

FOREWORD

In 2018, the Commission Against Corruption (hereinafter “CCAC”) carried out its duties in accordance with law as always by combating corruption in a determined way and exerting its function in ombudsmanship without sparing any efforts.

Among the criminal cases detected by the CCAC in 2018, there was a decrease in the cases of taking bribe or advantage by public servants. On the contrary, there was an increase in the crimes such as fraud, document forgery and power abuse committed by public servants. Especially, there were cases where some leaders of public services broke the criminal law by abusing their positions and powers for private gain. The CCAC considers that it is necessary to strengthen the sense of law-abidingness of public servants and the awareness of integrity and dedication to the public of the leadership and management personnel of public services. They shall not take advantage of their powers and positions directly or indirectly for private gain.

In 2018, the CCAC completed two inquiries and publicised the “Investigation report on the construction project at Alto de Coloane” in February, which pointed out many doubts existed in the process of the inheritance of the title of the land parcel where the construction project would be located at. There were obvious mistakes and even frauds made and committed in the process of the land boundary survey and the issuance of the cadastral map. The parcel is, in fact, a State property and the Macao SAR Government should recover the relevant land parcel following appropriate procedure and method. In July, the CCAC released another investigation report, which pointed out that the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute lacked stringent vetting and approval and checking mechanisms for “major investment immigration” applications, leading to the cases of “fake

talent” or “fake employment”. Therefore, the CCAC suggested the Macao SAR Government optimising the admission schemes for talents.

In addition, the inquiries revealed alleged crimes involving public servants in leadership positions, reflecting that the problems concerning loose enforcement of law and lack of supervision by some of the public services are so significant that they deserve great attention of the Macao SAR Government. For the cases that “there was a private parcel situated on a hill in Coloane over 100 years ago” and that “major investment immigration can be applied by investing only MOP500,000”, even citizens thought that they were unbelievable and smelled a rat after knowing them. However, the public services which had the statutory competence, professional workers and information simply ignored the questionable points or have already got used to such situations, claiming that they simply “acted in accordance with the rules” and “vetted and approved the requests in accordance with the law”, which has opened a door for criminals to commit fraudulent acts. The CCAC considers that being incorruptible and not accepting bribe and advantage constitute the minimum legal requirements for public positions. Public servants shall be dedicated in the execution of their duties and strictly follow the law in terms of assessment and approval of requests in order to ensure effective safeguard of public interests.

In 2018, the reform of supervisory systems was carried out in the entire China in order to promote the utilisation of institutional advantage for efficiency of governance. Through the exchange and mutual visits between the CCAC and the national and regional supervisory agencies, the CCAC had an in-depth understanding of the establishment and operation of institutions following the reform of national supervisory systems and actively explored the ways of cooperation of both sides in the aspects such as mutual case assistance and personnel training in order to achieve the common goal of building a corruption-free society.

In 2018, the CCAC continued to strengthen the connection with the corruption fighting and supervisory agencies in different places by sending representatives to attend the implementation review meetings on the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to deepen the exchange and cooperation with the international organisations in the relevant fields, draw on the experiences, broaden the horizons and gear the anti-corruption and ombudsman works of Macao to international standards.

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