

The 4th National Report of the People's Republic of China on Human Rights Opinions on the Part Concerning the Macao Special Administrative Region

Submitted by the Macao Youth Federation

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The Macao Youth Federation (MYF) was established on 15 September 2006, with the objective of reaching out to young people and youth organizations from all walks of life, and strengthening the communication and exchange between young people in Macao and their counterparts in different parts of the world. In order to provide young people in Macao with a broader international stage, the MYF started to apply for the “Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council” in 2019 and obtained its consultative status in July 2021. The People's Republic of China (including the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR)) will be subject to the 4th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council in early 2024 and the MYF hereby provides its opinions and suggestions concerning different areas of economic, social and cultural rights of the Macao SAR, including:

Youth participation in politics and public policy discussion

1. The Macao SAR Government conducts public consultation on major policies and legislative projects, as for example, there were specific public sessions in recent years for the public consultation for the Sandwich Class Housing Scheme(2020), and there were public opinion-gathering sessions for the public consultation for the Legal System for Talent Recruitment (2021), for the revision of the Law on Safeguarding National Security (2022), for the revision of the Law on the Election of the Chief Executive and the Law on the Electoral Law for the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR (2023), etc. There were also briefings on special themes for different communities including for young people, encouraging young people to actively participate in public consultation to express their opinions and suggestions regarding government politics, ensuring that young people have equal opportunities in participating in politics and public policy discussion, boosting their motivation for participating in social and public affairs.
2. In the area of youth participation in politics, young people aged 35 and under accounted for 14% of the 14 directly elected members of the 6th Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR (2018-2021), Moreover, there are now 34 consultative bodies within the Macao SAR Government, with the aim of enhancing the direct contact between the Government and the community, solving directly civil affairs and livelihood issues at the community level, thus giving young people more opportunities to participate in politics and public policy discussion.
3. The Macao SAR Education and Youth Affairs Bureau has been continuously organizing several sessions of the “Platform for presenting and discussing young people's opinions and suggestions” in 2023, nourishing the awareness of young people to participate and to care about social development. The Bureau has also recommended participants with active performance in the activity to attend the meetings of the Youth Affairs Committee and Community Services Advisory Committee, as an extension of the activity, in order to further create a platform

for young people to participate in social affairs, to collect their views and enhance their ability in participating in politics and public policy discussion.

4. It is suggested that the Macao SAR Government follow the practice of the Hong Kong SAR Government to appoint more young people aged between 18 and 35 to different consultative committees and allow young people and to participate in them by self-recommendation. At the same time, it is suggested that the Macao SAR Government organize more activities where young people and political figures of the Government meet face to face and where young people are brought to visit the Legislative Assembly and visit government services, etc., in order to provide more channels through which young people can participate in politics.

Youth employment

5. Information from the Employment Survey of the Statistics and Census Service indicates that, between 2020 and 2022, the Macao SAR economy was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and there was an upward trend in the general unemployment rate, which reached 3.7% in the general unemployment rate and 4.8%¹ in the unemployment rate of local residents in 2022. In order to promote employment and improve unemployment situation, the Macao SAR provides local residents, in particular the youth community, with free services such as internship, employment, recruitment and occupational counselling, etc. through several projects, to assist employees and youth job seekers to search for appropriate jobs. As the society returns to normal in an orderly manner, there was a downward trend in the unemployment rate and underemployment rate of the Macao SAR. The general unemployment rate between March and May 2023 was 2.8% and the unemployment rate of local residents was 3.6%².
6. In the expansion of the scope and space of youth employment, the Macao SAR Government firmly grasps the opportunities in relation to national development to launch the “1+4” appropriate economic diversification development strategy, including to be excellent, refined and strong in integrated tourism and leisure business, and to continuously promote the development of the 4 major industries, namely the Big Health industry; modern financial services; high and new technology, convention and exhibition, commercial and trade industries; and culture and sports. The Macao SAR Government has also held specific sessions dedicated to gathering opinions on the “Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2024-2028)” form 15 June 2023, with the aim of clarifying the future direction of industrial development and providing guidance on the development of residents. In the meanwhile, the 6 integrated tourism and leisure enterprises in the Macao SAR were awarded the new ten-year gaming operation concessions in 2022 and proposed to invest more than 100 billion in non-gaming projects in the

1 Employment Survey for 2022 of the Macao SAR Statistic and Census Service
https://www.dsec.gov.mo/getAttachment/0550363a-92cd-4b0c-9e61-5a6a19d9f232/C_IE_PUB_2022_Y.aspx

2 Employment Survey for March to May 2023 of the Macao SAR Statistic and Census Service
https://www.dsec.gov.mo/getAttachment/65f94755-d2ab-4fca-8333-0baa9ba68c02/E_IE_FR_2023_M03.aspx

next 10 years. Driven by the Macao SAR Government's appropriate economic diversification development and the expansion of non-gaming elements, there will be more job positions and upward mobility for young people.

7. In terms of helping young people get internships and employment and improving their professional skills, the Macao Labour Affairs Bureau has launched the Internship Programme to "Create Better Job Perspectives" every year since 2020, and has successively launched 7 internship programmes to renowned and excellent enterprises in the Mainland to enhance the competitiveness of college graduates or young people entering the workplace. From 2020 to May 2023, a total of 2,797 young people participated and completed the programmes, creating 6,216 internship and job positions, assisting nearly 1,013 young people to find employment successfully. In addition, the Labour Affairs Bureau launched the "Training Programme with Subsidies" in September 2020 to assist residents, especially young people, who need to seek employment to join the job market through skills training and employment referral. Participants who completed the programmes and cooperated with job referrals could receive a maximum of 6,656 Macao patacas. As of May 2023, more than 1,000 programmes were organized, with more than 24,600 enrolments and 21,800 completions. Among them, subsidies have been granted to 20,900 participants.
8. It is suggested that while the Macao SAR Government provides internship opportunities for young people, it should manage well the follow-up work on individual cases to understand whether young people can be successfully hired after internship, analyse the reasons for young people who fail to meet job requirements, provide targeted training, and continuously improve the competitiveness of young people, to better assist young people to meet the requirements of corresponding positions. At the same time, the Macao SAR Government should, in conjunction with the "1+4" appropriate economic diversification development strategy, continue to introduce more targeted professional development plans and vocational training measures, implement Macao's local talent policy, and give full play to the "teaching role" of talents, in order that young people can better find their employment development path.

Youth upward mobility

9. In order to ensure the upward mobility of local employees, including young people, the Macao SAR Government continues to promote and monitor the 6 integrated tourism and leisure enterprises to give priority to the recruitment and promotion of local employees. When examining and approving applications for the importation and renewal of non-resident employees of relevant enterprises, for middle and high-level management positions that local employees can hold, the relevant applications of non-resident employees will be gradually rejected, and non-resident employees who hold relevant positions will leave the positions in an orderly manner by administrative means, in order to continue to maintain the proportion of local employees serving as middle and senior managers in the 6 comprehensive tourism and leisure enterprises to be not less than 85.00%. For the whole year of 2021, the proportion of local employees serving as middle and senior managers in the 6 Integrated tourism and leisure enterprises remained at

- 89.4% or above³.
10. From 2011 to 2019, the Macao SAR Education and Youth Development Bureau has successively held three phases of the “Continuing Education Development Plan”, with around 485,000 participants and a funding amount of 2.05 billion Macao patacas⁴. Moreover, the fourth phase is being carried out from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2023, and the fifth phase is planned to be carried out from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026, to continuously create conditions for lifelong learning for Macao residents, including young people, through continuing education or certification to improve personal qualities and skills, in order that young people can better achieve upward mobility.
 11. The Macao SAR Government has proposed the “five-tier home purchase” housing planning in recent years, namely social housing, economic housing, sandwich class housing, elderly apartments and private buildings, with the aim of assisting residents to have their homes in multiple ways. Among them, in order to respond to the housing needs of the young sandwich class, the Government has formulated the draft Legal System for Sandwich Class Housing in November 2022 and transmitted it to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation. The sandwich housing is located at *Avenida Wai Long* and is expected to provide 4,000 units. At present, the Legal System for Sandwich Class Housing is being deliberated in detail in an orderly manner. It is planned to have 7,000 to 10,000 sandwich class units built in the following 5 years, in order to assist young people with housing problems and facilitate their upward mobility.
 12. The “Macao New Neighborhood” project located in the In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin was officially unveiled in June 2023. The project has entered the final acceptance stage, and landscaping, exterior wall finishes and road construction are being carried out, and the completion acceptance is expected to be completed in August. The “Macao New Neighborhood” offers about 4,000 fitted-out residential units for sale, and more than 200 housing units for talents. The community is well-equipped, including schools, a health station, a senior’s service centre, a family comprehensive centre, and a car park with about 4,000 car parking spaces, a clubhouse, recreational venues and shops. In terms of selling price, the average price of fitted-out residential units is about 30,000 yuan per square metre. It is expected to go on sale within this year, and the first batch of Macao residents can move in this year. The project will connect with Macao’s education, healthcare, social services and other livelihood public services and social security systems, effectively expanding the quality living space of Macao residents, especially young people.

3 2021 Activity Report of the Labour Affairs Bureau
https://www.dsal.gov.mo/download/pdf_pt/annual_reports/activity_report/2018/2021_port.pdf

4 Suggestions for the sustainability of the “Continuing Education Development Plan” of the Macao SAR
https://www.safp.gov.mo/safptc/download/WCM_075637 (Chinese only)