

FOREWORD

In 2022, the CCAC performed its duties pragmatically. Despite facing the challenge of severe epidemic in Macao, it diligently performed its duties and placed a total of 274 cases on file for the year. Moreover, it concluded a total of 296 investigation files (along with those carried forward from 2021). In the anti-corruption area, the CCAC actively carried out investigation within limited time during which it detected various corruption cases, including an electoral bribery case involving more than 200 voters and a case involving the offence of breach of secrecy by a private enterprise. The CCAC also prioritised investigation of cases related to government subsidies with an effort to safeguard the public interests of the Macao SAR.

It was a year of several firsts which were really encouraging, including the case, for the first time, involving the surrender of a suspect and a case where Macao and Hong Kong, for the first time, made a successful cross-jurisdictional effort in jointly fighting corruption through overcoming the situation that the two places have different legal requirements on corruption offences in the private sector. Despite the CCAC has cooperation with the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong concerning mutual case assistance, in face of the development trend of the new era, a regularised mode of collaboration may combat criminal activities more effectively. Therefore, the CCAC hopes that mutual legal assistance in criminal matters can be established between Macao and the Chinese mainland and between Macao and Hong Kong so that inter-regional cooperation in criminal matters can be carried out according to law.

In the area of ombudsman's work, the CCAC endeavoured to promote the departments to achieve the goals of solving problems and improving systems through various supervision approaches. Regarding some of the cases which were concluded in 2022, quite a lot of complaints or reports which were of repeated or similar nature reflected some administrative phenomena which were worth noticing. For example, regarding the enquiries and complaints received in the middle of 2022 arising from tackling the novel coronavirus epidemic, among those that were rational, the CCAC adjusted its measures in a timely manner, subsequently held meetings with the authorities according to the situation where it put forward feasible suggestions and urged the authorities to expressly state and regularise relevant content so that public departments, entities, and their workers, as well as the general public were able to clearly understand the aims of governance by the authorities and had rules to follow. Regarding the complaints arising from the acts or measures taken by the administrative bodies which were not properly known or understood, if the circumstances were not against the law or apparently irrational, the CCAC would also encourage direct and rational communication with the departments, which, likewise, facilitated the Government to optimise their work.

On the other hand, in 2022, the CCAC reviewed the follow-up work carried out by the departments or entities that were included in the list of “retrospective review” in a timely manner. The results showed that various departments generally respected and accepted the investigation conclusions and suggestions rendered by the CCAC in the administrative complaint case files and mostly sought appropriate solutions to improve their administrative work with positive attitudes. As such, the “retrospective review” mechanism which was established in 2020 has been implemented in an orderly and effective manner.

The revision of the *Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region* is one of the most prioritised tasks of the 2nd Five-Year Plan and the annual policy address. In 2022, the CCAC completed the preliminary technical preparatory work related to the revision of the *Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region* and its relevant administrative regulation. In 2023, the CCAC will proactively push forward the legislative process and continue to maintain communication with relevant departments concerning the matters of revision of the law. The CCAC hopes that through the revision of the law where forward-looking planning on improvement of systems, personnel allocation and the institutional set-up, among other matters, were taken into consideration, it can carry out its supervisory function more effectively and better tie in with the integration of the Macao SAR’s policy direction into the national development.

Electronic governance is a major trend of the social development of Macao. The CCAC has therefore, in recent years, subsequently rolled out various e-services which are convenient for the residents based on the practical nature of work in order to meet the demand of the society. Following the service of progress enquiry of online complaint and online appointment service for declaration of assets and interests, the CCAC rolled out the online booking service for lodging a complaint and gradually improved the online complaint system in 2022. Statistics from 2022 reflected that nearly half of the complaints or reports were lodged through the online complaint system, yet the number of anonymous complaints or reports did not increase. It was even fewer than that of last year, which showed that the direction of the CCAC to step up efforts to improve its work was correct and effective.

For the fostering of integrity culture in Macao, the CCAC proactively instils correct values in the society with different sectors through diversified promotion and education approaches and cooperation modes. In 2022, the Branch Office in Taipa reopened upon renovation, by taking this opportunity, it was slated to be a second integrity education base in Macao. Not only can the society understand the CCAC from a different perspective, its positioning can even demonstrate that the CCAC attaches importance to the integrity education for young people with an aim to achieve the goals of nurturing good virtues of the future pillars of Macao and promoting young people to proactively participate in integrity building.