

FOREWORD

In adherence with the principle of legality, in 2019, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) remained focused on the policy stressing both suppression and prevention of corruption and fulfilled this mission effectively. On the front of corruption fighting, it combated corrupt practices in public and private sectors with determination, pragmatism and perseverance. On the front of ombudsman, it earnestly oversaw the operation of public departments, kept a close eye on the issues that caught society's attention in particular, promptly addressed the illegal or irregular acts it had found and rendered remedial suggestions. At the same time, the CCAC actively participated in the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, had its staff's professional skills upgraded by sending them to attend international and regional conferences and training activities, kept on carrying out various kinds of activities to promote integrity and expanded its network of community relations in order to gain public support for integrity building.

As to corruption fighting, following the crackdown on some cases of fraud over residence permit in Macao under "major investment immigration" and "technical immigration" through false documents in 2018, in 2019, the CCAC solved a corruption case where some main leaders and chiefs of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute allegedly abused their powers for illicit gain and received bribes to perform illicit acts in the process of vetting and approving the applications for "major investment immigration" and "technical immigration".

Moreover, many complaints and reports concerning fraud over subsidies from the Government and public funds have been received in recent years. The CCAC also fully exerts its duties by putting in much effort to combat such

crimes of infringement of public interests involving public assets and abuse of public functions.

Apart from carrying out investigations into corruption cases in the public sector, the CCAC also attaches importance to anti-corruption works targeting the private sector. It has noticed that among the complaints involving private companies in recent years, there has been a growing trend in the complaints and reports about the management of gaming companies and large hotels, which mainly involved irregular acts in the processes of construction project tendering, procurement of goods and recruitment and promotion of personnel. The CCAC will continue to keep a close eye on the risk of bribery in the private sector which possibly arises from such problems, strive to enhance the integrity management and healthy development of private companies and safeguard the integrity and fairness of society.

Nevertheless, from another perspective, regarding the fact that some citizens wish to resolve civil disputes by reporting them to the CCAC as crimes, such as disputes involving expenditure of administration fees by the management company and the management committee of a building, it is necessary to instil correct knowledge of dispute resolution into citizens through publicity and education in the future in order to ensure that the whole social system operate in the right way.

On the front of ombudsman, the cases investigated involved various issues, among which the high-profile ones included the conditions, requirements and procedures of recruitment of public departments as well as whether they satisfied citizens' real needs and expectations. In a majority of the cases, following the investigations, the CCAC found that the relevant issues were not so serious as violation of law. In fact, it was more common to see that problems occurred when public departments executed abstract provisions and that there was still

room for improvement of the efficiency of solving citizens' problems in an empathic way. All of the public departments involved in these cases accepted the CCAC's opinions and suggestions and promised to actively carry out reviews and make improvements. In the future, the CCAC may carry out retrospective reviews concerning these departments in order to enhance the transparency and efficiency of public administration and prevent corruption.

Moreover, the CCAC found that over 50% of the complaints and reports were lodged anonymously, of which over 66% were groundless, did not jibe with the facts or could not be followed up further. This is undoubtedly a kind of abuse of public resources. The CCAC hopes that citizens take responsibility for their own actions. They should lodge a complaint or report with basis when they exercise their rights and fulfil their obligations in order to jointly contribute to the building of a cleaner and fairer society.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the CCAC completed the self-assessment on its implementation of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2019. It will continue to actively cooperate with the review undertaken by experts of the United Nations in order to inspect the inadequacies of the regime of prevention and suppression of corruption. Moreover, the CCAC will continue to fight corruption in the public and private sectors with determination, enhance public servants' and citizens' awareness of integrity and strengthen citizens' capacity of supervision in order to meet society's demand for reinforcement of integrity building.

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