

2006

Annual Report of the Commission Against Corruption of Macao



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The CCAC Commissioner Cheong U submits to the Chief Executive, Mr. Ho Hau Wah, the Annual Report of the CCAC 2006

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I – Introduction

With the support and cooperation of the public, the government and the civil servants, the work of the Commission Against Corruption of Macao (CCAC) progressed well in 2006. Investigations into corruption-prone areas advanced steadily. Researches were initiated on the public administrative system of wide social concerns and integrity awareness programmes targeting the citizenry were conducted in a systematic way. While making progress in different areas, the CCAC also conducted researches and made preparations in response to the rapid development of our society, laying a more solid foundation for the anti-corruption work in the territory.

In 2006, the CCAC received a total of 840 complaints, a 24.3% decrease when comparing with the 1,109 complaints registered in 2005 and a dramatic decrease of 43% over 2004. 586 criminal offences and 254 administrative complaints were recorded, with a total of 57 cases commenced for investigations. In addition to the accumulated and reopened cases, a total of 116 commenced cases were processed. 69 cases were concluded over the year while 18 were referred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

In 2006, both “Transparency International” and “Political and Economic Risk Consultancy” gave relatively high rankings for the integrity situation in Macao. According to the questionnaire surveys conducted by local academic institutions, over 92% of citizens did not encounter any corruption in recent years. The surveys also revealed that corruption rarely occurred in the lives of ordinary citizens. The anti-corruption investigations conducted by the CCAC also indicated that there was a dramatic decrease in the number of cases and reports of public servants asking citizens for bribes. Such figures suggested that the anti-corruption efforts of Macao had achieved preliminary success.

However, while the figures showed a positive trend, the CCAC uncovered the most serious case of corruption in 2006. The former Secretary for Transport and Public Works involved in the case was the most senior official ever arrested in the territory. Many well-known businessmen in the construction industry were also arrested in this case. On one hand, the case demonstrated the determination of the Macao SAR Government to strictly enforce anti-corruption policies and underscored the effective operations of the anti-corruption body, which operates independently according to law. On the other hand, rapid economic development

reflected that citizens had to be more alert to the social problems resulting from an imperfect system and illegal customary practices, which could seriously impede the development of the Macao SAR. This situation demanded profound reflections by society.

In 2006, the courts adjudicated 8 cases detected by the CCAC, with the number of people involved exceeding that of past years. Three of the cases involved the breach of electoral regulations of the Legislative Assembly and most of the accused were found guilty. This further reinforces the fact that those who ignore the rule of law and law enforcement will eventually be punished by the law.

The 8th Steering Group Meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific took place in Manila in the Philippines in May 2006. During the meeting, the Macao SAR formally signed up as a member of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific, thus advancing the development of anti-corruption in Macao.

In 2006, the CCAC received 254 administrative complaints and 753 requests for help and consultation. The CCAC completed and followed up on the work of research on operations of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. The CCAC also cooperated with the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau to conduct an examination on the handling procedures relating to illegal constructions carried out by the Inspection Division under the Urbanization Department. Meanwhile, the CCAC conducted an examination on system regarding the power of intervention of the public administration concerning the misuse and poor management of private premises. The system regulating land-grant and construction was also reviewed, with conclusions of these reviews expected in 2007. After the 3rd Legislative Assembly Election of the Macao SAR was concluded, the CCAC immediately reviewed and analysed the Election Law of the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR and the Macao Electoral Registration Law. The CCAC also made several recommendations and the report was submitted to the Macao SAR Government in mid-2006.

Since the publication of the *Guidelines on the Professional Ethics and Conduct of Public Servants* in 2005, it has been playing an important role in promoting the honesty of public servants and building a culture of integrity. By 2006, over 90% of public departments had formulated their internal codes of conduct. The CCAC also published *Selected Cases of Ombudsman* to enrich citizens' knowledge about ombudsman.

With regard to promotion and education, the CCAC actively organized a total of 366

seminars on different topics to disseminate the information of integrity to a wide range of audience. Participants numbered almost 24,000. The CCAC also continuously reinforced integrity education for youth by supplementing the content of teaching materials of ethical education for primary students and creating a youth ethics website. In addition, the CCAC strived to promote a culture of honesty within private institutions.

The CCAC branch office established in the northern district has gradually become familiar to citizens and has played a positive role in promoting community relations and improving youth education regarding integrity and honesty. The branch office received a total of 517 complaints, reports, requests for help and consultation, etc., marking a 28% increase over 2005. The office has won significant trust and popularity among citizens.

Looking ahead to 2007, the CCAC will insist on its principle of investigating into any pursuable traces of corruption and combating vigorously all kinds of corruption and will publicize the functions of ombudsman. Keeping abreast of social development, the CCAC will continue to reinforce respective measures in three aspects - promoting system development, encouraging supervision by the public and enhancing the ethical standards of the populace. The CCAC will strengthen its monitoring on middle- and high-ranking public servants in particular. Regarding the detected cases involving failures of fulfillment of official duties, the CCAC will closely follow up with respective departments on the legality and strictness of disciplinary procedures. Furthermore, the CCAC will reinforce the functions of ombudsman, conduct analytical research on the public administrative system and administrative procedures in which loopholes are identified, so as to further refine the system.

In response to the needs of social development and to the application of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption to Macao, the CCAC will co-ordinate with the Macao SAR Government and conduct analysis on law enactment within its competence, especially regarding the supervision over the private sector. The report and the bills will be submitted to the Chief Executive for consideration upon completion.

For the CCAC, 2006 was a year full of challenges, yet it was also an encouraging and meaningful year. Steady improvements were made towards building a clean administration. However, the road ahead will not be smooth, especially in the midst of rapid economic development. There is no room for rest in the anti-corruption journey.

