling their duties in accordance with the law, to ensure that the measures to safeguard national security in Macao are comprehensively implemented under the supervision, guidance, coordination and support of the National Security Adviser.

Under the coordination of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security and its office, the law enforcement authorities responsible for safeguarding national security have strengthened law enforcement deployment, optimised workflows, effectively utilised staff, and conducted professional training in accordance with the

law. They have enhanced efforts in counterintelligence and counter-infiltration measures, to prevent external interference and ensure effective prevention and investigation of crimes against national security.

To continue patriotic education, a series of activities were held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao SAR. Through publicity and promotion of various kinds, emphasis was placed on conducting educational campaigns targeting youth and primary and secondary school students, continuously improving the effectiveness of promoting the Constitution, Basic Law, and the Law on Safeguarding National Security.

A series of activities were organised for National Security Education Day, attracting an unprecedented number of participants and website visits throughout the exhibition period, gradually raising residents' awareness of national security.

The Government has introduced special initiatives and systematic deployments to foster a comprehensive understanding of the equal importance of both development and security, as well as the significance of security and stability in all sectors. The Government acknowledges the complex and challenging situation that Macao faces, thus heightening our risk awareness to effectively prepare for adverse circumstances. We understand that safeguarding national security is an ongoing endeavour that requires relentless efforts and unwavering dedication.

To strengthen the establishment of the urban security system, the Government has pragmatically promoted the application of smart policing and completed the fifth phase of the "Sky Eye" CCTV system; optimised cyber security, to enhance the capacity to respond to cyber risks and incidents; completed the revision of the Civil Protection Master Plan and continued perfecting the platform for applications enabling effective overall command during emergencies, to strengthen disaster relief capacity; adjusted deployments and deepened regional collaboration in policing, to align with the changing trends in crimes and effectively combat illegal activities.

(2) Continuous Economic Recovery

To foster economic recovery, the Government has taken various measures to facilitate recovery of the integrated tourism and leisure industry, and to expand domestic and international visitor sources; continued implementing the temporary subsidies and tax incentives introduced in 2022; continued expanding investment in public projects; commenced construction of public infrastructure and public housing; and continued launching public projects of various sizes, with 51 projects – each with funding exceeding 100 million patacas – either completed or underway as of October 2023.

In 2023, the Government strived to enrich community tourism elements and revitalise the community economy in a bid to promote recovery of the integrated tourism and leisure industry. We also launched the Strolling through Almeida Ribeiro – Pedestrian Area Pilot Project.

In collaboration with the non-gaming projects guaranteed by the gaming concessionaires, the Government planned to revitalise six historical and cultural areas,

and implemented a pilot revitalisation plan for the Rua da Felicidade pedestrian zone, to attract business operators and improve the business environment in the area. The Government also interlinked various major events in the city, to divert visitor flows and enhance the vibrancy of the local cultural and tourism economy.

The Government continued strengthening the brand image of “Arraial na Ervanarios”; organised festivals and events to enhance Macao’s tourist appeal; and fully utilised various unique local resources – such as culture, history, branded events, gastronomy and waterfront areas – to organise distinctive community activities to boost consumption by locals and tourists.

The Government collaborated with renowned online video platforms and television networks from various countries and regions, to produce variety shows that highlight the charm of Macao’s communities, thus strengthening community promotion through online and offline channels. Numbers of accredited shops with local characteristics have increased, and they have incorporated innovative elements to inject vitality into the community economy.

Through collective efforts by various sectors, the economy has rapidly recovered, with major economic indicators showing stable 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.

The number of inbound tourists in the first eight months of the year increased by 3.6 times year-on-year, making Macao the top destination for outbound mainland Chinese tourists. The number of overnight visitors increased by 5.2 times, and the average hotel occupancy rate rose by 43.4 percentage points to 80.9 percent.

Retail sales in the first half of the year increased by 19 percent compared to the same period in 2019, while consumer prices basically remained stable. The Government continued monitoring changes in fuel prices, and ensured stable supplies of basic commodities.

During the 12-month period ending in August 2023, the overall inflation rate stood at 0.86 percent. Confidence in Macao's economic development continued to strengthen across various sectors of society.

As the economy gradually recovered, the employment situation also continued improving. From June to August 2023, the unemployment rate among local residents dropped to 3.1 percent, marking a decrease of 2.4 percentage points compared to the peak period during the pandemic, when it was 5.5 percent. The underemployment rate also decreased to 2.3 percent, representing a significant drop of 15.6 percentage points compared to the peak period, when it was 17.9 percent.

(3) Advancement of Appropriate Economic Diversification

The Government actively implemented the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy in a pragmatic and orderly manner, striving to optimise and strengthen the integrated tourism and leisure industry, while promoting the

development of key industries including traditional Chinese medicine and Big Health, modern financial services, high technology, exhibitions and conventions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports.

In alignment with the country's 14th Five-Year Plan, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the direction set by the second Five-Year Development Plan of the Macao SAR, the Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028) was formulated and announced. This outlines specific goals, major tasks, and key initiatives for industrial development over the next five years, to provide directions for investment and development of society and residents.

Efforts to promote appropriate economic diversification that were introduced or ongoing during 2023 included:

Facilitating diversified development of the integrated tourism and leisure industry - The Government has strengthened joint development between tourism and industries, such as gastronomy, study trips, sports, technology, culture and creativity, conventions and exhibitions, and Big Health through tourism crossover synergy; launched external tourism promotion activities, to expand international visitor sources; promoted the orderly and healthy development of the gaming industry, and monitored gaming concessionaires to ensure they fulfil their contractual obligations to expedite implementation of various investment plans.

Accelerating the development of traditional Chinese medicine and the Big Health industries – By promoting traditional Chinese medicine research and transformation of research results, research platforms for traditional Chinese medicine have attracted collaboration from mainland Chinese enterprises, to conduct research in Macao, and transform the research results to practical applications.

The Traditional Chinese Medicines registration system has been effectively implemented, to establish a pharmaceutical evaluation and approval system with Macao characteristics, so that Macao's traditional Chinese medicines for external use, requiring simplified registration qualifications, can successfully obtain drug registration certificates in mainland China. The measure that allows drugs and medical devices registered for use in Hong Kong and Macao public hospitals to be used throughout the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has facilitated the use of several Macao-listed drugs within the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The Government has optimised consultation services for application of industrial licences, to establish Macao-branded traditional Chinese medicines. Several pharmaceutical and Big Health food factories have obtained industrial licences. Import management for small medical devices has been carried out in an orderly manner. Major Big Health projects in the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao (GMTCM Park) have been implemented, with 191 registered enterprises as of September 2023 – including 61 Macao enterprises that were established in the GMTCM Park and 30 enterprises that have signed contracts to establish offices in Macao.

Promoting the development of a modern financial services industry – Efforts have been made to expedite fostering the bond market, improve financial infrastructure, and facilitate alignment of the local bond market to meet international standards. As of September 2023, the value of outstanding bonds issued or listed in Macao reached 447.2 billion patacas.

The Government has revised various financial laws, regulations and related guidelines; and explored new financial business models so new financial institutions that provide financing services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises can establish operations in Macao. Several financial institutions that obtained licences in 2022 have commenced operations. Wealth management businesses have developed. The Government also actively promoted the application of financial technologies, while financial institutions continuously improved their electronic payment services.

Accelerating the cultivation of high technology industries - President Xi's letter of encouragement on the successful launch of the Macao Science Satellite-1 highly acknowledged Macao's remarkable achievements in deepening science and technology cooperation with mainland China. The Government strived to attract technology enterprises to establish their bases in Macao, followed up regarding more than ten technology industry investment projects, supported the practical application of promising projects that have been transformed from research achievements; established an enterprise research and development funding system; launched the Technology Enterprises Certification Programme; and organised visits to Macao and the Greater Bay Area for delegations from innovative technology companies in Portuguese-speaking countries, to attract foreign innovative technology companies to establish their bases in Macao.

Promoting steady development of the exhibition and trade industry – As the international reputation and competitiveness of Macao's exhibition industry continue increasing, hosting several significant large-scale international exhibitions has elevated Macao's status as an international exhibition and convention city. Macao has been selected as the Best Convention City (Asia). Successful events, such as the International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum, have further expanded our influence and enhanced the effectiveness of trade promotion through organising conventions and exhibitions.

Maintaining strong momentum for cultural and sports development – The diverse range of sports and art performances held at integrated resorts has attracted visitors from around the world. Long-term branded performances infused with local characteristics have been introduced, creating branded art and cultural festivals and events. The Government also promoted the development of Macao's film and television industry; and organised high-standard large-scale sports events, such as the Macau Grand Prix, Macao International Marathon and WTT Champions Macao, to foster the integrated development of Macao's sports industry and its related industries.

Improving the business environment – The Government promoted legislative work that supports the development of key industries, advanced e-government services for the business sector, and enhanced digitalisation of public services including property and business registration and notary services; and intensified

solicitation of investments, with 272 investment projects processed through one-stop investment services from January to September 2023, involving an estimated total investment of approximately 1.189 billion patacas, and creating 698 job opportunities.

The Government has supported the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries; enhanced the brand image and visibility of “Made in Macao” by integrating online and offline approaches; and facilitated the quality-driven transformation of industries under the CEPA policy.

(4) Continuous Improvements in People’s Livelihoods

The Government has taken practical and effective measures to actively address residents’ demands regarding livelihood issues.

To secure employment rights and enhance residents' vocational skills, the Government completed the biennial review and adjustment recommendations for minimum wage; and supported the Legislative Assembly with its deliberations on the Union Law. During the first nine months of 2023, the Government assisted 10,581 local residents in successfully finding employment, offered over 600 vocational training courses, organised 318 sessions of the subsidised training scheme; and implemented youth internship programmes focusing on “1+4” industries.

The Government steadily implemented the housing ladder policy. The regular application mechanism for public housing operated smoothly, with an average waiting period of approximately one year, and 95 percent of public housing tenants were granted rent waivers. During the second round of the Home-Ownership Scheme application under the second Five-Year Development Plan, 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, and the drafting work for the supplementary regulations has commenced. Further research will be conducted based on the Home-Ownership Scheme applications, to explore the implementation of proposed designs for the Sandwich Class Housing Scheme on Avenida Wai Long site.

The Government continued implementing the senior citizen housing pilot scheme. The administrative regulations on the use and management of the senior citizen housing have come into effect. Eligibility criteria and usage fees for senior citizen housing units were announced, and applications were accepted from 6 November onwards.

The structural construction of the senior citizen housing project in Areia Preta Zone P has been completed. As planned, two state-owned land plots located in Taipa have been put up for public tender.

In terms of implementing new policies for talent importation, the bill on Legal System for Importing Talented People and its rules for the implementation, as well as the By-law of the Manpower Development Committee have come into effect. Programmes for importing talented people have opened for applications. In

accordance with the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy, the Government has continued to conduct and optimise studies on demand for talented people in various sectors. An incentive scheme for talent cultivation and accreditation has been implemented, to focus on the needs of industrial development and strengthen talent cultivation. The Government has commenced studies on demand for urgently needed talented people, and continued attracting overseas talents to return to Macao.

To improve social services and social security, the Government regularly reviewed relevant indicators and parameters for adjusting social security benefits; extended rehabilitation and early treatment services; expanded the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme; and optimised elderly day centre, home care and support services.

The quality of health services has been enhanced. The Government announced the law on medically assisted reproduction technology. 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.

In line with the Healthy Macao initiative, the Law on Prevention and Control of Alcohol Consumption by Minors has been implemented, along with the launch of the healthy eating campaign. Measures have been taken to safeguard food safety in Macao by strengthening radiation testing of imported food products.

To foster the development of higher education, the Government actively promoted programme reviews and quality assurance in tertiary institutions; and promoted diversification in higher education enrolment, to further enhance high-quality development of higher education. Several Macao universities have achieved improved rankings in global higher education evaluations.

The Government has leveraged Macao's platform advantages, to strengthen exchanges and academic cooperation among tertiary institutions; established industry-academia-research demonstration bases, to further facilitate the transformation of research achievements from tertiary institutions; expedited the legislative work for the legal frameworks for Macao Polytechnic University and Macao Institute for Tourism Studies.

The Government strengthened the non-tertiary education system; integrated public school resources and continuously developed vocational education courses, to meet the talent demands of industrial diversification; deepened bilingual education in Chinese and Portuguese; implemented laws and by-laws regarding non-tertiary education; promoted innovative teaching design; facilitated students' all-round development while supporting their mental health; and announced the results of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which have affirmed Macao's education and student capabilities.

The Government enhanced the overall qualities of young people, supported their integration into national development; provided them with comprehensive care and support, to create a better environment for education, employment, entrepreneurship and living; continued strengthening patriotic education, established a "One country, two systems" study base; implemented an extended education scheme to promote

patriotism; leveraged the advantages of the dual-base setup of the Macao Science Center, to strengthen popular science education; and continued optimising the plan for the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experimental Camp.

The Government expedited construction of “One Base” and promoted cultural conservation and heritage. The Shipyard at Lai Chi Vun X11-X15 and the Black Box Theatre in Macao Cultural Centre have been put into operation. Efforts have been made to develop Macao as a "city of reading"; the protection and management plans for the nomination of Macao's Maritime Silk Road as a World Heritage site have been completed; the Guidelines for Intangible Cultural Heritage Management have been implemented; and the Historic Building Maintenance Subsidy Scheme has been launched. Also, the Geography volume in the Macao Chronicles series has been published.

To foster sports development, the Government organised diverse sport-for-all activities, with over 99,000 participants as of September 2023; enhanced sports facilities, planned the construction of the auxiliary building of the Athletes Training Centre; and commenced preparations for the 15th National Games. The Macao sports delegation achieved remarkable results in major sports events including the 2023 East Asian Youth Games, the 19th Asian Games, the Fourth Asian Para Games, and the First National Student (Youth) Games.

(5) Steady Progress in Administrative Reform

Continuing to deepen e-governance as an entry point, the Government strived to provide residents with smart and convenient e-services, to create a more user-friendly public service environment; optimised the civil servant management system, to enhance the quality and efficiency of public services; and strengthened legislative work and continuously improved the legal system of the Macao SAR.

Regarding deepening the establishment of e-governance, the scope of application and functions of the “Macao One Account” were expanded. As of September 2023, more than 541,000 users have registered for the "Macao One Account" electronic accounts, which provides over 300 services and functions. Currently, residents can make appointments for over 600 counter services from 28 departments, basically realising the digitalisation of various government service applications.

The Government has introduced “electronic identity” and deepened inter-departmental cooperation through data sharing. As of September 2023, over 267,000 individuals have registered their electronic identity. The activation of “electronic identity” is a significant milestone in the continuous advancement of smart governance in the Macao SAR. Starting from December 2023, the new generation Macao SAR Resident Identity Card will be issued.

The Government has commenced the amendment of the "e-Government" legislation, and continuously promoted the digitisation of automobile registration, civil registration, property registration, commercial registration, and notarial services; advanced electronic services in the business sector, with the development of a digital commercial service platform nearing completion, and scheduled for launch after thorough public consultation and testing.

With the goal of breaking barriers and facilitating businesses, the Government reformed the one-stop licensing system for food and beverage establishments, and established related electronic application and joint approval platforms. Currently, the design work for the expansion of the first phase of the cloud computing centre is underway.

The Government continued its organisational restructuring. The restructuring of 26 public departments and entities – five public departments, four funds, 14 committees and three welfare associations – has been completed. The Government has also reviewed the administrative roles of four project teams, and restructured three project teams. In 2023, the review of legal system regarding organisational structure related to 67 public departments or entities was completed, accounting for nearly 90 percent of the total departments.

To further optimise the legal system, the Government has completed the drafting of all bills for the 2023 legislative plan. As of September 2023, a total of 17 laws had been formulated, and 36 by-laws had been promulgated.

To strengthen civil servant management and training, amendments to the Macao Public Servants Statutes and Regulations and related regulations have been completed, to optimise the civil servant transfer mechanism and legalise the authority of department heads in personnel management.

The Government has established a new Government communication system to enhance internal management efficiency within departments; continued offering courses on the Constitution, Basic Law, and Law on Safeguarding National Security, strengthened the core values of our love for the country and for Macao among civil servants, and continuously improved the civil servant training system.

The Legal System for Corporations with Public Capital has come into effect, further improving the system for supervising public assets and realising reasonable allocation of public financial resources.

The Commission Against Corruption (CAC) and the Commission of Audit (CA) have diligently fulfilled their responsibilities, to implement all anti-corruption and auditing projects in an orderly manner, contributing to the construction of an efficient and clean government.

(6) Orderly Advancement of Urban Construction

Regarding enhancing urban planning and strengthening maritime management, 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 to the Central People's Government for advice in accordance with the law.

Regarding progress with major public projects, the steel deck construction and installation work for the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge have been

expedited. The superstructures of the central laboratory building and the first phase of the Islands District Medical Complex have been completed. The construction of road networks and common pipelines in New Urban Zone Area A is proceeding in an orderly manner.

The LRT Barra Station and the main structural work for the Seac Pai Van Line have been completed. The extension of the LRT Taipa Line to Barra Station was scheduled to open by the end of 2023, while the main structural work of the Hengqin Line was scheduled to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2023.

The expansion and land reclamation of Macau International Airport have received written approval from the Central People's Government. The Sociedade do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L. is currently revising the airport's exclusive area and preparing the land reclamation project plan. Preliminary surveying work has already commenced.

The construction of Government office buildings is steadily progressing. The construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Macao Cross-Border Cargo Transfer Terminal has been completed, and the terminal has been handed over to the relevant departments for operation.

The overpass connecting the University of Macau and the Hengqin Checkpoint has been put into operation. Construction of the superstructure of the Venceslau de Moraes public housing project was completed in the second quarter of 2023. The construction of public housing units and Home-Ownership Scheme housing in New Urban Zone Area A has been expedited.

The Government is committed to developing a multi-dimensional transportation network to alleviate traffic pressure. The newly installed lifts at the pedestrian flyover on Avenida do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues are now in operation. The diagonal pedestrian crossing on Avenida do Almirante Lacerda is open for public use.

Construction has commenced on the flyovers at Avenida Marginal do Lam Mau and Praca Orquídeas, while the construction of the flyover at Avenida Marginal Flor de Lotus in Taipa was scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2023. The planning work for Phase 1 of the flyover at Avenida Marginal do Patane has been completed.

To optimise environmental management and implement energy conservation and carbon reduction, the Electric Vehicle Promotion Scheme and the second phase of Subsidy Scheme for Replacing Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles have been launched.

As of September 2023, there were a total of 7,346 electric vehicles in Macao, representing a 79 percent year-on-year increase. The proportion of Euro 4 emission standard heavy passenger vehicles in Macao has been reduced to approximately 42 percent. The two bus companies have incorporated new energy public buses, accounting for approximately 64 percent of the total number of operating public buses.

Since 1 January 2023, the import of non-degradable disposable plastic knives, forks and spoons were prohibited. Construction has commenced for the new administrative building and incineration plant of the Macao Central Incineration Centre, while the construction of the food waste treatment centre commenced in the second half of 2023.

The Government expedited the "reclaimed water reuse" project, formulated technical regulations for reclaimed water distribution in public water supply and residential buildings, and relevant reclaimed water quality standards. The Government also expedited the application for use of waters for the eco-island, in accordance with comments from related ministries of the Central People's Government regarding the phased implementation of the ecological island project.

To continue expanding open space for the public, the Government has optimised the open space and children's playgrounds in the Northern District, commenced design for enhancements of leisure areas in Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral, Rua Central De Toi San, Rua da Missao de Fatima and Rua de Lei Pou Chon in the third quarter of 2023; and commenced the compilation of building plans for constructing a sports park at the original site of Macao (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club.

(7) New progress in the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin

With the main focus on promoting appropriate economic diversification and emphasis on industrial diversification, the Government pragmatically advanced 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. As of August 2023, there were 16,185 enterprises in the four nascent industries, representing a 10.4 percent year-on-year increase, accounting for 29.2 percent of the total number of enterprises in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

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.

The Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin has more than 40 operational integrated circuit enterprises, forming a preliminary integrated circuit design industrial ecosystem that encompasses areas including intellectual property and third-generation semiconductors. The number of Macao-owned enterprises has continued increasing, further enhancing vitality.

As of September 2023, the number of Macao-owned enterprises registered in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin recorded a year-on-year increase of 13.8 percent. From January to June, the operating revenue of established Macao-owned enterprises increased by 28.6 percent compared to the previous year.

In terms of expediting the implementation of policies related to the overall plan for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, 12 of the 21

significant policies have been implemented. During the first half of 2023, significant policies and regulations such as the Regulations for Promoting Development, the Thirty Financial Measures and the Catalogue of Encouraged Industries were introduced.

The Master Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin (draft) has been completed and submitted to the Central People's Government for approval. The work on state-owned land planning is steadily progressing. The Government has fully implemented the hierarchical management system, accelerated optimising the construction of "first-tier" and "second-tier" infrastructure, and introduced related policies; implemented the "Double 15 percent" tax incentive policy, and published the "Interim Measures for the List-Based Administration of High-End and Urgently-Needed Talents Eligible for Preferential Individual Income Tax Policies in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin", to gradually create an environment for business, work and living in Hengqin that converges with Macao.

Progress has been made in aligning and interconnecting regulations and mechanisms between the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone and Macao. Leveraging on the legislative authority of the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone, regulations that enable Macao medical and pharmaceutical professionals to practise in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin have been formulated.

The newly revised Macao Public Servants Statutes and Regulations and related regulations have come into effect. Twenty-nine civil servants have been temporarily appointed to work in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and an additional 26 Macao residents have been recruited through examinations to work in the Executive Committee of the Cooperation Zone.

Regarding enhancing inter-connection of infrastructure, some of the permanent passenger and cargo lanes of the phase-2 construction of Hengqin Checkpoint have been opened for trial operations, along with implementing an innovative clearance mechanism of "joint inspections for one-stop crossing", thus further facilitating customs clearance.

To establish a diverse dispute resolution mechanism, the Hengqin-Macao International Legal Services Cluster has been officially inaugurated, with nine public legal service institutions providing one-stop legal services for enterprises and residents in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

To support youth entrepreneurship and innovation, as of September 2023, 717 Hong Kong and Macao projects were incubated by the five innovation and entrepreneurship bases for Hong Kong and Macao young people in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone. The number of employees of Macao's youth entrepreneurial enterprises has reached 1,123. Efforts have been made to introduce 24 cooperative investment and financing institutions to various parks.

The Macao New Neighbourhood integrated residential project in Hengqin was completed in August 2023. The project comprises over 4,000 residential units, more than 5,000 square metres of commercial space, schools, health centres, senior citizen

service centres, and community service centres, aligning with aspects of Macao's public welfare services and social security system such as education, healthcare, social services and transportation, to create a liveable environment that aligns with Macao standards.

(8) Integration into Overall National Development

The Government has implemented the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, proceeded with the 2023 Arrangements of Key Projects for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and followed up regarding the implementation of the Outline Development Plan for modern industries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Regarding the continuous optimisation of policy measures to boost convenience for Macao residents working and living in the Greater Bay Area, the Government has implemented a pilot scheme for issuing permits to talented people travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao; implemented and continued optimising the “Northbound Travel for Macao Vehicles” policy; implemented mutual recognition of mainland China and Macao driving licences; signed the Arrangements on Quotas of Guangdong-Macao Cross-Border Buses and Taxis; and commenced operation of the “One-stop Service Window for Guangdong-Macao Social Security (Hengqin Counter)”.

To deepen cooperation with the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region (PPRD) and support exchanges and cooperation between PPRD provinces and regions and Portuguese-speaking countries, the Government further strengthened cooperation in areas such as technology and innovation, finance, Chinese medicine, tourism, culture and sports, exhibitions, and trade between Hong Kong and Macao; promoted cooperation in major areas based on existing mechanisms for joint conferences, such as Guangdong-Macao, Shanghai-Macao, and Fujian-Macao conferences; implemented cooperative task force mechanisms with mainland China provinces (regions and cities) such as Hainan Province, Chongqing Municipality, Shenzhen Municipality and Foshan Municipality; signed the rural revitalisation cooperation framework agreement with Jiangxi province, and pragmatically supported rural revitalisation in Jiangxi.

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). Seizing this opportunity, the Government enhanced support services for cooperation between Chinese and Portuguese enterprises, to act as a platform for promoting exchanges and cooperation in various areas between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

To leverage Macao's functions as a platform for participating in and facilitating development of “Belt and Road” initiatives, the Government has participated in key diplomatic events such as the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and the China International Import Expo, to continuously expand external exchanges and cooperation.

The Government also organised delegations to visit Portugal, Luxembourg and Belgium, to strengthen friendly bilateral relationships and deepen cooperation in relevant areas. Efforts have been made to establish a friendship city relationship with Timor-Leste, improve the mechanism for communications between friendly cities, and expand exchanges and cooperation in the economy, culture and tourism.

In the past year, the Macao SAR Government has capitalised on the opportunities arising from post-pandemic recovery to actively and pragmatically advance its administrative work. Overall, Macao has achieved new progress and developments in various areas. However, we are keenly aware of the shortcomings in our governance, the gaps between public expectations and our performance, and the areas for improvement.

In response, the Government will tackle issues head on, listen to opinions from all walks of life, continuously enhance our work, foster a conscientious and proactive mind-set among civil servants, adopt innovative approaches to address deep-rooted conflicts and problems in economic and social development, enhance comprehensive policy implementation capacity, and improve the overall quality and standards of governance, to continue realising new development for Macao and strive to enhance people's well-being.

II. Overall Direction and Policy Highlights of the Government for 2024

Situation, Overall Direction and Goals of the Government for 2024

Looking to the year ahead, the global economy is expected to experience a slow recovery, with persistent instability and uncertainty in overall development. The financial sectors of certain developed economies continue to face accumulated risks and complex geopolitical situations. We must consistently strengthen risk awareness and uphold our bottom-line thinking, to prevent and mitigate financial and economic risks.

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The country will persist in pursuing a high level of opening up to the world, and expedite a new development paradigm, to achieve comprehensive and high-quality development through the Chinese path to modernisation. The national development will provide Macao with new opportunities and momentum.

In the journey of the new era, the Macao SAR must consistently align with the Central People's Government's, unswervingly implement the new concepts, thoughts, and strategies proposed by President Xi Jinping regarding "One country, two systems" and Macao; actively leverage our advantages, fully seize the opportunities in the national development, fully align with the national development strategies to better integrate into the overall national development, and facilitate the country's high-quality development and national rejuvenation.

Regarding Macao's self-development, as steady progress has been made in non-gaming related investment projects, paving the way for the implementation of tourism crossover synergy and enriching Macao's contents as a world tourism and leisure centre, Macao will strive to tap into the international tourist market and reinforce the synergy between the integrated tourism and leisure industry and other related industries, to foster a stable and resilient economic recovery.

As next year marks the first year of the implementation of the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification strategy, key projects in sectors such as Chinese medicine and Big Health, modern financial services, high technology, exhibitions and conventions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports, will be implemented progressively, providing new momentum and support for Macao's economic recovery, improvement of people's livelihoods and appropriate economic diversification.

The Government will continue to implement vigorous fiscal policies, maintain an appropriate scale of public investment, and progressively implement various transportation infrastructure, public facilities and public housing projects. The local job market and consumer prices will continue to stabilise, while the market environment, economic atmosphere and business environment are expected to continue improving. The development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will be expedited, further strengthening the synergy between Macao and Hengqin industries. Considering all these favourable factors, we maintain an optimistic outlook and confidence in Macao's future development.

—The overall direction of administrative policies in 2024 includes: Strengthening Recovery, Fostering Diversification, Improving Livelihoods,

Enhancing Development.

—The major development goals of the Macao SAR include: Effectively safeguard national security, continuously enhance law enforcement capabilities in maintaining national security; make greater effort to implement the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy, expedite the fostering and development of major nascent industries, maintain a strong momentum for economic recovery, improve people’s livelihoods, continuously deepen public administration reform, enhance quality and standards of governance, and achieve new progress in all areas of the Macao SAR.

The tasks for the first-phase development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin have been successfully completed, and have actively integrated into the overall national development. All sectors of society will jointly demonstrate a harmonious and stable social environment and prosperity, warmly celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland.

Policy Highlights for 2024

(1) Firmly safeguard national security and social stability

The Macao SAR has a constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security and social stability, while Macao residents also bear corresponding responsibilities and obligations. With a more elevated political stance and stronger sense of responsibility, the Government will firmly uphold the holistic approach to national security, safeguard national sovereignty, safety and development interests, prevent and suppress interferences in Macao affairs by external forces, safeguard against any forces endangering national security through Macao; promote awareness of national security among all civil servants and all sectors of society, enhance the capability and effectiveness in safeguarding national security, and safeguard the bottom line of Macao’s overall stability.

The Government will enhance awareness of potential risks and crises, persist with bottom-line thinking, pragmatically expedite legislation in an orderly manner to safeguard national security, persistently promote the implementation and optimisation of a comprehensive, scientific and effective legal system and law enforcement system for safeguarding national security; always maintain a clear understanding of Macao’s complex situation and specifically strengthen the staff recruitment and resource allocation of national security departments based on practical needs, to ensure law enforcement capabilities for safeguarding national security in the Macao SAR.

The Government fully supports the National Security Affairs Adviser and the National Security Technical Advisers in performing their duties in accordance with the law; strictly enforces the Law on Safeguarding National Security; and proactively prevents and mitigates hidden risks that may pose threats to national security and social stability.

The Government will fully implement the provisions regarding oath-taking in the newly revised Law on Safeguarding National Security, further implement the

principle of “patriots governing Macao”, complete the amendments to the Chief Executive Election Law and the Legislative Assembly Election Law, and amend the Law on Oath-taking upon Assumption of Office and related regulations.

To deepen patriotic education, the Government will thoroughly study and implement the Patriotic Education Law, to promote patriotic education, enhance the sense of national identity and patriotism among Macao residents, pass on the national spirit to the next generations, strengthen national awareness, and foster a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation.

We will leverage patriotic organisations’ role to promote the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the Law on Safeguarding National Security through various online and offline activities and multimedia channels, to create a favourable environment for respecting, obeying and safeguarding the law.

We will continue enhancing residents’ sense of national identity, belonging and pride, while emphasising the vital role of national security in securing Macao’s prosperity.

We will continue to bolster our loyalty and consolidate our core value of loving our country and Macao, thus fortifying the stable and long-lasting social and political foundation of “One country, two systems”.

The Government will strengthen the establishment of an urban security system; intensify smart policing, further enhance the protection and risk prevention regarding cybersecurity, strengthen security protection of key data and infrastructure in Macao, and strengthen the security of Macao waters through technology.

The Government will continue optimising the Civil Protection Master Plan and the platform for applications enabling effective overall command during emergencies, strengthen the emergency response and disaster relief and prevention work of the Civil Protection Centre, continuously enhance intelligent management of civil protection, actively promote regional emergency rescue cooperation, and consolidate community power to safeguard our frontline defences for civil protection.

We will continue assessing various security risks, proactively adjust deployment of resources for law enforcement, prevent and combat illegal and criminal activities, and deepen exchanges and cooperation with law enforcement departments in neighbouring areas, to effectively safeguard Macao’s overall safety and stability.

(2) Further enhance appropriate economic diversification

2024 marks the beginning of the implementation of the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy. Guided by the strategy, the Government will make greater efforts to promote appropriate economic diversification through policy making, manpower and financial resources, and establish a diverse and sustainable industrial structure that dovetails with Macao's actual situation, to foster appropriate economic diversification and quality development. All government departments shall seriously align their work with the "1+4" strategy and incorporate its main tasks and key projects into their policy implementation.

The Government will strengthen the integrated tourism and leisure industry, in tandem with enriching Macao's contents as a world tourism and leisure centre. We will enhance the promotion of Macao as a tourism and leisure city, deepen tourism crossover synergy, and strengthen joint development between tourism and other industries such as gastronomy, study trips, sports, technology, culture, conventions and exhibitions, and Big Health through crossover synergy. The Government will support the development of education tourism, cultural tourism, Big Health tourism and sport tourism.

The Government will strictly enforce the new gaming laws and regulations, and closely monitor gaming concessionaires' compliance in fulfilling their contractual obligations, to ensure orderly, lawful and healthy development of the gaming industry.

First, fully implement the revitalisation action plans for old areas – The Government will boost economic growth in the community by leveraging the revitalisation of historical and cultural areas; take the lead in engaging the community in revitalising six historical and cultural areas, explore the historical and cultural resources of the old areas, establish iconic cultural and tourism attractions, attract more visitors to shop in Macao, and offer visitors unique cultural tourism experiences with Macao characteristics, to foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises within historical and cultural areas and their surrounding regions.

Plans for the six historical and cultural areas include:

- Elements of cultural businesses and art exhibitions will be injected in Barra district near Doca D. Carlos I, to create a distinctive and attractive leisure and culture creative park;
- Diverse elements such as fishing-port-themed shops, open space and coastal space will be introduced along the pier and Patane Municipal Market in the Inner Harbour district, with Pier 23 and Pier 25 as key nodes, to create a unique district for community tourism;
- A pedestrian zone will be established in the Rua da Felicidade area, with optimised street space including art installations, cultural and art fairs, art performances and night market experiences, to create a pleasant walking environment with an artistic atmosphere to attract more visitors;
- The Almeida Ribeiro Avenue area will be developed as a landmark for cultural tourism, highlighting vintage street culture;
- Street beautification works will be implemented for Almeida Ribeiro Avenue, Rua de Cinco de Outubro and Rua das Estalagens, together with the Patio da Eterna Felicidade and Mount Fortress revitalisation projects, by injecting different elements into each area, to better leverage the cultural and tourism resources of the areas and promote joint development with neighbouring areas;
- The Shipyard at Lai Chi Vun will be transformed into a leisure park highlighting the shipbuilding industry;
- The Iec Long Fireworks Factory area will provide diverse sightseeing experiences by incorporating interactive technologies;
- The outdoor area of the Taipa Houses-Museum will generate synergy with the old district on Taipa island; and

- Measures such as community festive events and community tourism subsidies will be continued, to enhance the economic vitality of the community.

Second, promote the development of non-gaming elements by gaming concessionaires – The Government will ensure that gaming concessionaires implement their investment plans for 2024 and encourage them to introduce more international branded events; continue enriching local themed entertainment products, develop cross-domain cultural consumption and characteristic experiential events incorporating technological elements; construct high-quality tourism and entertainment facilities to boost the development of non-gaming elements such as conferences, exhibitions, entertainment performances, sports events, cultural arts, health and wellness, theme parks, gastronomy, community tourism and maritime tourism.

Third, explore overseas customer markets – The Government will continue to optimise the scheduled flight networks of Macau International Airport, and strive to develop more direct international flights; leverage the role of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, to enhance and promote convenient transit measures between Hong Kong and Macao, and improve the accessibility for foreign tourists wishing to visit Macao. Taking the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the Government will launch promotional offers covering air tickets, cross-border transportation, hotel accommodation, dining, amusement facilities and tickets for performances, to attract international tourists. We will collaborate with cities in the Greater Bay Area to develop more "multi-destination" tourism products targeting visitors from Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, to facilitate mutual exchanges of regional visitor sources.

The Government will actively promote the development of the four key industries, and gradually increase the proportions of their contributions to the economy.

Facilitating the development of Chinese medicine and the Big Health Industry:

- Seize the opportunities arising from the opening of the Macao Union Hospital, to promote integration of “medical services + tourism”, provide high-end medical and healthcare services, gradually expand specialised services including medical cosmetics and Chinese medicine, to attract more visitors to Macao who aim for medical and healthcare services;
- Establish influential technologies and an innovative platform for producing Chinese medicine using traditional and classical prescriptions;
- Promote industrialisation of Chinese medicine and introduce more Big Health and pharmaceutical companies in order for them to establish bases in Macao;
- Leverage the functions of the Pharmaceutical Supervision and Administration Bureau, implement the Law on Pharmaceutical Activities in the Field of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Registration of Traditional Chinese Medicines, ensure the safety, efficacy, and quality control of medicines, and support and encourage the approval of more clinically innovative medicines for sale and use in Macao;
- Introduce high-quality Chinese medicine prescriptions from the mainland’s Chinese medicine hospitals;

- Revise the legal system for medical institution licensing, to establish a category of medical institutions that is intermediate between hospitals and clinics;
- Assist approvals of more Chinese patent medicine products for sale in Macao and production in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, while exploring the mainland China and international markets; and
- Strengthen cooperation between the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park and scientific research institutions, to promote more applications and transformations of research.

Accelerating the development of the modern financial services industry:

- Prioritise the development of the bond market, expedite the optimisation of the Macao Central Securities Depository, strive for support from the Central People's Government to normalise the issuance of sovereign bonds and local bonds in Macao; and attract more international investors;
- Improve laws and regulations regarding the financial services sector, and expedite the legislation of the Securities Law;
- Promote financial technology innovation, to facilitate modern financial services development, to optimise services for the convenience of the public and businesses;
- Explore the measures for optimising the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect Scheme with related authorities in mainland China and Hong Kong;
- Explore the use of tax incentives to encourage asset management companies to establish bases in Macao;
- Consider the introduction of digital currency into the monetary system, to align with the development of the digital economy; and
- Openly and conscientiously develop new financial business structures, and promote the provision of services by licensed new financial institutions to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Macao.

Promoting the development of new hi-tech industries along with transforming and upgrading traditional industries:

- Provide funding for innovation and research and development by enterprises, encourage collaboration between enterprises and tertiary institutions and/or scientific research institutions, and strengthen cooperation among the industrial, academic and research sectors, and transformation of research results into practical applications;
- Support the establishment of high standard industry-academia-research demonstration bases;
- Fully leverage the role of technology enterprises as innovation leaders, increase investment in scientific research and development, along with the industrial investment fund of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, enhance support for scientific research and high-end manufacturing, and cultivate and develop the innovative technologies industrial chain;
- Enhance the construction of a digital city, launch digitalisation upgrade support services for small and medium-sized enterprises, and assist in development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises through technology;

- Support promotion of "Made in Macao" branding, and foster the high-quality development of Macao-branded industries; and
- Encourage Macao-branded industrial enterprises to make good use of the industrial park in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Promoting high-quality development of the exhibition and convention, and commercial and trade industries:

- Accelerate the market-oriented, professional and international development of the exhibition industry, and consider organising more events showcasing high value-added products from Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Encourage the exhibition industry to join international exhibition organisations and enhance Macao's international competitiveness in the exhibition sector;
- Strengthen the synergy between the exhibition industry and other key industries, and strive to host internationally influential exhibitions in Macao;
- Establish a new Macao-Hengqin exhibition platform, to promote the joint organisation of conventions and exhibitions in Macao and Hengqin adopting the "multi-venue event" mode; and
- Further optimise and implement the Macao-Hengqin joint investment promotion plan, and fully leverage the policy advantages of the catalogue of encouraged industries in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to broaden foreign investment channels.

Promoting the sustainable development of the cultural and sports sectors:

- Develop cultural tourism products and cultural experience services that meet market demand, and expand sales platforms for cultural and creative products;
- Create more revitalised spaces for historical buildings and support the integrated development of the cultural industry and tourism;
- Launch funding programmes focusing on promoting cultural and creative projects related to Macao's film and television, cultural performances and cultural tourism, to support the development of cultural and creative brands;
- Foster development of the film and television industry, and establish a website focused on Macao's film and television industry;
- Develop branded art and cultural festivals and events, organise high-standard large-scale sports events, and organise branded sports events with Macao characteristics; and
- Promote integrated development of sports, culture and tourism industries, and position Macao as a "City of Performing Arts" and a "City of Sports".

The Government will improve the business environment, assist small and medium-sized enterprises with solving difficulties and problems, and realise innovative development. The Government will continue supporting and encouraging enterprise transformations and upgrades through various assistance and subsidies, assist small and medium-sized enterprises in seizing the opportunities for the "1+4" industrial diversification development; coordinate with the banking industry to extend the principal moratorium arrangement and adjustment of loan repayments for small and medium-sized enterprises until the end of 2024; support the launch of one-stop

cross-boundary e-commerce service to promote e-commerce development; optimise the community business environment and revitalise community business circles through a variety of approaches; ensure the availability of necessary human resources for economic recovery and innovative development of small and medium-sized enterprises, while prioritising employment for local residents. Small and medium-sized enterprises should also keep pace with the times to innovate and enhance their competitiveness.

In accordance with the needs of industrial diversification, the Government will effectively implement the system for import of talented people and optimise programmes for importing talented people; launch programmes for importing talented people for industries including Big Health, hi-tech, modern financial services, culture and sports; leverage the industrial driving force of imported talents to enhance Macao's innovativeness and competitiveness; enhance the registration and updates of the talent database; and research the demand for talented professionals in the gaming, hotel and catering industries.

In accordance with the requirements of the "1+4" strategy, the Government will formulate an appropriate system for indicators of economic diversification.

(3) Optimise people's quality of life

With economic development as the foundation, the Government aims to enhance overall quality of life and reasonably share the fruits of development with residents.

The Government will continue implementing various tax incentives and welfare measures, to ensure the ongoing allocation of resources for education, healthcare, livelihoods and social welfare, while adhering to the principle of financial prudence. In 2024, the Government will inject an additional fund of 7,000 patacas per person into the Central Provident Fund System, and continue implementing the Wealth Partaking Scheme.

To ensure prioritised employment for local residents, the Government will urge enterprises operating integrated tourism and leisure business to provide more job opportunities with promising prospects for local residents, optimise job matching and vocational training, launch the "Specialised Employment + Training Programme" and promote on-the-job paid training programmes. The Government will collaborate with industries and associations to introduce diverse vocational training programmes, support young people in expanding their careers and seizing opportunities for industrial diversification, implement programmes enabling senior citizens to extend their careers, facilitate "One Examination, Multiple Accreditations" for residents to enhance their employment competitiveness, and increase the minimum wage and adjust the civil service salaries.

The Government will continue improving labour-related laws and regulations, and safeguarding labour rights; promote harmonious and friendly labour relations and the establishment of an occupational safety and health system at various levels; and adopt a policy of "immediate penalty and suspension" for illegal activities in various high-risk industries.

The Government will implement the housing ladder policy and expedite construction of public housing. The Venceslau de Morais public housing project will be completed in the third quarter of 2024, providing 1,590 public housing units and 800 parking spaces. The Home Ownership Scheme housing on plots B4, B9 and B10 in New Urban Zone Area A will be completed in 2024, providing 3,017 Home-Ownership Scheme flats and 2,200 public parking spaces.

The drafting of the supplementary regulations of the Legal System for Housing for the Sandwich Class will be expedited. The construction of the senior housing complex will be completed during the year, providing 1,815 studio apartments. Vetting procedures and arrangements for moving in will commence in 2024. In accordance with social development, planning and selection of appropriate land, public tenders for private housing sites will be conducted in a planned and timely manner.

The progress with urban renewal will proceed in an orderly manner, in accordance with the related laws and regulations and overall city planning.

The Government will optimise the healthcare system and enhance medical services. The Macao Union Hospital will commence operation in phases, further increasing resources in terms of hospital beds and medical workers, while prioritising public healthcare services, to better safeguard the health of Macao people. We will improve the two-way referral mechanism between health centres and hospital specialist services, and establish a quality assurance system for chronic disease management. We will strengthen public health and disease prevention and control, promote vaccination, and strengthen the emergency response management mechanism. The Government will pay close attention to the physical and mental health of residents, continuously perfect mental health services, strengthen the interconnections of the four-tier joint prevention mechanism, and achieve "early diagnosis and timely intervention".

We will continue to address the issue of the ageing population by strengthening social security and services, striving to ensure that the elderly have a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a feeling of worthiness; keep the aggregate of the pensions and Old Age Allowance above the minimum subsistence index; show concern and care for disadvantaged groups by securing comprehensive assistance; regularise the Carers Allowance, provide 45 additional places for day-care services, and establish an integrated services centre for people with disabilities.

To effectively protect the rights of women and children, the Government will implement five long-term measures concerning the development goals of women in Macao; continue supporting quality improvement of child-care centres, promote family education, and enhance incentives to create a favourable environment for childbirth in collaboration with various sectors of society.

We will enhance the inspection, quarantine, and hygiene monitoring of imported food, ensure strict control over imported food quality, and implement the Agreement on Cooperation in Safety Control of Food Products Manufactured in Macao for Export to Mainland China.

To facilitate local sports development, the Government will begin renovating and upgrading sports facilities in preparation for the sport events hosted by Macao as part of the 15th National Games. The “Structure and Operations of the Sports Fund” and “The System for the Use of Sports Facilities” by-laws will be revised within the year. The Government will also send sports delegations to participate in the National Winter Games, and the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The Government will ensure stable supplies of basic commodities, maintain stable prices and protect consumer rights, enhance public education regarding the Consumer Rights Protection Law, strengthen consumers’ self-protection capabilities, and raise law-abiding awareness among businesses, to establish Macao as a trusted shopping destination for tourists.

(4) Enhance overall quality and standards of governance

Building a professional and efficient public service system for the convenience of residents and businesses is an important policy objective of the Government. We will further deepen the establishment of e-governance, develop and optimise various e-service platforms; continue refining departmental responsibilities and functions, and optimise management practices for department heads and supervisors, to continuously enhance overall quality and standards of governance.

To expand e-services for the convenience of the public and businesses, the “Macao One Account” will continue optimising its personalised services for different groups, and launch innovative electronic services such as one-stop birth registration and one-stop marriage registration. Relevant functions will be optimised, to obviate the need for residents to submit duplicate documents. A digital commercial service platform will be launched in the first quarter of 2024, to provide some 70 services in the first phase. The registration and notarisation information system will be restructured, to enhance inter-departmental data sharing, and streamline and digitalise the registration and notarisation procedures. The first phase of the cloud computing centre expansion will be implemented.

We will streamline departmental functions and improve management by department heads and supervisors; continue reviewing departmental structures based on the fundamental principles of "distinct functions and responsibilities, streamlined structure and high effectiveness" while better specifying the functions of administrative roles; revise relevant regulations such as the basic provisions regarding the general rules for department heads and supervisors, and strengthen accountability by establishing specific disciplinary systems for department heads and supervisors.

To strengthen civil servant training, we will continue to arrange courses on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Law on Safeguarding National Security for civil servants at all levels, and organise special professional training activities, to continuously enhance the overall capability and service consciousness of civil servants.

To strengthen legislation in major areas, the Government will scientifically formulate and strictly implement annual legislative plans and initiatives, with a focus on legislation and amendments regarding the economy and people's livelihoods; continue to

advance legislative work in taxation management and public procurement, establish and improve the legal system to meet the needs of social development; actively optimise the legal system for public asset supervision; and effectively strengthen supervision of corporations with public capital, to ensure rational use of public funds.

To deepen regional and international cooperation on legal affairs, we will continue promoting integrated development of legal services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, establish and improve the diverse dispute resolution mechanism for arbitration and mediation, and strengthen external judicial cooperation and actively promote work on criminal judicial assistance arrangements with Angola, Brazil, the Philippines, and Kazakhstan.

We will conduct the sixth-term Chief Executive election in strict compliance with the Basic Law and its Annex I, and the newly amended Chief Executive Election Law, to ensure a corruption-free, fair and just election.

We will respect and uphold judicial independence, and actively support the hardware and software development of the judiciary.

The Government will adopt the policy of zero tolerance of corruption; further enhance anti-corruption awareness and deepen anti-corruption exchanges and cooperation with different regions; promote auditing efforts in accordance with the law, and continue improving the efficiency and quality of public services.

(5) Expedite development of a liveable, smart and green Macao

The Government persists in implementing the administrative principle of “Putting people first”, while prioritising environmental protection. We are committed to building a clean and accessible green environment, while continuously advancing the development of a smart city.

To press ahead with detailed planning for various zones in Macao, the Government will commence the second stage of drafting plans for Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2 and Northern District-1; and proceed with compiling the first stage draft of the detailed plan for Taipa Central District-2 in an orderly manner.

Regarding implementation of major infrastructure projects, the Government will continue with constructing road networks and common pipelines in Zone A. The construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge and construction of the bridge connecting Zone A and the Macao peninsula are expected to be completed in the second quarter and fourth quarter of 2024, respectively. In tandem with the construction and opening of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge, the nearby road networks will be expanded, to achieve efficient access and traffic routings.

The Government will proceed with construction of the southern and northern sections of the LRT East Line; while the Seac Pai Van Line and the Hengqin Line are expected to commence operations in 2024, facilitating the integration of Macao and Hengqin into the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area one-hour

living circle”.

The expansion and reclamation project of Macau International Airport will commence in the second half of 2024, to accommodate a larger volume of arriving passengers.

The second phase of the rehabilitation hospital project in the Islands District Medical Complex will commence. The construction of various public facilities and office buildings will continue.

To enhance traffic management, the Government will complete the amendments to the Road Traffic Law and its supplementary regulations; maintain the annual vehicle growth rate within three percent; optimise and improve overall real-time traffic management capabilities; continue monitoring the effectiveness of bus services operating under the new contracts; optimise bus routes and bus stop networks; introduce additional bus payment methods; commence an open bidding exercise for taxi licences at an appropriate time; improve the construction of the walking route network, including the regional pedestrian pathway connecting Lam Mau to the area near Fai Chi Kei formed upon the completion of footbridges on Avenida Marginal do Lam Mao and Praça Orquídeas; review and optimise the application procedures and regulations for "North-bound Travel for Macao Vehicles" and the Macao-mainland China mutual driving licence recognition scheme; and enhance interdepartmental coordination to minimise the impact of road construction on traffic and residents.

To expedite smart city development, the Government will encourage public and private institutions to join the “FreeWiFi.MO” programme, and expand the coverage of free Wi-Fi services. By the end of 2024, smart meters will account for about 80 percent of the total number of meters in Macao, and approximately 60 percent of non-residential users' natural gas meters will be replaced with smart meters. The Macao Smart Go app will be continuously optimised, promoting the use of smart applications in administration, healthcare, education, cultural and museum, tourism, municipal services, maritime, and transport.

We will implement all environmental protection projects and works; promote the second phase of the "Subsidy Schemes for Replacing Old and Dilapidated Motorcycles with New Electric Motorcycles, and Phasing Out Dilapidated Diesel Vehicles", phase out public buses of Euro 4 emission standard, and increase the proportion of new energy vehicles to over 70 percent; adjust or increase charging facilities as needed; and prohibit the import of non-degradable disposable styrofoam cups and plates in 2024.

The expansion project of the Macao Central Incineration Centre will be completed in 2024, to meet the waste treatment needs of Macao for long into the future. The Government will continue drafting by-laws for the charging scheme of the Special and Hazardous Waste Treatment Centre; and complete the tendering procedures and contract awarding for the Sewage Treatment Plant on the Artificial Island of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

The Government will commence upgrading the Coloane Sewage Treatment Plant; press ahead with construction of the food waste treatment facility; improve the

reclaimed water pipeline network; and strive to complete the rationalisation and preliminary project design regarding the use of waters for the ecological island project.

We will perfect our disaster prevention and mitigation system. The first phase of the construction of the rainwater pumping station and sewers in the southern Inner Harbour is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024, while the second and third phases are scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024 and the second half of 2025, respectively. The tender procedures and construction of the Flood Prevention and Drainage at West Coloane (also known as the Two Lakes project) and the project to optimise the Zone A embankment will commence in phases. We will also enhance weather monitoring and forecasting services, and enhance weather analysis, forecasting and alert capabilities.

We will continue constructing municipal facilities, to create a comfortable community environment suiting leisure activities; and continue with the construction of phase 2 of the green promenade along the south shores of the Macao peninsula and the Hac Sa Youth Activity Experimental Camp, and the sports park, to enhance and expand open leisure space in Macao.

We will strengthen administration and use of maritime areas; strictly enforce and implement the management and control of Macao's coastal waters, continue to expedite the legislative work for the Law on Use of Maritime Areas; gradually optimise the "Smart Maritime System (Macao Edition)" and complete the study on expanding the disposal area for dredged materials in early 2024.

(6) Strengthen talent, culture, education and youth work

In accordance with the needs of the "1+4" industry diversification strategy, the Government will actively implement various talent-related programmes, to cultivate, reserve and recruit talented people. Higher education institutions will offer courses related to industrial development, such as on artificial intelligence, public health, cultural heritage, and co-organise talent cultivation programmes with leading overseas universities.

We will launch the Student Popular Science and Technology Education Scheme, Youth Science and Technology Village, as well as talent cultivation programmes related to music, cultural and creative enterprise management, and film and television; subsidise students to pursue further education in Portugal, to cultivate all-round talented people in technology and innovation, cultural industries, and bilingual proficiency, and build a talent pool; and continue the incentive scheme for talent cultivation and accreditation and the Continuing Education Programme (2023-2026), to encourage residents to enhance their competitiveness.

The Government will enrich the contents of "One Base", build a cultural city and position Macao as a "City of Performing Arts"; enhance the mechanism for protecting World Heritage buildings and sites, expedite restoration of the mansion of the Chio family, the former Iec Long Firecracker Factory site, Lai Chi Vun Shipyard, and buildings within the Patio da Eterna Felicidade, and support regular maintenance by owners of private historical buildings.

We will complete the procedures for the fourth batch of the proposed immovable property classification, initiate the classification process for a new batch of entries in the List of Macao Intangible Cultural Heritage and the first batch of the proposed movable heritage classification with significant cultural value of Macao; create more revitalised space in historical buildings, develop integrated experiential cultural tourist attractions, and expand the utilisation of cultural facilities, such as the House of Macao Literature.

The Government will focus on promoting Macao's film and television industry, cultural performances, and the development of cultural and creative projects related to cultural tourism, to create Macao's cultural and creative brands. We will also enhance the brand value of local performing arts events, introduce performance projects that foster Chinese and foreign cultural exchanges, organise international parade events, and establish a platform for international cultural and artistic exchanges. We will seek support from relevant departments of the Central People's Government to initiate performing arts events, in order to position Macao as a "City of Performing Arts" under the "One Base" initiative.

The Government will expedite the construction of the new Macao Central Library, commence part of the tendering procedures, commence operation of the Ilha Verde Library; and promote reading, to nurture the cultural and artistic growth of children and adolescents and to foster cultural inheritance.

We will improve education infrastructure to enhance teaching quality. Regarding non-tertiary education, we will review and restructure the allocation of existing educational resources, and strengthen the implementation of the double-tier monitoring mechanism for the Education Fund.

We will revise the Framework of Formal Education Curriculum, to focus on cultivating students' scientific literacy in areas such as artificial intelligence, and establish a Portuguese language teaching system.

To formulate a professional development system for teachers, the Government will provide multi-level professional development activities, including the Thousand Elite Teacher Training Programme and the Mainland China Outstanding Teachers Exchange Programme; and complete the designs of eight school buildings and one education centre on plots B1 and B2 in Eastern District-2, which are designated for educational purposes.

To continuously enhance the quality of higher education, the Government will further expand the capacities of higher education institutions; optimise the administration and curriculum efficiency of higher education institutions, to enhance regional and international competitiveness of higher education in Macao; strengthen research and innovation, conduct interdisciplinary applied scientific research, and focus on research and industrial applications in areas such as energy, environmental protection, health products and traditional Chinese medicine.

We will attract students from different regions to study in Macao, to expand the coverage of international student sources; and develop integration of "study trips +

tourism”, to enrich Macao’s study and travel experiences, featuring various professional examinations and training courses.

We will perfect the youth policy action plan, to create favourable conditions for the growth and development of young people; continue with the Macao Youth Professional Development Programme, to provide support and guidance to young people engaging in appropriate economic diversification; facilitate learning exchanges for young students in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin and the Greater Bay Area; organise participation by outstanding youths in internship programmes offered by international organisations; regularly organise platforms for young people to contribute their opinions and suggestions, broaden their international perspectives, and enhance their overall competitiveness; strengthen patriotic education among young people, fully leverage Macao’s function as a patriotic education base for young people, and mobilise the collective efforts of organisations to continuously foster patriotism among Macao youngsters.

(7) Promote high-level Macao-Hengqin integration

2024 is a crucial year for the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. In alignment with the first phase of development goals set out in the master plan, the Government will accelerate the progress of various projects in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, aiming to achieve new breakthroughs in supporting Macao's appropriate economic diversification, promoting Macao-Hengqin integration, and achieving in-depth integration of people's livelihoods, to achieve commendable outcomes on the third anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

We will strengthen coordination in planning, exchanges and cooperation, talent cultivation, and promotion of regional legal affairs. We will continue to enhance the alignment and interconnection of regulations and mechanisms of Macao and Hengqin; revise the regulations for the recognition of practising qualifications for Hong Kong and Macao construction and related engineering consultation enterprises and professionals, and the regulations on the practice of Hong Kong and Macao tour guides, to align with the requirements of the Zhuhai Municipal People's Congress; and formulate and improve relevant laws and regulations in accordance with the situation in Macao.

The Government will expedite bridging of policies for Macao and Hengqin, align with Macao's "1+4" strategy and formulate an industrial development plan for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; actively implement the three-year action plan for the development of cultural tourism, conventions and exhibitions, and commerce and trade, and refine the policy support system to foster synergistic development between Macao's "1+4" industrial structure and the four nascent industries in Hengqin.

We will leverage the list-based authorisation policy in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, initiate studies on introducing a new batch of authorisation lists when appropriate, and expedite the implementation of major policies, such as relaxing market access.

The Government will establish a unique industrial development system with

Macao and Hengqin characteristics, enhance the infrastructure for industrial development, plan for the development of Macao-branded industrial parks and specialised high-end manufacturing industrial parks for innovative and emerging industries, expand the scope for development for Macao-branded industries; and complete the establishment of a mechanism for assessing the “production supervised by Macao” trademark.

We will expedite the development of the China/Portuguese-speaking Countries Science and Technology Exchange and Cooperation Centre, as well as an innovation and entrepreneurship cluster for technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises; continue introducing more advantageous resources for operations in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and attract high-quality assets and benchmark projects to establish bases and optimise the structures of key industries.

We will foster and develop high-level technology and innovation platforms, optimise the innovative talent supply system for innovation, launch and implement measures to support talent development in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, expedite talent development in Hengqin and Macao; and launch an action plan to optimise the business environment in order to create a more vibrant and innovative natural environment.

To further optimise and implement the mechanism for joint investment promotion between Macao and Hengqin, the Government will establish a "pre-technical meeting" mechanism, to provide guidance on matters such as licence applications related to projects in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; accelerate the process to attract more enterprises from Portuguese-speaking countries to set up businesses in Macao; strengthen communications and coordination with mainland China enterprises and mainland China-funded enterprises in Macao, to attract leading high-quality industrial projects to establish bases in Macao and Hengqin; and enhance technological cooperation between Macao and Hengqin.

The Government will, through various funding schemes, encourage more projects with industrialisation potential to demonstrate their applications and pilot scale production in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to promote the transformation of ideas into practical applications in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

To facilitate efficient flows of cross-border resources, the Government will expedite the flows of people, goods, capital and information between Macao and Hengqin; complete the construction of the second phase of the “first-tier” Hengqin Port and the smart port public services platform, officially launch the “second-tier” tariff area of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone; and strive for the introduction of “first-tier” and “second-tier” tax policies in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone.

We will also explore the establishment of a boundary crossing connecting to Macao's Inner Harbour; further open up the financial services market in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone through the establishment of an

electronic fence account; and strive to create an Internet environment akin to Macao within the Macao New Neighbourhood.

The Government will facilitate the participation of Macao International Airport and Air Macao in Macao-Hengqin integration, and the launch of Macao airport check-in services at the Hengqin Port; jointly develop multi-destination tours between Macao and Hengqin; strengthen the cooperation and connections between Macao International Airport and well-known mainland China logistics and cross-border e-commerce enterprises, and facilitate the launch of a speedy customs clearance channel between Macao and Hengqin.

To support and encourage Macao residents to seek employment, set up businesses and live in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, the Government will launch and implement policies and measures to support Macao's young people to work, innovate and operate businesses in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and provide relevant services and assistance to residents who are interested in working and operating businesses in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The Government will establish a new batch of youth innovation and entrepreneurship incubation centres in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; continue to launch Macao youth internship schemes; and liaise with relevant mainland China departments to explore establishing innovative educational models for Macao's higher education institutions in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The Government supports Macao organisations with providing services and continuing to improve the quality of services in the Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. The first school for Macao children in the Macao New Neighbourhood will officially open in the 2024/2025 academic year. Health centres, community service centres and senior citizen service centres will also commence operations, for the convenience of Macao residents living in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

(8) Proactively integrate into overall national development

The Government will implement the Arrangements of Key Projects for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, actively participate in the formulation of special policy plans for the Greater Bay Area; and strengthen cooperation with Guangdong and Hong Kong in quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

We will actively participate in Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) regional cooperation, strengthen cooperation with PPRD provinces in developing markets in Portuguese-speaking countries by organising visits to Portuguese-speaking countries for investment and specialised exchanges; leverage the existing mechanisms for cooperation with Guangdong, Shanghai and Fujian, as well as task forces for cooperation with other mainland China provinces, regions and cities such as Hainan Province, Chongqing Municipality, Shenzhen Municipality and Foshan Municipality, to enhance cooperation in key areas such as Chinese medicine and Big Health,

modern financial services, hi-tech industries, cultural tourism and exhibitions, and youth work; fulfil Macao's unique functions to promote economic, trade, and cultural exchanges and cooperation between Macao and Taiwan; and continue to support rural revitalisation in Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province.

We will expand and leverage our functions as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, actively participate in important events, such as the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), successfully organise the seventh meeting of the Macao-Portugal Joint Committee, to enhance the quality and level of economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries; and strengthen pragmatic cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in energy, financial infrastructure and the digital economy.

We will utilise Macao's advantages as a key node city along the Maritime Silk Road, actively participate in and facilitate the implementation of the "Belt and Road" Initiative; continue to leverage the strength of overseas Chinese and their families who have returned to Macao, to expand exchanges and cooperation with countries and regions along the "Belt and Road"; leverage Macao's unique advantages to promote international exchanges; strengthen economic, trade and cultural exchanges and cooperation with friendship cities, establish a friendship city relationship with Dili, Timor-Leste, and initiate the establishment of a friendship city relationship with Brasília, Brazil; and leverage the mechanism for cooperation between Macao and Zhuhai as friendship cities, to promote trilateral exchanges and cooperation between Macao, Zhuhai and friendship cities.

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the third anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the year to achieve the first phase of development goals set out in the master plan. In terms of overall work arrangements, we will develop comprehensive plans for these three significant events, ensuring effective coordination with other major activities, and collaborate with various sectors to vividly demonstrate the successful practice of "One country, two systems" with Macao characteristics, to create a favourable external environment that fosters the development of Macao.

To pragmatically organise the celebratory events, Macao must improve its political position and enhance leadership. With the aim of showcasing the best of Macao and prioritising safety as the primary concern, we shall demonstrate the accomplishments of the "One country, two systems" principle; exemplify prosperity, stability, and celebratory atmosphere; and ensure smooth implementation of the major celebratory events. We will organise work by various administrative units to coordinate the participation of different sectors of society in the celebratory activities, coordinate the division of work for different projects, and promote unity and cooperation between all public departments and private entities, to ensure that all parties fulfil their responsibilities for seamless and successful implementation of all major events, in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

Conclusions

President, members of the Legislative Assembly,

Our motherland is brimming with vitality while the Greater Bay Area is experiencing thriving development. Promoting appropriate economic diversification is an essential task for the Macao SAR in the new era, and it requires collective efforts and practical work. The Government and all sectors of society must remain united and confident, and consolidate our endeavours to overcome challenges to promote diversification. We must find ways to sustain the strong momentum for economic recovery, pragmatically implement the main tasks and key projects outlined in the "1+4" strategy, strengthen and capitalise on our advantages, and enhance the momentum for economic development and comprehensive competitiveness. By further advancing appropriate economic diversification, along with sustainable and high-quality development of Macao's economy, we will create a brighter future for Macao.

We will keep our mission firmly in mind, uphold the principles of "One country, two systems" and "Macao people governing Macao" with a high degree of autonomy, and strategies outlined in the report to the 20th National Congress, leverage our advantages, serve our country's needs, actively participate in the country's new development pattern, pragmatically proceed with the establishment of the Intensive Cooperation Zone and better integrate into the overall national development.

The Government will firmly adhere to the principles of serving the public, continue to improve people's livelihoods, take care of the underprivileged, and proactively address deep-rooted conflicts and issues, to enhance Macao people's sense of satisfaction and happiness.

The Government will continue to persistently uphold the spirit of the instructions from the Central People's Government, seek public consensus, enhance the power of unity and patriotism, and form a strong synergy to promote high-quality development in Macao. We will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR with outstanding achievements, and strive hard for the long-term and stable implementation of the principle of "One country, two systems" to realise the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Legislative Assembly, all Macao residents and civil servants. We are deeply grateful to the Central People's Government and all its representative offices in Macao for their unwavering care, guidance and support for the development of Macao. Furthermore, I would like to extend my thanks to all domestic and international friends who have consistently supported the development of the Macao SAR.

This is the end of my report. Thank you, President and members of the Legislative Assembly.