



CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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Having served Macao for ten years, and with the vigorous support of the government and of various circles of the Macao community, the anti-corruption institution has been growing from strength to strength, making contributions to cleaning up the social environment and has thus laid a solid foundation for further improvement.

In 2002, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) recorded a total of 1,116 complaints, a decrease of 11.78% over the previous year. There were 131 cases commenced for investigation, this number being about the same as that of 2001. Out of the 131 cases, 87.8% were criminal cases. Most of the administrative complaints were handled by more efficient methods, such as referral or unofficial intervention, which helped citizens to solve problems as quickly as possible, and which explains why the number of cases handled increased while the number of cases commenced were relatively fewer than the former.

There were a total of 24 cases referred to the Public Prosecutions Office in 2002, a fall of 40% over the previous year, though still a bit higher than that of 2000. And the number of suspects in 2002 topped all previous records.

The number of cases accumulated from the past has continued to diminish, with a backlog of only 84 cases left in 2002, a decrease of 38.2% over 2001, though obviously there is still room for improvement.

The CCAC also assisted in investigating cross-regional cases of corruption. In 2002, there were 28 such cases, a rise of 12% over the previous year. As international cooperation is becoming more and more important within all anti-corruption departments in all countries nowadays, the CCAC paid more attention

to the development of this area of work.

Of all the complaints recorded, 917 did not meet the criteria for being commenced for investigation. The CCAC appeals to the public to provide detailed information and clues and leave their contact information so that cases of corruption and administrative malpractices can be tracked down and thoroughly investigated and criminals be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

In 2002, the CCAC handled a total of 249 cases of administrative complaints, including 192 commenced for investigation in the year and a backlog of reported cases from the past. The CCAC has made recommendations to related departments to stop up loopholes and strengthen preventive measures. In 2002 alone, the CCAC made 19 such suggestions or recommendations referring to 13 cases, almost all being accepted or met with positive responses.

The year 2002 is significant in that CCAC has also carried out two specific research and examination projects on the legal system, one being the “System of Recruitment of Non-Permanent and Temporary Staff for the Public Service” and the other the “Legal System for Directors and Senior Officers of Management of Public Institutions”. Drawing on collective wisdom, the CCAC sent questionnaires to 50 departments or institutions as legal persons, consulted international conventions and relevant literature of other countries and regions and have now completed the research and examination projects. In research on the operations of the public service, the CCAC has, in cooperation with the Legal Affairs Bureau, completed work of inspection on the operations of the Registries and Public Notaries Departments. In cooperation with the Health Bureau, the CCAC followed up the proposals on the improvement of drugs and pharmacies

management, which had been completed earlier. The CCAC also made suggestions on the amendments of the "Sunshine Law".

In celebration of the 10th years of Safeguarding Honesty and Transparency in Macao, in 2002, the CCAC held a seminar on "Promoting Integrity in the Civil Service", which brought together delegates from the mainland China, Taiwan, as well as Hong Kong and Macao. The CCAC has published the proceedings of the seminar and a commemorative publication entitled "10 Years of Safeguarding Honesty and Transparency in Macao". The Post Office and the Telecommunication Company of Macao Ltd.(CTM) issued commemorative stamps and phone cards respectively to spread the message.

The CCAC pays great value on promotional and educational activities and do their best to improve community relationship through visits and exchanges with local associations to listen to public opinions and suggestions. The CCAC keeps on organizing seminars for public servants, students and other citizens and publishes supplementary textbooks for primary school students.

As required by law, public servants have to declare their incomes and properties once every five years. In 2003, public servants will have to renew their declaration. The CCAC has made preparations for publicity and improved approaches in order to enhance efficiency in handling the declaration works.

In order to get full support from the public, the CCAC gives particular emphasis on public supervision and preventive measures. The CCAC is planning to set up its first branch office in 2003, which will help to promote closer contacts with district communities and citizens, to spread the message of clean administration in addition to providing channels for consultation, lodging complaints and reporting crimes.

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Looking ahead to the year 2003, the CCAC notes, amidst the promising signs of economic recovery and better and better prospects of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the vital importance of remaining highly vigilant at all times. By constantly consolidating the foundations and meticulously planning for the future, the CCAC will continue to make firm and steady progress in its work.