

30th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Basic Law of Macao

The 31st March 2023, marks the 30th anniversary of the promulgation of the “Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Law of Macao”). To celebrate this significant day, a set of philatelic products is issued to commemorate this occasion.

Macao, including the Macao Peninsula, Taipa Island and Coloane Island, has been a Chinese territory since ancient times. It was gradually occupied by Portugal after the middle of the 16th century. On 13th April 1987, the Chinese and Portuguese governments signed a Joint Declaration on the question of Macao, confirming that the Chinese government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Macao with effect from 20th December 1999, thus realizing the long-standing common aspiration of the Chinese people to recover Macao.

Upholding national unity and territorial integrity, contributing to social stability and economic development, and taking into account local historical and realistic situation of Macao, the Chinese government decided to establish the Macao Special Administrative Region in accordance with the provision of article 31 of the Constitution upon resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Macao. In accordance with the principle of “one country, two systems”, the socialist system and policies should not be practised in Macao. The Basic Law of Macao was enacted by the National People’s Congress in accordance with the Constitution to stipulate the system to be implemented in the Macao Special Administrative Region and to ensure the implementation of the fundamental policies of China with regard to Macao.

On 13th April 1988, the first session of the Seventh National People’s Congress decided to set up the Drafting Committee for the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, which was responsible for drafting the Basic Law of Macao. On 31st March 1993, the first session of the Eighth National People’s Congress approved the Basic Law of Macao, which was promulgated by order of the President of China and officially implemented on 20th December 1999.

Over the past 20 years of implementation of the Basic Law of Macao, with the strong support of the Central Government, the Macao SAR Government has fully and accurately implemented the principle of “one country, two systems” and acted in strict accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao. As a result, Macao has made significant progress in a variety of endeavors. In the future, the Macao SAR Government will continue to actively promote the development of the SAR in various fields, actively dovetail with the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-

Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, expedite the implementation of economic diversification, more actively integrate into the overall national development, and dovetail with national development strategies so that the successful practice of the “one country, two systems” policy with local characteristics would be implemented steadily.

Legal Affairs Bureau
of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government
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