

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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2007 was a significant year in the anti-corruption history of Macao. The corruption case of the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long, involving huge bribes, was referred to the prosecution and judicial authorities, and eventually Ao was brought to trial. This case attracted great attention from the media and the general worldwide public. Other cases related to Ao's corruption are also under investigation, some of which have been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office. These cases expose the fact that some large-scale public construction projects have been riddled with corrupt practices in recent years, and indicate that some public functionaries and business people have a low esteem of the rule of law and would rather follow their own base inclinations. To address the situation, the CCAC has initiated a series of measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the expectation that the public will maintain their concern and vigilance in regard to such transgressions.

According to the Transparency International report published in September 2007, Macao ranked 34th out of a total of 180 countries and regions in terms of incorruptibility, down from 26th the year before. It ranked sixth in a list of 25 regions or countries in the Asia Pacific Region, maintaining the same ranking as the year before. The report stated that attention should be paid to the slippage in the Corruption Perception Index of Macao. According to the 2007 report by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, Macao retained its fourth-place ranking among 13 Asian regions and countries. While both reports give Macao a rather high ranking in terms of incorruptibility in East Asia, the CCAC will nevertheless pay close attention to the warning.

In 2007, the CCAC received a total of 736 complaints and reports, a drop of about 12% year-on-year. Of these 736 cases, 369 qualified for further follow-up, with proceedings commenced in 75 cases. Along with the accumulated cases and those necessitating re-investigation, a total of 125 commenced cases required investigation. The CCAC completed a total of 40 cases in the year, of which 11 were referred to the Public Prosecutions Office. A total of 297 cases not commenced for investigation were handled by informal proceedings and brought to a conclusion. Of the cases inspected and instigated by the CCAC, 6 were brought to verdict by the courts in 2007, including 3 cases related to the Legislative Assembly Election. A majority of the prosecuted were found guilty.

In 2007, the CCAC focused its anti-corruption efforts on high-risk sectors. After uncovering the bribery activities of the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long in 2006, the CCAC went on to inspect related cases in 2007. In addition, the CCAC also inspected cases involving police officers of the Macao Judiciary Police taking bribes, an inspector of the Labour Affairs Bureau abusing power, an inspector of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau defying legal proceedings, a prison guard from Macao Prison accepting bribes and a civil servant of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau taking bribes.

On the ombudsman front, the CCAC received 236 cases. Along with the cases carried over from 2006, a total of 293 cases necessitated handling. Most of these cases were complaints about the civil service system, municipal affairs and governmental operations, among other things. In order to expedite the solution to such problems, most of the cases concerning administrative complaints were handled via informal and referral approach. Only cases involving serious breaches of law were commenced for formal proceedings. The CCAC received an additional 647 requests for help and consultation.

In regard to researches and examination, the CCAC completed its report on “The Analysis on Land Disposal and its Supervisory System” and “Procurement System of Public Constructions”. In terms of researches on operation, the CCAC continued to follow up on the implementation of measures regarding improved operations by government departments. By mid-2007, the CCAC had separately held the “Integrity Management Symposium” with the respective directors and department heads of the office of the 5 secretaries of the government. Some 59 of the 60 government departments had signed the Integrity Management Plan – Protocol of Collaboration by the time this annual report was published, with a view to implementing more specific integrity-management cooperation measures.

In order to upgrade the overall quality of the CCAC personnel, the CCAC has continued to send staff members to participate in special training programmes in other regions and conducted the 6th training programme and recruitment of investigators. In addition, the CCAC stepped up its efforts on information exchange and mutual case assistance. It received 18 requests for mutual case assistance from overseas law enforcement agencies in 2007. The CCAC also received a total of 8,257 property declaration forms - primarily from new public servants and those whose positions had changed.

In 2007, the CCAC continued to initiate general publicity in order to enhance citizens’

sense of public supervision and to elevate the culture of probity in public administration. On the basis of promotional work undertaken in recent years, the CCAC promoted the awareness of integrity via different channels, including organizing seminars and visits for associations, educational institutes and private enterprises. The CCAC hosted 300 seminars in 2007 for a total of 20,120 attendees. In regard to integrity education among teenagers, the CCAC continued to team up with the CCAC branch office, schools and relevant associations to promote a proper attitude on ethics among teenagers. It also published *Integrity Story Salon* and launched a website about integrity for teenagers. In addition, the new CCAC island branch office is scheduled to open in the near future.

Looking forward, the CCAC will keep a close eye on challenges presented by rapid economic development. The Chief Executive announced a proposal to expand the CCAC's jurisdiction over the private sector. The drafting of law is under way and is expected to be tabled by the middle of 2008.

In 2007, Anti-Corruption Bureau investigators of the CCAC were awarded the Medal for Bravery by the Chief Executive as an encouragement, which was a real inspiration for the organization's staff. The CCAC will continue to collect opinions from all sectors of society and will combat corrupt practices without favour nor fear to help construct a society of integrity with the help of its citizens.