

National People's Congress



***Basic Law of the Macao
Special Administrative
Region of the People's
Republic of China***

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Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



Published by Good Press, 2022

goodpress@okpublishing.info

EAN 4064066453251

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Chapter I: General Principles

Chapter I General Principles

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Article 1 The Macao Special Administrative Region is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China.

Article 2 The National People's Congress authorizes the Macao Special Administrative Region to exercise a high degree of autonomy and enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 3 The executive authorities and legislature of the Macao Special Administrative Region shall be composed of permanent residents of Macao in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Law.

Article 4 The Macao Special Administrative Region shall safeguard the rights and freedoms of the residents of the Macao Special Administrative Region and of other persons in the Region in accordance with law.

Article 5 The socialist system and policies shall not be practiced in the Macao Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.

Article 6 The right of private ownership of property shall be protected by law in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

Article 7 The land and natural resources within the Macao Special Administrative Region shall be State property, except for the private land recognized as such according to the laws in force before the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Government

of the Macao Special Administrative Region shall be responsible for their management, use and development and for their lease or grant to individuals or legal persons for use or development. The revenues derived therefrom shall be exclusively at the disposal of the government of the Region.

Article 8 The laws, decrees, administrative regulations and other normative acts previously in force in Macao shall be maintained, except for any that contravenes this Law, or subject to any amendment by the legislature or other relevant organs of the Macao Special Administrative Region in accordance with legal procedures.

Article 9 In addition to the Chinese language, Portuguese may also be used as an official language by the executive authorities, legislature and judiciary of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

Article 10 Apart from displaying the national flag and national emblem of the People's Republic of China, the Macao Special Administrative Region may also use a regional flag and regional emblem. The regional flag of the Macao Special Administrative Region is a green flag with five stars, lotus flower, bridge and sea water. The regional emblem of the Macao Special Administrative Region is composed of five stars, lotus flower, bridge and sea water encircled by the words "Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" in Chinese and "MACAO" in Portuguese.

Article 11 In accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the systems and policies practiced in the Macao Special Administrative

Region, including the social and economic systems, the system for safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of its residents, the executive, legislative and judicial systems, and the relevant policies, shall be based on the provisions of this Law. No law, decree, administrative regulations and normative acts of the Macao Special Administrative Region shall contravene this Law.