

Xi stresses adherence to 'One Country, Two Systems' as Macau SAR celebrates silver jubilee

President Xi Jinping stressed yesterday the long-term adherence to "One Country, Two Systems" as Macau celebrated a quarter-century of transformative success since its return to the motherland.

At a televised ceremony held at the East Asian Games Dome in Cotai, Xi swore in Sam Hou Fai, the 62-year-old former president of Macau's Court of Final Appeal (TUI), as the sixth-term chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR). Sam's team of principal officials for the MSAR government was also sworn in before Xi.

After the inauguration, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), addressed an audience of over 1,000 people.

Xi stated that the great achievements of Macau since its return to the motherland have proven to the world that "One Country, Two Systems" has prominent institutional strengths and tremendous vitality.

ENORMOUS TRANSFORMATION

Macau and its neighbor Hong Kong are China's two SARs governed under the "One Country, Two Systems" policy since China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over them following long periods of Portuguese and British colonial rule. The policy allows them to maintain their capitalist systems and ways of life within socialist China.

At yesterday's ceremony, Xi said the practice of "One Country, Two Systems" with Macau characteristics has been a tremendous success, hailing the enormous transformation that has taken place in the region.

Xi highlighted Macau's achievements in economic and social development, the improvement of its residents' well-being, and the expansion of external cooperation. He said Macau residents enjoy a wider range of rights and freedoms than at any other time in history.

— Continued on p.2



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, waves to the participants at a meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR), at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai yesterday morning. Xi on Friday delivered a speech at the double event. — Xinhua

Sam Hou Fai sworn in as Macau's 6th-term CE



President Xi Jinping (right), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), administers the oath of office to Sam Hou Fai, new chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR), at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai yesterday. — Xinhua

Sam Hou Fai was sworn in on Friday as the sixth-term chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

In his inaugural address, Sam pledged to lead the new-term Macau SAR government to stand united with people from all walks of life and, with collective efforts, to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, maintain constitutional order in the MSAR as stipulated in China's Constitution and the MSAR Basic Law, firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and faithfully implement the principle of "patriots administering Macau".

Born in Zhongshan City, some 40 kilometers north of Macau, in 1962, Sam graduated from Peking University, majoring in Law. He moved to Macau in 1986 and joined the first group of Macau's judicial auditors in 1995.

On December 20, 1999, the day MSAR was established, Sam was appointed president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

After serving for almost 25 years as the head of the top court, Sam resigned in

August this year before announcing his bid for the chief executive election.

On September 20, Macau's Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election confirmed Sam as the accepted candidate for the election.

On September 28, Sam presented his political platform, which highlighted enhancing public governance capabilities, accelerating appropriate economic diversification, better integration into the national development, improving the educational system, and improving people's livelihoods.

Sam was elected as the sixth-term chief executive designate of the MSAR on October 13, securing 394 votes from the 400-member election committee.

On October 25, the State Council in Beijing appointed Sam as the sixth-term chief executive of the MSAR.

On November 1, President Xi Jinping met with Sam in Beijing. Witnessed by Xi, Premier Li Qiang presented Sam with a decree of the State Council appointing the latter as Macau's future chief executive. — Xinhua, MPD

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The Macau Post Daily

Malaysia agrees to resume search for missing MH370 plane

Malaysia announced yesterday it has agreed to launch a new search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which disappeared 10 years ago in one of aviation's greatest enduring mysteries.

— Story on p.11

Fade out: Biden vanishes into background

In the twilight of his political career, Joe Biden is disappearing into the background even before Donald Trump returns to the White House, despite growing turmoil at home and abroad.

— Story on p.12

How Macao links the Chinese mainland with the Lusophone world

If you walk into a five-star hotel in Macao and order a cup of coffee, there's a good chance it's brewed from Arabica beans harvested in Ermera, the coffee-producing heart of Timor-Leste.

— Story on p.13



Ho Iat Seng vows to continue to serve nation & Macau

Yuki Lei

Following the formal start of Macau's new government led by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, Macau's fifth-term chief executive, Ho Iat Seng, stepped down yesterday from his post, who, however, according to an executive order published in the Official Gazette (BO), will continue to serve the nation and Macau.

Issued and signed by Sam, the executive order took effect yesterday, noting that Ho, who served as the third chief executive between December 20, 2019 and December 19, 2024, "will continue

to serve the nation and the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) by carrying out missions or activities favourable to the interests of the nation and the MSAR," with all the relevant necessary logistical and administrative support, including an office and support staff, a car with a driver, personal security, medical assistance and protocol treatment, as well as the associated expenses to be provided under conditions to be defined by order of the chief executive.

The executive order also noted that any financial costs shall be borne by the funds available under

the expenditure budget of the Office of the Chief Executive and the Government Headquarters Affairs Bureau (DSASG).

Lei Wai Nong appointed to Macao Foundation

Meanwhile, under another executive order announced and put into effect yesterday, the previous government's secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, has been appointed as a full-time member of the Executive Committee of the public Macao Foundation (FM) for a term of one year. ■



This file photo taken by Xinhua shows president Xi Jinping (right) shaking hands with Macau's then chief executive Ho Iat Seng during a meeting at the San Chok Un ("New Bamboo Mansion") Guesthouse on Penha Hill on Wednesday.

Xi inspects PLA garrison

President Xi Jinping yesterday inspected the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) garrison stationed in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), conducted the inspection after attending a gathering in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

Yesterday afternoon, Xi reviewed the troops and met with representatives of the military personnel.

He urged the military staff to enhance defense capabilities in all aspects and contribute more to breaking new ground in the practice

of "One Country, Two Systems" with Macao characteristics.

Over the past 25 years, the troops have played a vital role in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, as well as Macau's long-term prosperity and stability, Xi noted.

Highlighting the need to unwaveringly uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the military, Xi stressed efforts to comprehensively strengthen military discipline and maintain high levels of unity, security and stability in the armed forces.

Cai Qi, director of the General Office of the CPC and the Party's first-ranked secretary of the Secretariat, and other senior officials attended the activities.

— Xinhua, MPD

Xi stresses adherence to 'One Country, Two Systems' as Macau SAR celebrates silver jubilee

Continued from p.1

In 2023, Macau's GDP rose to seven times the figure of 1999. Its per capita GDP now ranks among the world's highest. Macau is also one of the safest places globally. Education is free from kindergarten to senior high, and average life expectancy in the region has risen to 83.1 years.

Macau was once labeled a "casino city" for its dominant gaming industry, but that situation is changing as the city makes efforts to appropriately diversify its economy.

Xi said in his speech yesterday that Macau's role has been strengthened as a world tourism and leisure center, a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is the mainstream and diverse cultures coexist.

Entering the 26th year of being an SAR of China, Macau is brimming with cheerful vibes. Festive posters and floral decorations adorn popular sites such as the Ruins of St. Paul's, while national flags and MSAR flags flutter along the streets.

"This year's decorations are the most vibrant I've ever seen," said Leung Chon Long, a middle school teacher who was born the same year as Macau's return to the motherland. "It makes me feel warmly embraced by my country."

GOOD SYSTEM

The concept of "One Country, Two Systems" was first proposed by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s to reunify the country, initially with Taiwan in mind. It was later implemented in Hong Kong and Macau following their handovers from British and Portuguese rule in the late 1990s.

Xi said "One Country, Two Systems" is a good policy that helps

maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macau, serves the noble cause of building a stronger country and achieving national rejuvenation, and promotes peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation between different social systems.

He urged the new government of the MSAR to better leverage the institutional advantages of "One Country, Two Systems" and open up new prospects for the cause's high-quality development.

During his three-day stay, Xi visited the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Located in Zhuhai in Guangdong Province, Hengqin is separated from Macau by a narrow stretch of water. The zone, about three times the size of Macau, was established in 2021 to develop industries such as high-end manufacturing, traditional Chinese medicine, financial services, and cultural tourism, helping Macau reduce its over-dependence on the gaming sector.

"Macau plus Hengqin" is becoming a new model for enriching the practice of "One Country, Two Systems" and a new high ground for advancing the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), Xi said.

As Carlos Cid Álvares, president of the Macau Delegation of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, aptly pointed out, "Macau may be small, but the potential of the Greater Bay Area is huge."

"So I never talk about the 700,000 residents in Macau," he said. "I talk about 80 million people in the Greater Bay Area."

Macau will surely open up new horizons for development and continue creating new glories, as long as the policy of "One Country, Two Systems" is comprehensively, accurately, and unwaveringly implemented, Xi said yesterday

NEW GLORY

Xi also expressed his expectations for the newly inaugurated government, calling on it to promote the appropriate diversification of the local economy, improve governance efficiency, build a platform for higher-level opening up, and safeguard social harmony and stability.

He also called on young people in Macau to assume the role of builders and successors of the cause of "One Country, Two Systems."

Xi said he met many outstanding young people during his stay in Macau, including government workers, entrepreneurs and teachers.

Visiting the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) on Thursday, Xi had a cordial exchange with the faculty, students and researchers there. Lai Iat Him, a freshman, said he was excited to meet Xi in person. "It was a real inspiration for me hearing what he said, and we, as young people in Macau, should dream big, work hard to realize our goals, and contribute to our country," Lai said.

Sam said in his inaugural speech as chief executive that he felt a great sense of responsibility and honor for the mission.

"With the staunch support of the motherland and the collective efforts of Macau's people, we have the confidence and capability to make Macau, 'a pearl in the palm' of the motherland, even more brilliant and shining," Sam said.

Yesterday's ceremony was also attended by senior officials including Cai Qi, as well as Edmund Ho Hau Wah, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), HKSAR Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, and former Macau SAR chief executives Fernando Chui Sai On and Ho Iat Seng. — Xinhua, MPD



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), reviews the troops during his inspection of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) garrison stationed in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), yesterday.

— Xinhua

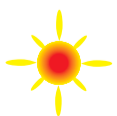
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Sam seeing off Xi at airport outlines vision for Macau's future

Ginnie Liang

Macau's newly-appointed sixth-term Chief Executive, Sam Hou Fai, pledged yesterday that he and his new governing team will definitely bear in mind their oath, fulfil their responsibilities, live up to their mission, and be accountable to the nation and to Macau, ensuring that they deliver results that honour the country, Macau, and its people.

Sam made the remarks in a speech at the local airport yesterday afternoon at the seeing-off ceremony upon President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan's departure to Beijing after finishing their three-day inspection visit in Macau yesterday, adding that he would like to express his and his team's heartfelt gratitude to Xi and the central government for their full trust.

The principal officials of the local sixth-term government, including its five secretaries, took their oath of office yesterday under the supervision of Xi.

Sam underlined that Xi's inspection of Macau carries significant meaning, fully reflecting the central government's heartfelt care for the Macau people, its concern and support for the city's rapid development, and its earnest anticipation for the stable and far-reaching advancement of the great cause of "One Country, Two Systems."

Sam's 4 points

Sam outlined four key points during his speech at the airport. **First**, he emphasised the need to consider issues from the perspective of the fundamental interests of the nation and the overall interests of Macau, firmly safeguarding national sovereignty and development interests.

Second, Sam called for strengthening practical efforts and facing challenges head-on, advocating for a proactive and capable approach to governance.

Third, he stressed the importance



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai delivers a speech upon President Xi Jinping's departure at the local airport yesterday.

of unity and collaboration, noting that the government functions as an organic entity. Thus, handling affairs should not be limited to a single public entity, Sam said, pledging to enhance regular communication with patriotic and Macau-loving organisations, fostering a strong synergy for governance according to the law.

Fourth, he highlighted the necessity of maintaining integrity and transparency, stating that the new government should embody a fresh atmosphere and new standards.

Sam further stated that he will consistently uphold a governance philosophy of striving together and implementing reforms responsibly, adding that he aims to unite and lead all sectors of society to seize opportunities, boldly pursue reforms, take on responsibilities, and systematically implement various policy measures.

Sam said he believes that, riding the powerful momentum of national construction and rejuvenation, Macau's future development will surely soar higher and travel farther, continuously creating a new landscape for high-quality development under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. ■



Xi Jinping (right) and his spouse Peng Liyuan stand at the top of their aircraft's steps, while Xi waves goodbye to local students. — Photos: Ginnie Liang

Xi meets new officials of executive, legislative, judicial organs

President Xi Jinping yesterday met with new officials of the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Noting that the governance team of the sixth-term MSAR government is young and energetic with high morale, Xi expressed confidence that they will bear in mind their oath, fulfil their mission, be accountable to both the country and Macau, and deliver outstanding results that will make the nation, Macau and themselves proud.

Xi expressed his expectations

for the new team, urging them to keep in mind the country's fundamental interests and Macau's overall interests. They should also firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, Xi told them.

He called on them to do solid work with a greater sense of responsibility, vigorously promote appropriate economic diversification, foster a more favorable business environment, and maintain stability and harmony in Macau.

The team headed by the

MSAR's chief executive should enhance unity and cooperation, Xi said, urging them to strengthen cross-domain and inter-departmental coordination to improve governance efficiency.

He also stressed the need to maintain integrity and honesty, always bear in mind the livelihood of Macau residents, use power prudently, and serve as upright officials who bring benefits to the people.

Cai Qi, Xia Baolong and other senior officials attended the meeting. Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai was also present. — Xinhua



President Xi Jinping (center, front), accompanied by senior officials from the central authorities, poses with new and reappointed officials of the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), including members of the advisory Executive Council, on the last of his three-day inspection visit to Macau yesterday. — Xinhua

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City of Dreams showcases 'Eternal Lotus 25' exhibition

Rui Pastorin

Melco Resorts & Entertainment said in a statement earlier this week that it is exhibiting the "Eternal Lotus 25" at the White Gallery of City of Dreams (COD) in Cotai in celebration of both the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

Open 24/7 and centred around Macau's floral emblem, the lotus, the statement said that the free-admission exhibition comprises the stages "Awakening Buds", "Blooming Dialogue" and "Seeds of Eternity". The theme aims to "enthral guest's senses and inspire deep introspection", as well as embodying the city's booming economy, social harmony, stability, and prosperity.

The statement added that through the lotus cycle metaphor, exhibitiongoers can find a rich tapestry of life that "fosters tranquillity and reflection". The lotus, from seed to bloom, mirrors Macau's "legacy of growth and blooming, while each also symbolises rebirth and hope".

The statement added that the integrated resort cooperated with local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in generating ideas and arranging the exhibition, showing COD's "continuous support for cultivating local talents and building a stage to express their full potential".

The installations were created "with precision by cutting-edge technology, meticulously engineered and designed with innovative lighting and projection that uncover



This undated handout photo provided by Melco Resorts & Entertainment earlier this week shows the "Blooming Dialogue" Zone at City of Dreams (COD) in Cotai.

new pathways through big data and motion detection to deliver an utmost standard of quality with a one-of-a-kind interactive experience, demonstrating Macau's continued development in the field of technical expertise", according to the statement.

Meanwhile, at Nüwa's lobby lounge the Lan Bar, various 'Eternal Lotus 25' themed pastry and special drinks are also on offer. The statement added that the integrated resort operator is also set to launch a series of "Macau 25th Celebration Rewards" across its three properties.

Cotai Water Jet offers ticket giveaway for dual celebration

Rui Pastorin

Cotai Water Jet is offering two complimentary tickets per person for its Macau Cruise Fireworks Route in celebration of "double happiness": The 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, according to a Thursday statement from the ferry company provided by Sands China.

The statement said that the promotion period for the 70-minute voyage is on 11 a.m. on Sunday and can be

redeemed at the Cotai Water Jet ticketing counter in the Macau Taipa Ferry Terminal on a first come, first served basis. The vessel is slated to set sail at 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Guests on board will be able to get "spectacular views" of the city's night sky during the upcoming "Fireworks Display in Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region".

The statement noted that the upcoming cruise is one of two tourism cruises Cotai Water Jet announced this year and runs on selected dates during firework displays and contests, while the other is the 60-minute Macau Cruise Sightseeing Route.

"These marine tourism offers are aligned with Sands China Ltd.'s full support of the Macau SAR government and the promotion of its varied 'tourism+' initiatives that bring value to the local community and visitors", according to the statement.

More information is available on www.cotaiwaterjet.com and www.facebook.com/cotaijetferry, while one can also call 2885 0595.



This image provided by Sands China and Cotai Water Jet promotes the ticket giveaway for the Macau Cruise Fireworks Route.

The Ritz-Carlton to host New Year's Eve events

Rui Pastorin

Hotel operator The Ritz-Carlton, Macau has said in a recent statement that it is set to host a series of "luxurious New Year's Eve events".

Among them is a six-course New Year's Eve Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Café, priced at 988 patacas per person and wine pairing for an additional 488 patacas, that features a menu that pays tribute to "French culinary excellence". Highlights, include Miso-Scented Roasted Toothfish with Lobster Coral Tempura and Pigeon Rossini with Crispy Bacon, Morel Mushroom, Savoy Cabbage and Black Truffle Sauce, according to the statement.

The statement noted that Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant Lai Heen meanwhile has an eight course New Year's Eve Dégustation Dinner, which starts off with Deep-fried Duck with Balsamic Vinegar followed by the Double-boiled Fish Maw

Soup with Snow Goose. Priced at 1,888 patacas, other highlights include Sautéed Prawn with Wild Rice in Rich Superior Broth, and the fragrant Traditional Stewed Eight Treasure Pigeon.

Moreover, at The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge, the "Putting on the Ritz Countdown Party" will be hosted, inviting guests to "immerse themselves in the dazzling world of the 1920s", the statement said.

The party will feature a live six-piece band, flowing premium champagne and gourmet snacks, as well as a "vibrant and celebratory" atmosphere, the statement noted. Tickets are priced at 388 patacas per person and include two glasses of Moët Imperial Brut or selected wine, while a selection of VIP table packages is also available starting from 2,288 patacas for two to three guests, with options available for larger groups.

Reservations and enquiries can be made by calling 8886 6868.



This undated handout photo shows The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge in Cotai.

SJM Master Mixologist wins 'World Bartender of the Year'



This undated handout photo provided by SJM Resorts on Thursday shows Grand Lisboa Palace's (GLP) Resort Master Mixologist Frederick Ma (馬銘康) posing.

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts said in a statement on Thursday that Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) Resort Master Mixologist Frederick Ma (馬銘康) won the "World Bartender of the Year" and "Market Challenge Winner" prize at the IBA (International Bartenders Association) World Cocktail Championship 2024 in Portugal's Autonomous Region of Madeira.

GLP is located in Cotai.

The statement said that this year's championship comprised mixologists from 67 countries and regions that vied for the title. The championships had the categories of sparkling, after-dinner, long drinks, before-dinner, sensory evaluation, knowledge, speed, and cocktail creation. Ma emerged victorious with his "Winds of Prosperity" cocktail, marking the first time that a representative from Macau garnered the competition's highest honour.

The statement said that the cocktail is "a masterful interplay of flavours and textures". It has a base of Madeira wine, with its smoky caramel notes providing "a full-bodied foundation", according to the statement.

The statement said that organic mezcal adds complexity to the drink, while amaretto and verjuice provide "perfectly balanced sweetness and acidity". Subtle Asian spices and homegrown thyme contribute aromatic depth and is also garnished with white and red raisins, dried figs, and thyme.

The statement said that guests can sample the "Winds of Prosperity" at contemporary Portuguese restaurant Mesa by José Avillez located at Level 3 of THE KARL LAGERFELD MACAU in Cotai.



Sam vows to tackle 5 major tasks

Tony Wong

New Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai pledged in his inauguration speech yesterday that his government will strive to achieve five major tasks: enhancing public administration and governance capabilities, advancing appropriate economic diversification, improving people's well-being, leveraging Macau's unique advantages to better integrating itself into the nation's development, and enhancing governance capabilities at grassroots levels.

Sam made his speech after he was sworn in by President Xi Jinping at yesterday's gathering celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland and inauguration ceremony of the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) sixth-term government at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai.

Sam was sworn in by Xi yesterday as the MSAR's sixth-term and fourth chief executive, after which Sam's nine principal officials, and chief public prosecutor, were together sworn in by Xi.

Afterwards, Sam administered the oath of office of the 11 members of his top advisory Executive Council (ExCo), after which he delivered his inauguration speech.

Sam said that over the past 25 years since Macau's return to the motherland, with the support of the central government and the mainland as well as the leadership of Macau's first three chief executives, Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Fernando Chui Sai On and Ho Iat Seng, the MSAR government, together with all sectors of Macau's civil society, has broken new ground and worked tirelessly, creating a miracle of development drawing global attention.

Macau is a "lotus flower in full bloom", glowing with inimitable

radiance, the newly sworn in chief executive said.

Sam said that Macau is now a city with harmony and stability, while its economy is developing with prosperity, where residents live and work in peace and contentment, and diverse cultures enhance one another's beauty, vividly demonstrating the immense superiority and strong vitality of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

Practice has proved that the great motherland is and will always be Macau's strong support, Sam said.

The new chief executive pledged that he will lead his administration, with the strong support of the central government, to unite all sectors of Macau's civil society in comprehensively, accurately and unwaveringly implementing the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, firmly safeguarding the constitutional order established by the Constitution and the MSAR Basic Law, resolutely safeguarding the nation's sovereignty, security and development interests, and faithfully implementing the "patriots governing Macau" principle.

Sam underlined that the local government will continue to strengthen patriotism education while also supporting the continuous development and growth in the forces promoting love for the nation and love for Macau and constantly improving the MSAR's legal system and enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security.

5 major tasks

In his speech, Sam laid out five major tasks that his administration will strive to achieve.

Firstly, Sam said, the government will strive to enhance capabilities in public administration and governance. With its people-



Newly sworn in Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai delivers his inauguration speech during yesterday's gathering celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland and inauguration ceremony of the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) sixth-term government at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai. — Photo: GCS

centred approach and the objective of good governance, Sam said, his government will continue to administer Macau in accordance with the law while deepening the reform of the city's public administration and legal system, improving its judicial system, and building a law-based and modern service-orientated government with diligence, integrity, efficiency and impartiality, with the aim of making it more convenient for residents to complete public administrative formalities.

Secondly, Sam said, his government will strive to advance Macau's appropriate economic diversification. With Macau's positioning as "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" and the government's 1+4 appropriate economic diversification plan, Sam said, his administration will bolster the city's economic development in a sustainable and healthy manner.

The Macau government's "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" concept refers to Macau developing itself into a World Centre of Tourism

and Leisure, a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and an exchange and cooperation base with Chinese culture as its mainstream and co-existence of different cultures.

Sam pledged that his administration will create a good combination of a capable government and an effective market, adding that it aims to realise its appropriate economic diversification plan by constantly improving the city's business environment and economic policies and tools.

Sam said that his government will promote the development of emerging industries while also strongly supporting the transformation and future development of traditional industries and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with the aim of tackling the city's "unbalanced" economic development and creating broader development space for residents and SMEs, he said.

Thirdly, Sam said, his government will strive to continue to improve people's well-being, pledging that it will come up with solutions to issues generally regarded by the population as the most important ones such as social

security, healthcare, elderly care, childcare, transport, and urban renewal.

Sam said that his administration will also continue to support young people's personal development while advancing comprehensive progress in various social undertakings, with the aim of constantly enhancing residents' sense of fulfilment, happiness and security.

Fourthly, Sam said, his administration will strive to leverage Macau's unique advantages with the aim of better integrating its development into and serving the nation's overall development.

Sam said that Macau will align itself with national development strategies and bridge connections between the mainland and the globe, adding that Macau will give full play to its role as a service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and more deeply participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Sam pledged that his government will write a good chapter in the development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Fifthly, Sam said, his administration will strive to enhance governance capabilities at grassroots levels. Sam said that his government will support the development and growth in patriotic community associations while also strengthening its management of the city's community associations and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), with the aim of consolidating Macau's sociopolitical governance foundation and maintaining its long-term prosperity and stability.

Sam underlined that thanks to the strong support by Xi and the central government as well as residents' concerted efforts, his government is confident in achieving a greater success in the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle while also making greater contributions to advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. ■



Macau's Fire Services Bureau (CB) said in a statement that light decorations on the façade of the Ritz Building in the city's main square, Largo do Senado, were gutted by fire late last night. No injuries or structural damage were reported. The building includes a tourism information counter on its ground floor run by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO). The bureau said they were investigating the cause of the blaze which erupted at around 11:30 p.m.

— Photo: Ginnie Liang

Winter Solstice & Christmas holidays

Due to it being the Winter Solstice and Christmas holidays, *The Macau Post Daily's* print version editing team will be off from today until December 28, returning to work on Sunday December 29 so the print edition of your favourite newspaper will be on the newsstands again on the morning of Monday December 30. However, our digital edition on our website <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/> will be updated round-the-clock. Our local news and editorials as well as commentary by national media organisations are also available on various LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook accounts. The *Macau Post Daily's* office will be closed until December 26 and will be open again on Friday December 27.

We wish all our readers, advertisers, distributors and contributors a happy Winter Solstice, a merry Christmas and a restful holiday.

All government offices will be closed from Monday December 23 and will reopen on Thursday December 27. Banks will be closed from Tuesday December 24 and will reopen again on Friday December 27.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.16 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.16 percent to close at 19,720.70 points. While the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.12 percent to end at 7,143.88 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 0.11 percent to close at 4,444.19 points. — Xinhua



5 secretaries vow to enhance governance quality in their portfolios



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon (from left to right), Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, Secretary for Economy and Finance Tai Kin Ip, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam and Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man talk to the media after yesterday's reception at Forum Macao in Nam Van. — Photo combo: Yuki Lei

Yuki Lei

The 10 principal officials of the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) sixth-term government, including its five policy secretaries, took their oath of office yesterday under the supervision of President Xi Jinping, and the quintet pledged that taking on board Xi's four aspirations for the new government, they would thoroughly implement the president's important instructions, vowing to enhance governance quality in their respective portfolios.

The four points of hope put forward by Xi for Macau's principal officials are to develop a holistic mindset; to take on responsibility and be enterprising in their work; to strengthen solidarity and cooperation; and to perform their posts with impartiality and integrity.

The new government held yesterday evening a reception at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex (also known as Forum Macao) in Nam Van, with about 1,400 people attending the reception, including local government officials and civic leaders from all walks of life.

The new and reappointed principal officials, including Secretary for Administration and Justice André

Cheong Weng Chon, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, Secretary for Economy and Finance Tai Kin Ip, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture O Lam and Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man talked to the media one after the other.

André Cheong Weng Chon

Reappointed as secretary for Administration and Justice, Cheong thanked the central government for its trust in him to continue to serve Macau, saying that Xi's hope for the new government, which emphasises the need to enhance the effectiveness of Macau's governance and to improve its institutions, mechanisms, laws and regulations, "is a clear indication of the direction of Macau's future development". Cheong vowed that he would continue to improve the legal system in the light of the new situation and requirements of national security.

Wong Sio Chak

Wong, who was also retained in his post as secretary for Security, said he "is greatly encouraged and inspired" by the "four points of hope" put forward by Xi to the new government, which clearly expressed Xi's higher requirements and expectations for the principal

officials of the new government, as well as his demands on their personal qualities and style of governance, vowing: "I and all my colleagues in the Secretariat for Security will do our utmost to carry out our work in accordance with the relevant requests of the president".

Wong also quoted Xi as affirming the work of the previous MSAR government in safeguarding national security, reaffirming that "the amendment of Macau's national security law is a new starting point, not the end point, and that there are still other legislative amendments, relevant mechanism adjustments and capacity development measures to be done in the future".

Tai Kin Ip

The secretary for Economy and Finance said that his "economic and financial affairs team" will fully implement in the next five years Sam's philosophy of governance and the various tasks put forward by the new government in line with the president's important instructions and expectations for Macau's development. In response to Xi's expectations for the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, he added, "We will steadfastly implement the plan and introduce more specific measures

to promote the appropriately diversified development of Macau's economy and facilitate the life and employment of Macau residents".

When asked by reporters about the feasibility of continuing the soon-to-be-concluded "Macau Consumer Grand Prix", Tai said that the effectiveness of the campaign would be fully analysed and reviewed after the conclusion of the event tomorrow, and that the prospects for future economic development would be "critically" reviewed with new measures to revitalise the economy to be "carefully" examined.

Wallis O Lam

O, who said that her confidence and determination to do a better job was further strengthened by President Xi's important speech, pledged to implement a people-centred approach in the social affairs and cultural fields, saying: "We will implement the concept of people-centredness and take meeting the public's aspirations for a better life as the starting and ending point of our work".

She also said that the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture would be more proactive in reaching out to the community and engaging with the general public to understand their needs and, at the same time, also be more proactive in listening

to the views of all sectors of the community, especially youth groups, with a view to formulating policies and measures that better meet the needs of young people, thereby creating an environment more conducive to the growth and development of young people.

Raymond Tam Vai Man

Tam said that a raft of important recent policies in terms of infrastructure, transport, communications, environmental protection and urban renewal, including various reclamation projects and the opening of more Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines, were inseparable from the central government's ongoing "strong support" for Macau, adding that under the "deep encouragement" of Xi's important speech yesterday morning, all staff in the field of transport and public works would work in conjunction with the development of the "smart city" concept for Macau, apart from optimising cross-departmental decision-making and services with innovative thinking, while giving priority to tackling urgent social and livelihood issues in accordance with a priority approach, so that "we can fly higher, go further and achieve better development". ■

Over 20 works on display at 'Joyful Colours' exhibition

Rui Pastorin

Over 20 children's artworks are currently on display at the D1 Hall of Albergue SCM in the São Lázaro (望德堂區) district until Monday.

The free-admission "Joyful Colours" Children's Drawing Contest Exhibition showcases works from the recently held contest of the same name, organised by CAC – Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau ("Circle of the Friends of Macau's Culture") and sponsored by the Macau Foundation (FM).

The contest, according to a poster at the exhibition venue, collected submissions from children aged five to 12 and the winner has received a 1,000 pataca prize voucher and trophy. The first and second runner-up, meanwhile, received prize vouchers of 800 patacas and 500 patacas respectively, along with trophies, while merit awards were also given out.

Children making submissions followed the theme "My happiness", with the poster noting that children

were "encouraged to express their happiest moments, things, or experiences through drawing", resulting in the vibrant exhibits.

Those interested may visit the exhibition from 12 noon to 8 p.m. until tomorrow, and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday.

Albergue is Portuguese for "hospice". SCM stands for Santa Casa da Misericórdia ("Holy House of Mercy"), Macau's oldest charitable organisation. ■



These photos show some of the works displayed at the Albergue SCM's D1 Hall.

— Photos: Rui Pastorin

Xi expresses confidence in Macau's new chief executive

President Xi Jinping yesterday expressed his confidence in Sam Hou Fai, who had just been sworn in as the sixth-term chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

When meeting with Sam, Xi said he was confident that Sam will lead the MSAR's new government and people from all walks of life in comprehensively, accurately and unwaveringly implementing the principle of "One Country, Two Systems" under which the people of Macau administer Macau with a high degree of autonomy.

Xi expressed the belief that Macau will firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, vigorously

promote appropriate economic diversification, and continuously improve public well-being.

He also voiced his conviction that Macau will leverage its unique position and advantages to better integrate itself into the overall national development and deepen exchanges and cooperation with other countries and regions.

"The central government will fully support the chief executive and the Macau SAR government in fulfilling their duties," Xi noted.

Sam expressed his gratitude to Xi and the central government for their trust. He pledged to lead the new SAR government in breaking new ground for the successful practice of "One Country, Two Systems" in Macau. — Xinhua



CEM New Year's Eve Run to set off from Coloane Power Station

Rui Pastorin

Power utility CEM said in a statement on Thursday that the "2024 Fourth Round of the Long-Distance Running League: CEM New Year's Eve Run" is set to take place at 7:30 p.m. on December 31, with the run starting and finishing at the Coloane Power Station.

The event marks the power station's first large-scale opening to members of the public, according to the statement.

The statement noted that a "Most Creative Costume Award" is offered where the winner can receive a Grand Prize of 3,000 patacas, while 10 "Excellence Awards", each winning a 500 pataca supermarket gift voucher, will also be given out.

Those interested in competing for the award can sign up at its registration booth during a designated time and have their photo taken.

Moreover, runners can collect their number bibs, timing chips, and instructions by showing their ID at the General Association of Athletics of Macau office on December 26, 27 and 30 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. They can also do so from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on December 28. Representatives of those unable to collect them in person can present the participant's ID copy or photo.

The upcoming event celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the 25th Anniversary of



This poster provided by power utility CEM promotes the upcoming "2024 Fourth Round of the Long-Distance Running League: CEM New Year's Eve Run".

Macao's return to the motherland, and the 40th Anniversary of Guangdong-Macao Interconnection. Through

their celebration, the statement said that CEM aims to promote the achievements of the Greater Bay

Area's (GBA) "power development to the public and support the growth of Macao's sports industry, injecting new momentum into the region's sustainable development".

The power station will open at 6 p.m. on the event day, and participants must secure their number bib and wear the entry wristband before entering the facility. A storage area and dressing room will be available for participants, who must enter the start area by 7:25 p.m. at the latest.

More event information can be found on the official websites of co-organisers CEM or the General Association of Athletics of Macau, as well as CEM's social media pages. One can also call the association on 2883 9691. ■

Association holds carnival celebrating 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to motherland



This photo provided by the Federal General Commercial Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises shows its ongoing "Colourful Carnival Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macau's Return" in Praça da Amizade (友誼廣場) yesterday.

Ginnie Liang

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, the Federal General Commercial Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises is holding its "Colourful Carnival Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macau's Return" until next Thursday.

The carnival opened yesterday. The one-week event features various activities aimed at enhancing brand visibility, improving business conditions, and providing a favourable environment for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs), while also creating joyful experiences for residents and tourists alike.

The opening ceremony took place yesterday in Praça da Amizade (友誼廣場), with the association's president, Melinda Chan Mei I, emphasising that Macau has actively integrated itself into the national development

framework, leveraging its unique advantages to become a vital bridge connecting China and the rest of the world.

She also noted that the city has developed its long-term strategy of "One Centre, One Platform, One Base," fostering the growth of diverse industries and injecting robust momentum into Macau's economy.

In her speech, Chan highlighted that local SMEs are an indispensable pillar in the vibrant development of Macau's economy, embodying the city's vitality and hope, adding she hoped that the celebration about this significant milestone will showcase Macau's unique charm and future potential in terms of economic prosperity, tourism innovation, and cultural heritage.

The carnival features a lineup of activities, including booth games, interactive clown performances, and opportunities to engage with Macau's original brands as well as local cuisine on offer. ■

Three things helping Macao go fast-forward

Francisco José Leandro*

The Macao Special Administrative Region is in a fast-forward development mode thanks to the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, a framework that allows the region to be part of the whole and, at the same time, to keep its differences and transform them into advantages.

Bearing in mind the main objective of the central government – to, by 2050, transform China into a great modern socialist country – this political formula has been supplemented with strategic long-term visions. And the rationale of it can be summarized as "One Center, One Platform and One Base". Here, one center stands for the World Centre of Tourism and Leisure; one platform for the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform; and one base for exchange and cooperation with Chinese culture as its mainstream.

This foundation is associated with three key development drivers: Integration, diversification and a cooperation platform.

Integration

The Macao SAR, as a part of China, is fully integrated into the central government's vision. However, the SAR retains its own systems, namely the legal, taxation and economic systems. Furthermore, the SAR is incorporated in the Greater Bay Area, which is equipped with impressive infrastructure (six international airports, seven deep seaports, some of the longest bridges in the world and a state-of-the-art network of interconnected railways) as well as the desire of the central government to transform it into the world's largest economic bay area.

There are three aspects contributing to this key driver: First, a number of singular characteristics of the SAR such as its international legal personality, the low taxation regime, separate customs territory, the number and quality of its universities, the blended culture and the easy access and the commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs) and the Belt and Road Initiative; Second, the fact that in 2003, the Closer

Economic Partnership Arrangement was signed, which facilitates the commercial and investment flows among the Macao SAR, the Chinese mainland and PSCs; and third the new Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, which has been designed to boost the process of Macao's diversification.

Diversification

This process is being advanced according to the "1 plus 4" formula: "one center" and "four leading industries". More specifically, "one center" for integrated tourism and leisure, while facilitating the development of four nascent industries, namely: first, the "big health" industry – attractive "tourism plus" and delivering high quality health and well-being services, as a result of cooperation between local and overseas medical institutions. The concept also encompasses traditional medicine.

Second, the modern financial services – covering four areas: banking, insurance, bond market and wealth management, with particular emphasis on setting up a Central Securities Depository. Macao is supposed to embrace an expansion to digital and green operations, e-payments, e-commerce, digital currencies and cryptocurrency, financial market integration, commodities trading services, with more offshore and cross-border business.

Third, the high and new technology – the 10 higher education institutions established in Macao (University of Macau ranks on Times Higher Education University Rankings top 200), side-by-side with four key state laboratories (Quality Research in Chinese Medicine; Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI; Internet of Things for Smart City; Lunar and Planetary Sciences) and with the support of the Tax Incentive Scheme for Science, Technology and Innovation Business, the Science and Technology Development Fund and the Funding Scheme for Industry-University-Research Partnership for Enterprises, are supposed to operate a real technological transformation.

Fourth, exhibitions and conventions – the Macao SAR has

some of the best infrastructures in Asia for large exhibitions and conventions.

In 2023, the International Association of Exhibitions and Events granted the Macao Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute the IAEE International Excellence Award. In addition, there is a significant development of e-commerce, mobile payments and cross-border e-commerce channels linking Macao with PSCs represented by companies in the SAR, and reaching consumers on the mainland. Meanwhile, the Macao Arts Festival, Macao International Music Festival, Art and Cultural Festival between China and PSCs are attracting a large number of tourists. The SAR also holds large sports events such as the Grand Prix, Macao International Marathon and WTT Champions Macao.

Concept of platform

This last driver is organized as "One Platform and Three Centers (1 plus 3)" – One platform for China-PSC cooperation composed of three centers, namely a PSCs food distribution center, a convention and exhibition center for PSC economic cooperation, and a small and medium-sized enterprises service center for PSC. In the meantime, measures including the building of a China-PSC financial service platform, a RMB clearing center for PSC, a China-PSC cultural exchange center, youth innovation and entrepreneurship exchange center, China-PSC bilingual training base are being gradually implemented.

In 2003, the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries was established in Macao. Now, the number of parties reaches 10.

The Macao SAR is part of one of the fastest growing regions in the world – the Greater Bay Area. The future of the SAR is moving fast-forward, for the benefit of the unborn generations.

*The author is an associate professor at the University of Macau (UM). The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

– Story courtesy of China Daily

Address at the Meeting Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland and the Inaugural Ceremony of the Sixth-Term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

December 20, 2024

Xi Jinping

My Fellow Chinese,
Dear Friends,

Today, we are meeting here on this solemn occasion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and to hold the inauguration of the sixth-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR). At the outset, on behalf of the Central Government and people of all ethnic groups across China, I wish to extend cordial greetings to all Macao residents. I extend warm congratulations to Mr. Sam Hou Fai, the newly inaugurated sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, and to principal officials and members of the Executive Council of the sixth-term Macao SAR government! I also express heartfelt appreciation to all fellow Chinese, both at home and overseas, and foreign friends for their longstanding commitment to and support for the cause of One Country, Two Systems and Macao's prosperity, stability and development!

Macao is a shining pearl on the coast of the South China Sea and a treasured place of the great motherland. It was from here that the first group of Chinese students went to study overseas. It was here that many Chinese classics were translated into foreign languages and introduced to the West. It was also through Macao that a lot of Western modern science, technology and culture were introduced to the Chinese mainland. Across different stages of China's history, Macao has played an important role and made unique contributions.

My Fellow Chinese,
Dear Friends,

Over the past 25 years since Macao's return to the motherland, with the strong support of the Central Government and the mainland of the country, the Macao SAR Government has led the people of all walks of life in forging ahead in unity, achieving an enormous success in advancing the cause of One Country, Two Systems with distinctive Macao features. Macao has undergone earthshaking transformation, and its international standing has increased significantly.

– The systems for implementing the policy of One Country, Two Systems have kept improving, and national sovereignty, security and development interests have been effectively safeguarded.

The legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security are well in place in Macao. This ensures both the central authorities' overall jurisdiction over Macao and a high degree of law-based autonomy in the city. The executive, legislative and judicial bodies of Macao perform their respective functions and responsibilities. The executive-led system functions smoothly, and the constitutional order of the SAR, based on the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR, is ensured. The principle of patriots administering Macao is fully implemented, Macao's democracy is improved, and Macao residents enjoy more extensive rights and freedoms than in any other time in history. The political and social foundation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems has been further consolidated.

– Economic and social development has seen a historic leap, and residents enjoy a much stronger sense of gain, happiness and



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), delivers a speech at a meeting celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), at the Macao East Asian Games Dome in Cotai yesterday morning. – Xinhua

security. Macao has pursued economic growth and development with unremitting efforts. It has improved the city's business environment, boosted the law-based, healthy and orderly development of the gaming industry, and promoted economic diversification. Macao withstood the challenging tests of the SARS epidemic, the international financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and it has maintained the momentum of long-term steady development. In 2023, Macao's GDP was seven times that of its pre-return period, and its per capita GDP was among the highest in the world. Macao has taken the initiative to integrate into the overall national development. It has actively participated in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and it has made solid gains in building the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. All this has greatly expanded the space for its development. Macao exercises people-centered governance. It has made remarkable progress in employment, housing, education, medical services, social security and other social programs, and put in place a system of social security that covers the entire cycle of life and all areas of life. As a result, Macao has maintained its long-term social harmony and stability.

– Macao has continuously expanded external cooperation and its development position as "One Center, One Platform, One Base" has grown steadily. Macao maintains stable economic and trade ties with over 120 countries and territories, and it is a member of over 190 international organizations and institutions. Many foreign investors do business in Macao, contribute to its development and share in the fruits of its growth. As the only place in the world with both Chinese and Portuguese as its official languages, Macao is an important platform for promoting business ties between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The Historic

Center of Macao, a World Heritage site full of attractions, draws tourists from both the country and around the world. Reputed as a city of good food, rich culture, and festive events, Macao also boasts signature activities including the Macao Grand Prix and the Macao International Music Festival. It is a city where cultures and arts from across the world mingle. Macao stands out as a base for cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and the world; it is a living example of harmonious coexistence and integrated development of different civilizations.

My Fellow Chinese,
Dear Friends,

The great achievements of Macao since its return to the motherland have proven to the world that the cause of One Country, Two Systems, with its distinctive institutional strengths and strong vitality, is a good system that sustains the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. It is a good system that facilitates endeavors to build China into a great country and achieve national rejuvenation, and it is a good system for ensuring peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit between different social systems. So we must stay committed to this cause. The values embodied in the cause of One Country, Two Systems, namely, peace, inclusiveness, openness and sharing, are relevant to not only China but also the whole world. These values should be cherished by us all.

Developments in Hong Kong and Macao since their return to the motherland tell us that to sustain the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao and further advance the cause of One Country, Two Systems, it is imperative to observe the following four principles. First, we should stay committed to the fundamental policy of One Country and fully deliver the benefits of Two Systems. We should place our country's sovereignty, security and development interests above everything else; we should implement the overall jurisdiction of the Central Authorities; and

we should not deviate from this commitment under any circumstance. At the same time, we should respect the differences between the two systems, fully ensure a high degree of autonomy of the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao, and continue to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy.

We should see that this policy is not changed, deviated from, bent or distorted. Second, we should ensure high-standard security and pursue high-quality development. Security underpins development, and development, in turn, ensures security. We must remain firm in both safeguarding security and promoting development. We should cherish the hard-won peace and stability we enjoy today, focus our energy on growing the economy and pursuing development, and continue to create new growth drivers and build new strengths. Third, we should leverage the unique strengths of Hong Kong and Macao and reinforce their connectivity with both the mainland and the world. Hong Kong and Macao should be more open and inclusive, expand international linkages, and raise their global standing and appeal, so that the reputation of Hong Kong, China and Macao, China as international metropolises will grow stronger. Hong Kong and Macao should fully align themselves with the national development strategies, accelerate integration into China's overall national development, and better play their role as bridges in ushering in a new development paradigm. Fourth, we should carry forward our core values and boost inclusiveness and harmony. It is imperative to live by the core values of loving the country and Hong Kong and of loving the country and Macao, enhance exchanges and integration of diverse cultures, and rally full public support at home and abroad to create the greatest synergy in advancing the cause of One Country, Two Systems.

– Continued on p.9



Address at the Meeting Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland and the Inaugural Ceremony of the Sixth-Term Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Continued from p.8

My Fellow Chinese,
Dear Friends,

The present and the near future constitute a critical period for our endeavor to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization, and we have entered a new stage in advancing the cause of One Country, Two Systems. In the new era, the cause of One Country, Two Systems aims to deliver better development for both Hong Kong and Macao and enable the two regions to further contribute to China's development and renewal of the Chinese nation. The new government of the Macao Special Administrative Region should rally and lead the people of all walks of life in Macao in seizing opportunities, pressing ahead with reform, shouldering responsibilities and making greater contributions. This entails further leveraging the institutional strength of One Country, Two Systems, and making new achievements in the high-quality advancement of the cause of One Country, Two Systems. Here, I wish to express four hopes for Macao.

First, Macao should endeavor to promote appropriate economic diversification. It should fully leverage its distinctive strengths and resource endowment, be clear about its role, focus on key sectors, improve development planning for relevant industries, and step up policy and funding support so as to cultivate internationally competitive new sectors. Efforts should be made to achieve greater economic synergy, more harmonized rules, and more efficient and convenient cross-boundary flow of various factors between Macao and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. Macao should focus on key areas, promote scaled development of its distinctive sectors, and launch landmark projects and programs that will have knock-on effects on other sectors. It should be noted that the Central Authorities' decision to develop Hengqin is aimed at promoting appropriate economic diversification in Macao and facilitating the life and work of Macao residents. This should be kept in mind, and sectors and projects that are not in line with this purpose should not be developed. Macao should more actively take part in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, pool quality resources and deepen coordinated development. It is also important for Macao to advance integrated development of education, technology and talent and do more



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at a meeting celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), at the Macao East Asian Games Dome in Cotai yesterday morning. — Xinhua

to attract and nurture talent of various types so as to turn itself into a magnet attracting high-caliber talent from across the world.

Second, Macao should endeavor to enhance governance as a special administrative region. Macao should, with a commitment to advancing law-based governance and shouldering responsibilities, better respond to the needs of its economic and social development, improve its institutions, laws and regulations, deepen public administration reform, improve organizational structure, update its approach to and improve its way of governance. It should strengthen coordination at the macro level, and foster a well-functioning and effective service-oriented government, so as to unleash the tremendous vitality and development potential of the society. Macao should improve mechanisms that advise on public policies to increase the level of sound, democratic and law-based decision-making. Macao should strengthen coordinated lawmaking mechanism between the government and the Legislative Assembly. It should strictly exercise fair administration of justice, improve the judicial system, enhance judicial efficiency, and uphold the rule of law. Macao should advance reform of its civil service management system, strengthen its governance team, and improve the system for integrity management and oversight.

Third, Macao should endeavor to build itself into a platform for higher-standard

opening up. With its development position as "One Center, One Platform, One Base," Macao should enhance mechanisms through which it can better play its role in China's opening up, take steps to align with major national strategies and continue to enhance its global competitiveness. It should further step up two-way opening, facilitate all-round mutually-beneficial cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, play an active role in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, make more friends across the world, and act as an important bridge for China's high-standard opening up. Macao should continue to improve its business environment, improve its legal systems such as the civil and commercial laws, nurture and fire up its market vitality, and attract more international resources. As a place where Chinese and Western cultures merge, Macao should promote international people-to-people exchanges, better present Macao and China to the world, and turn the city into an important window of exchanges between Chinese and Western civilizations.

Fourth, Macao should endeavor to maintain social harmony and stability. Macao now enjoys overall stability, but the domestic and international environment is undergoing profound changes. Macao should be mindful of potential perils, guard against them, forestall risks, and firmly safeguard both national security and Macao's stability. It should see

that government's governance, society's self-regulation and citizen's participation reinforce each other. It should guide and better regulate the development of social organizations, and consolidate the foundation of community-level governance. Macao should always put people above everything else, resolve the most practical and pressing problems that are of the greatest concern to them, create more and better opportunities for development, foster a fairer social environment, and make continuous efforts to meet people's expectation for a better life.

The young people are the hope and future of Macao. They are also a vibrant force in building Macao and building China. Over the last couple of days, I have met many young people in Macao. Some of them display talent of the governance of the SAR, some have made remarkable entrepreneurial achievements, some are brilliant teachers and researchers, and some are pursuing international careers. The Macao SAR Government and people should care about the young and create a better environment and conditions for them to bring out their best. To the young people in Macao, I hope you will keep the city and the motherland close to your heart, set ambitious goals, take solid steps, advance and carry forward the cause of One Country, Two Systems, and thus realize your potentials by fully engaging in endeavors to build a great motherland and a beautiful Macao.

My Fellow Chinese,
Dear Friends,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. At its Third Plenary Session, the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made a systematic decision to further deepen reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. The cause of building China into a great country is being advanced across the board, with bright prospects unfolding. The Chinese nation is marching toward its great rejuvenation in unstoppable strides. I am convinced that with the full, faithful and resolute implementation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems, with the concerted effort of the Macao SAR Government and all sectors of its society, and with the strong support of the great motherland, Macao will surely open up a new horizon and achieve new advances in development, and make even greater contribution to building a great country and moving toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization!

— China Daily

Macao demonstrates success of 'One Country, Two Systems,' says former Croatian deputy PM

ZAGREB—The achievements Macao has made in the 25 years since its return to China affirm the success of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, Ante Simonic, former Croatian deputy prime minister, has said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Simonic highlighted Macao's remarkable economic growth, with its per capita gross domestic product (GDP) rising from US\$15,000 in 1999 to US\$69,000 in 2023. He noted that this reflects a "huge improvement" in the quality of life for local residents.

Simonic stressed that economic growth "is not just about numbers" but must be viewed in terms of broader human wellbeing and global contribution.

"Macao's development has fostered

job creation, improved public services, and enhanced living standards for its population. The city has also prioritized education, healthcare, and social infrastructure, ensuring that the benefits of prosperity reach its people," he said.

The "One Country, Two Systems" model exemplifies China's "courage and profound wisdom in governance," Simonic noted. By allowing Macao to maintain its legal and economic systems while being firmly integrated into the larger framework of the nation, China has demonstrated its capacity to balance unity with diversity, he said.

Simonic emphasized that Macao's achievements extend beyond local development, as it has acted as a bridge

between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, enriching regional collaboration and promoting cultural exchange.

He credited China's strategic initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, for laying the groundwork for Macao's continued stability and prosperity.

"These efforts not only benefit local populations but also contribute positively to China's role in fostering global harmony and development," Simonic added.

Simonic, former Croatian ambassador to China, has been the founder and president of the Croatia-China Friendship Association in Rijeka, the third-largest city in Croatia.

Honored with the Chinese Government Friendship Award in 2017, he was recently named a Friendship Ambassador by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Reflecting on his visits to Macao in 2010 and 2011, Simonic described the city as a unique blend of East and West. Macao's cultural diversity, warmth, and charm are beautifully reflected in its architecture, traditions, and way of life, he said. "From the serene charm of its historic temples to the lively atmosphere of its bustling streets, Macao remains a place where tradition and modernity harmoniously coexist, creating a truly unforgettable experience."

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