

ADB / OECD
ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

Macao Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China
2019 Report

Introduction

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of both Macao's handover to China and the establishment of the Commission against Corruption (CCAC). With the efforts and continuous improvement over the years, the anti-corruption work of the CCAC has become increasingly stable and systematic. The CCAC has all along been showing its unwavering dedication and handling the cases impartially regardless of their severity according to the law, in order to build a probity culture in public administration and a fair business environment, to advocate fair elections and to uphold integrity in the society. The CCAC does its best to fulfil its duty and to make a positive contribution to society.

2019 Case Processing Summary

In 2019, the Commission against Corruption (CCAC) received a total of 584 complaints and reports. It also received 1,089 requests or enquiries, of which 696 were about criminal matters and 393 were about administrative matters.

By the end of the year, 111 and 473 cases were filed for investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Ombudsman Bureau respectively. Along with the cases carried forward from the previous year, the CCAC handled a total of 752 cases in 2019.

Among the cases handled by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, 15 were referred to the Public Prosecutions Office, 2 were referred to other departments and the remaining 170 were archived.

In 2019, among the complaints and reports lodged through different channels, 319 cases were anonymous. The anonymity of the complainants caused the CCAC to be unable to obtain information necessary for further investigations and 213 cases had to be archived.

In 2019, the complaints and reports were mainly lodged by mail, online and e-mail. The numbers of cases lodged by these three channels were 247, 146 and 73 cases respectively, which account for 42.3%, 25% and 12.5% respectively of the total number of cases received in the year. The numbers of complaints or reports lodged by phone and in person were 59 and 56 respectively, representing 10.1% and 9.6% of all cases received in the year respectively.

Compared to the previous year, citizens still tended to lodge complaints or reports by mail and online.

2019 Anti-Corruption Case Handling

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 July 2019, the CCAC, completed the investigation of a criminal case involving the former President of the Board of Directors of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, a former member of the Executive Committee and a former chief of the Residency Application and Legal Affairs Division, who allegedly committed crimes such as passive corruption to perform illicit acts, document forgery, breach of secrecy and power abuse, etc. in the process of vetting and approving the applications for ‘major investment immigration’ and ‘technical immigration’. The investigation was completed and the case was referred to the relevant judicial body. It also investigated some fraud cases involving various subsidies granted by the government, including the subsidies from the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund and the Continuing Education Development Plan.

In 2019, in addition to two cases of power abuse committed by directors and chiefs, document forgery cases took up a large portion of the investigated cases, while there was a decrease in the number of cases involving active and passive bribery.

However, with regard to disciplinary offences and illegal acts committed by civil

servants, there was a slight increase in the number of cases committed by police. In 2019, the CCAC handled a few cases of disciplinary offences committed by police, mainly including their unauthorised entry into casinos and frauds, while the offences were more related to duty-related crimes such as bribery in the past.

In 2019 there were mainly two types of cases recorded in the private sector. One was fraud cases committed by civic associations in their applications for government subsidies. Two such cases were referred to the Public Prosecutions Office. The other was cases related to building management companies and management committees mainly concerning management fees and building maintenance. Although most of these cases only involved civil disputes on building management between new/old management companies and management committees, the parties involved still resorted to the CCAC for intervention by reporting them as criminal matters. Such cases had to be archived in the end. It is noteworthy that such reporting practice was not advisable.

2019 Promotion and Education

In 2019, the CCAC continued to spread the message of integrity and law-observance to public servants and the commercial industry through various channels. At the same time, it flexibly adjusted the promotional strategies targeting at the public, especially teenagers, and took the initiative to approach the community in order to gain citizens' support and join hands together with them to build a clean society.

Education on corruption prevention for public and private sectors

In 2019, the CCAC held a total of 458 seminars and symposia on different topics, which recorded 27,272 participants who were mainly public servants, employees of private companies, ordinary citizens, teenagers and secondary and primary students.

Seminars on integrity for public servants

In order to consolidate the culture of probity of public departments and public servants' awareness of integrity, the CCAC continued to hold seminars on integrity with

different topics including “Integrity and Observance”, “Noble Character and Righteous Conduct”, “Public Procurement” and “Declaration of Assets and Interests”. In 2019 a total of 113 seminars were held for 5,041 public servants from 23 departments/entities in the year.

Integrity awareness seminars for the private sector

The CCAC has continuously organised seminars for civic associations, private entities and educational institutions on the law *Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector*, where the legal provisions were introduced and explained with cases and examples which were selected and tailor-made for the people and organisations in different circles. In 2019, a total of 80 seminars were held for 3,513 participants who were employees of banks, hotels, small and medium-sized enterprises and subsidised associations.

Integrity education for teenagers

The CCAC has been proactively carrying out education on integrity targeting at teenagers. With the support of the educational sector for many years, the works have been done smoothly. In 2019, the CCAC organised different types of promotional and educational activities through diversified approaches in order to promote correct moral values to 18,489 students of higher education institutions and secondary and primary schools.

The Integrity and Honesty Seminar for Higher Education Students basing on the law *Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector*, where a video clip is presented and the elements of active corruption and passive corruption are introduced, has continuously been organized by CCAC. This seminar aims to encourage students to reflect on the harmful effects of corruption on society and individuals and help them to develop a zero-tolerance attitude towards corruption. In 2019, a total of 216 students from four higher education institutions participated in the aforesaid seminar.

The Education Programme on Integrity for Teenagers, directed to secondary students has been one of the programmes supported by different schools in Macao for many years. According to different age groups, CCAC staff give talks on topics related

to integrity and guide students to discuss and think through short films, daily life examples and current issues with an aim to inspire teenagers to develop righteous character. In 2019, there were 12 schools which had joined the programme and a total of 90 seminars were held for 6,010 students.

25 sessions for eight schools, which recorded a total of 1,127 students, of the seminar entitled “A talk on Integrity for Secondary School Graduates” were held by CCAC in 2019, introducing practical guidelines on integrity so that the students have an initial understanding of the anti-corruption laws in force in Macao and corruption prevention knowledge before they graduate from high school.

“Integrity Week” was also co-organised by CCAC and 3 Macao secondary schools during which the CCAC sent staff to the schools to conduct themed seminars and had interaction and discussion with students. They also set up display panels and arranged quiz games in the campuses to allow students to understand that integrity is an essential part of good moral character through different topics.

Still in 2019, the CCAC launched a senior high school version of the teaching material kit about integrity targeting at junior high school students entitled *Think Before you Act*, which featured four units, namely “Take your responsibility”, “Love and justice”, “Say no to corruption” and “Clean election”. Published in December 2019, the senior high school version of *Think before You Act* is available for schools in academic year 2019/2020. In addition, it has been uploaded to the website “resources database of integrity education” so that it may be searched and used by educators.

Other samples of education and promotion strategy of CCAC in 2019 were the “New Generation of Integrity – Education Programme on Honesty for Primary Students” which has been running for 15 years and that in 2019 it had a total of 73 sessions, recording 2,260 participants from 22 schools; the programme “Detective William in the School Series 2019: Mini William” – integrity education theatre directed to Primary 1 to Primary 3 students through drama appreciation and interactive games which featured 50 sessions, recording 5,826 participating students from 28 schools; and the “A Creative and Honest New generation” which is a parent-child collage / colouring contest which attracted 1,593 entries.

2019 Exchange and Training

In 2019, the CCAC continued to strengthen liaison with anti-corruption and supervisory institutions of different countries and regions. Through attending various international and regional conferences and relevant training activities, the staff's professional skills were enhanced and the communication and cooperation with its counterparts were deepened.

Delegations of several entities, both from the anti-corruption as well as from the ombudsman area, were received by CCAC with the aim to exchange experiences, best practices and to explore the direction of mutual cooperation opportunities. In the same context, the CCAC sent delegates to pay visits and attended regional and international meetings outside Macao, namely in the context of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption together with the delegation of China. In 2019, thanks to the support and assistance provided by various departments of China and of the Macao SAR Government, the CCAC completed the self-assessment on the implementation of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset recovery) of the UNCAC.

Note: For further detailed information on the work of CCAC in 2019, please refer to the following web address on the Macao SAR Commission against Corruption web page: <https://www.ccac.org.mo/index.php/en/publications/annual-report>

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