

FOREWORD

In 2023, the society of Macao stepped out of the shadow of the epidemic and returned to the track of orderly development. Seizing the opportunities in the wake of the revival after the epidemic, the CCAC sought improvement in corruption fighting, ombudsman actions and promotion and education, gathered its pace in integrity building, grasped the opportunities to resume exchange and mutual visits and proactively sought the directions of more effective cooperation. Meanwhile, it also promoted the revision of the *Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region*.

As to corruption fighting, the CCAC placed a total of 102 cases on file in 2023, while the number of mutual assistance cases being followed up reached a record high in recent years. Along with the 24 mutual assistance cases placed on file in 2023, the CCAC handled a total of 41 mutual assistance cases throughout the year. In 2023, the CCAC investigated and handled many corruption cases including a case involving false application for residency based on investment in local real estate, where the CCAC found that the assistant prosecutor general who was in charge of the case was suspected of providing illicit assistance for individuals under investigation of criminal cases. This case has aroused the general public's significant attention and concern. Meanwhile, the CCAC solved a number of cases in which various security service providers had cheated the Government and committed acts of corruption. In addition, it also investigated and dealt with a number of cases concerning public servants' falsification of attendance records. The CCAC hopes to take the opportunity of solving the mentioned cases to stop the unhealthy trends and thus produce dissuasive effects on the public service team and the relevant sectors. Following the untiring efforts of the CCAC over the years and under the strategies of combatting and preventing corruption simultaneously, in 2023, there was a significant drop in the cases of defrauding Government subsidies that frequently appeared in various forms in the past and there were intermediate achievements in the crackdown efforts.

In the area of ombudsman's work, the CCAC placed a total of 123 cases on file throughout the year. In the cases which were concluded in 2023, the CCAC took the opportunity of investigating some ombudsman cases to explore with the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau the proper interpretation of various regimes and regulations in relation to public service laws. The CCAC believes that the positive interaction with the department responsible for public administration and public service affairs enables continuous improvement of the relevant systems and arrangements. In addition, the CCAC also further enhanced the transparency of its achievements in society as well as encouraged self-confidence of the administration by public departments through proactive and positive strategies in order to maintain the attitude and working style of acting in strict compliance with law.

The young generation is a key to the future development of society. In line with the direction of the policies of China and the SAR Government that attach importance to development of young people, the CCAC promoted the dissemination and education actions targeting at young people in a profound way in 2023. In particular, the CCAC took advantage of the integrity education base for young people, kept bringing forth new ideas and provided them with innovative and interesting integrity promotion training and education activities which enabled them to develop both learning and thinking abilities and practise and experiment on their own so as to become a new force of integrity building. At the same time, the CCAC also strived to promote integrity among the population. In addition to holding various types of activities, seminars and talks recording a total of 605 sessions throughout the year, the CCAC also proactively disseminated the information of integrity through different types of videos and kept conveying the idea of upholding integrity and rejecting corruption to different groups of people.

With the resumption of normal travel between Macao and other places, the CCAC spared no efforts to enhance exchange with the law-enforcement agencies of the surrounding regions. In 2023, the CCAC visited the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the National Supervisory Commission, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, the Supervisory Committees of some provinces and municipalities of China, the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong so as to promote bilateral and regional cooperation. In addition, the CCAC continued to participate with China in the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as well as actively implemented its obligations as a member of relevant international and regional organisations by sending personnel to participate in the online and face-to-face meetings and training activities hosted by various international anti-corruption and ombudsman organisations so as to keep abreast of the international development of integrity building.

"Integrity is the essence of governance." Integrity is a fundamental part of governance and integrity building is the cornerstone of fair and harmonious development of society. With adherence to the 2nd Five-Year Plan and the Policy Address, in 2023, the CCAC proposed amendments to the *Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption of the Macao Special Administrative Region* in order for more comprehensive regulation and set-up of the scope of competence and staff welfare as well as other matters, namely highlight of the function of investigation of economic and financial crimes in the mission and scope of activity and clear definition of the investigation methods of on-site follow-up and inspection. Since the bill has been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation, the CCAC will maintain good communication and partnership with the relevant departments and entities and strive to complete the amendment procedure as soon as possible in order to better carry out its duties through the perfection of the relevant regimes, prevent and combat every type of illicit acts involving corruption more effectively, enhance the improvement of governance and further satisfy the needs of social development and residents' demands.

For the CCAC, the year of 2023 was an inspiring year. The Special Investigation Team of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the CCAC (Team L) was awarded by the SAR Government the Medal for Bravery, which is undoubtedly a significant recognition of the anti-corruption work of the CCAC and even the unceasing and discreet contribution made by the investigators.

As President Xi Jinping said, “The fight against corruption is always ongoing.” The CCAC will continue to make contribution to the safeguard of the fairness and justice of society and the fight against corruption and will adamantly progress on the way of fighting corruption and promoting integrity with the courage to bear responsibilities, the ability to act as well as persistence and determination.

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The Commissioner Against Corruption

Chan Tsz King