

Introduction

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After a year of foundation laying in 2000, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has strengthened and perfected its laws and regulations, manpower, financial resources, facilities ... etc. In 2001, the CCAC comprehensively carried out various types of works within its field, so as to cope with the policies and measures of the government, actively fulfil its mission of combating corruption and administrative illegalities, and promoting the culture of integrity. Certain achievements have been obtained in this regard.

The year 2001 is a challenging and unforgettable one. In this year, the first Legislative Assembly election since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) was held. The CCAC undertook the role of combating corruption in election, ensuring that the election was clean, just and fair. This task was arduous, but it was encouraging that satisfactory results have been obtained.

Looking back on the year 2001, the number of complaints received totalled 1,265, revealing an increase of 30% from last year's figure (978). It is also the highest figure recorded since 1992. Over 95% of the complaints or reports were filed by the citizens, showing their increasing quest for fight against corruption, as well as their growing confidence in the CCAC.

On the discreet principle of case commencement, the number of cases commenced was 134 in the year 2001, more or less the same as year 2000. The number of complaints considered unsuitable for investigation commencement on grounds of insufficient information was 1,062, and the number of complaints referred to other related departments was 64. Besides, some complaints that involved administrative illegalities were handled by means of informal approach.

Among the 134 cases commenced, 112 involved criminal offences and 22 involved administrative illegalities. 2001 is the second consecutive year in which the CCAC recorded a figure of criminal cases commenced higher than that of cases commenced relating to administrative illegalities. This, to a large extent, was due to the fact that the Ombudsman Bureau used primarily informal approaches and referral to handle cases, so that problems might be solved more timely and effectively. On the other hand, the number of

criminal cases commenced has increased because in the past 2 years, the CCAC has been giving prompt responses to the citizens' corruption complaints, and successfully detected a number of corruption cases, thus strengthening the citizens' confidence in the CCAC's work. Moreover, the media have rendered strong support in promoting the culture of integrity and revealing the harm of corruption. This also encouraged the citizens to bravely report acts of corrupt practices.

In 2001, the number of cases referred to the Public Prosecution was 40, indicating a significant increase when compared to last year's 23 cases. As regards administrative illegality, the CCAC has issued 34 recommendations and suggestions in 27 cases. Among the 34 recommendations and suggestions issued, 27 were recommendations. 20 replies have been received while 18 of them, i.e. 90 %, were accepted by the related departments.

The CCAC also took initiative to carry out examination and research work. Regarding research on the systems, draft of the administrative regulation on "Guideline for the Provision and Receipt of Benefits" and examination and research on "Legal System on the Acquisition of Assets and Services" have been completed. In addition, the CCAC co-operated with several government departments or entities in assigning staff to form a working group to analyse issues relating to the operations of the administration. At present, co-operative projects with the Legal Affairs Bureau and with the Health Bureau have been concluded. Measures have been formulated to improve the operations on the basis of mutual consent.

Dissemination and education play an important role in promoting the culture of integrity, therefore in 2001, the CCAC has reinforced its work in this area. With regard to electronic media, the CCAC continued to carry out promotion through advertisements and special informative programmes, column articles and advertisements were also published on newspapers. Meanwhile, educational works directed to different audience categories were launched, with the civil servants one of the targets. Hence, the CCAC co-operated with a number of public departments and entities in this regard. For instance, it launched a session named "The Spirit of Integrity" in the Basic Training Course for Civil Servants in co-operation with the Public Administration and Civil Services Bureau, and conducted anti-corruption seminars for the disciplined services. All these helped to systematically instil the civil servants with the integrity consciousness, as well as to build up a law-abiding spirit. Furthermore, the CCAC conducted seminars for school students, members of local associations and employees of private organizations. With the active co-operation and participation from the different sectors, the CCAC achieved a seminar participant number of 12,533 person-time, an increase of over 250% when compared to the figure of last year.

Keeping a close contact and communication with other related institutes, and following closely the latest developments of anti-corruption and ombudsman on the international level not only facilitate the CCAC in carrying out its duties, but also enhancing the building of a clean society among regions. In 2001, the CCAC assigned delegations to participate in a number of important international conferences, namely, the “Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity II”, the “6th Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) Conference”, the “10th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)” ... etc. The CCAC was also appointed as the President of the Financial Committee of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) during the Board of Directors’ Meeting. In addition, the CCAC played a visit to Beijing, in which a common ground was reached with the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the People’s Republic of China regarding the establishment of a mutual communication system and personnel training. The “Monitoring Committee on Discipline of the CCAC Personnel” formed by the Chief Executive by way of an order also visited the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the ICAC Complaints Committee of Hong Kong.

In order to co-ordinate with the 2001 Legislative Assembly Election, and create an ideal environment for a clean election, the CCAC established a specific “Research Committee Against Corruption in Election”, the function of which was to deploy measures to prevent and combat corruption in election. To this extent, the strategy of “Focused Prevention, Keen Deterrence” was set up. The CCAC printed guidelines for a clean election meant for candidates and voters respectively. In addition, it promoted extensively the awareness of a clean election through different channels. Volunteers were recruited to help in the promotional work, too. In the mean time, the CCAC took initiative to embark on investigation against corrupt election, and has successfully detected cases involved allegations of corruption in election, exerting effective influence on prevention and deterrence. After the election, a public opinion survey conducted by an academic institute of Macao showed that over 70% of the citizens considered the election a clean one.

It is always the CCAC’s duty to combat graft. Nevertheless, the CCAC’s strength on its own is not enough. What is more vital is the support and co-operation from the general public. In order to collect public opinions and draw on the wisdom of the public, in January 2002, the CCAC entrusted an academic institute of Macao to conduct the third survey since the CCAC’s establishment. (The first survey was done in May 2000 while the second one was conducted in February 2001.) The results revealed that the citizens have a general knowledge of the CCAC’s anti-corruption duty. 86.5% of the interviewees knew about the CCAC and its anti-corruption function, a significant increase when compared to the 34.7% in the first survey. As regards the public’s opinion concerning the corruption phenomenon of

Macao, 64.6% of interviewees considered it serious or very severe in the first survey, but the percentage has already dropped to 36.3% in the most recent survey. This reflected that the citizens also agreed of the preliminary effects achieved by the CCAC's anti-corruption work. Last but not least, the citizens gave a higher mark to the CCAC's performance in the past year. In the first survey, the overall performance scored 45. The mark soared to 60.8 in the second survey, and reached 66.5 in the latest one.

In order to create a favourable working environment, the CCAC extended its office facilities in 2001. Necessary investigation facilities were purchased, security system of the office was strengthened, and computerization of the operational procedures was implemented gradually. Concerning the manpower, 2 batches of investigators have finished their training courses and started to work.

On the whole, the CCAC's objectives of "laying foundation and generating effects, co-ordinating with the Chief Executive's policies and measures, and striving for the support of the public" were basically achieved in 2001. I am grateful for the unfailing support of the society's different strata, as well as for the endeavour and contribution of the CCAC's staff in accomplishing these results.

Reviewing the past is for looking forward to a brighter future. 2002 is the tenth year of Macao's undertaking in building up a clean society. In order to better perform its functions and strive for a greater achievement, the CCAC will continue perfecting its facilities and upholding the quality of its staff through different training. Combating corruption is a long-term work, so the CCAC has to continue fighting corruption and administrative illegalities with perseverance and unyieldingness. But more importantly, it has to cohere the forces from the different strata in building up a clean society.