

FOREWORD

The 6th Legislative Assembly Elections were smoothly conducted in 2017, where members of the new-term Legislative Assembly were elected according to the law. The CCAC conscientiously implemented the duty to combat electoral corruption and proactively promoted electoral probity in strict compliance with the law. With the mutual cooperation between law-enforcement departments and the full support from all walks of life, there was an improvement of the situations of electoral bribery and other related offences compared to the previous elections. The awareness of electoral integrity has been rising and the election culture is becoming fairer, more impartial and cleaner.

In 2017, the Court of Final Appeal adjudicated the corruption case allegedly committed by the former leader of the Public Prosecutions Office. The investigators of the CCAC gave their testimonies and cooperated with the court in the relevant prosecution work. The verdict of guilty has demonstrated the truth that “no offender can escape the long arm of the law”. Among the criminal cases detected by the CCAC last year, some involved exploitation of power for personal gain, abuse of power and high-value fraud. There were also some cases where document forgery and fraud of public funds were committed during government departments’ approval of applications for “major investment immigration” and granting of subsidies and public service contracts. All of these have shown that the departments did not have in place stringent approval procedures as well as sound and adequate supervisory mechanisms. Therefore, it requires greater attention of the SAR Government and the public departments.

In March 2017, the CCAC released an investigation report, where it pointed out that the Cultural Affairs Bureau violated the legislation pertaining to the open recruitment process and the central recruitment system by evading the superior’s

assessment and supervision and hiring a number of workers under the acquisition of services contract for a long time. The problems included not publicising job openings, lax screening, alleged violation of the recusal system and nepotism. The CCAC released another investigation report in October 2017, where it pointed out that the typhoon forecasting of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau highly relied on the personal decisions of the Director. As the procedures were not standardised and the criteria were not transparent, they gave rise to a certain degree of arbitrariness. There were many problems in terms of personnel and equipment management, and therefore the leaders of the bureau should bear unshirkable responsibilities.

The SAR Government attached great importance to the problems revealed in the CCAC's investigation reports, and disciplinary procedures were also initiated against the leaders of the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau. The relevant incidents show that the awareness of "administration according to the law" and the ability of "making scientific decisions" among some leaders of public departments have yet to improve. In addition, to ensure that "power comes with responsibility", the SAR government should review the legislation pertaining to disciplinary mechanisms for public servants and promptly improve the accountability systems for leadership and senior management officers.

At the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping stated that remarkable outcomes have been achieved in ensuring full and strict governance over the Party in the past five years. The goal of creating a deterrent against corruption has been initially attained; the cage of institutions that prevents corruption has been strengthened; and moral defenses against corruption are in the making. The anti-corruption campaign has built into a crushing tide, and is being consolidated and developed. Although the social environment and legal systems are different between Macao and the Chinese mainland, the strong determination and monumental achievements of the Chinese mainland in the fight against corruption will definitely have far-reaching impacts on the long-term peace

and stability of Macao. As a designated anti-graft agency of the SAR, the CCAC will proactively draw on the successful experience of the Chinese mainland in corruption fighting, strictly implement its statutory duties as a graft fighter and ombudsman and strive to improve mechanism building that upholds integrity.

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The Commissioner Against Corruption
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