

Macau logs this year's 32nd Chikungunya case

Ida Cheong

Since Macau recorded its first imported case of Chikungunya fever at the end of July, as of yesterday, 24 imported cases and eight local Chikungunya* cases have recorded, bringing the total to 32, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in special press conference yesterday.

The press conference, entitled "Dengue Fever and Chikungunya Prevention and Control", was held at the bureau's Public Health Emergency Personnel Residence Hall.

SSM Director Alvis Lo Iek Long said in a speech during the press conference that, considering the epidemic situation in neighbouring regions and the flow of people, the risk of imported Chikungunya fever cases in Macau remains persistent.

From July to September, the bureau has completed 5,300 inspections and clean-ups of stagnant water in high-risk neighbourhoods, carried out 1,228 routine chemical mosquito treatments at key sanitation locations, and performed chemical mosquito treatments at 200 risk sites, adding that body temperature screenings at border checkpoints have been strengthened, Dr Lo said.

Chan Choi Wan, who heads the bureau's Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Division, pointed out that about 21,500



Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long poses during yesterday's press conference, entitled "Dengue Fever and Chikungunya Prevention and Control", at the bureau's Public Health Emergency Personnel Residence Hall.

households have been briefed about mosquito prevention measures, of which 1,400 households were given in-home consultations, and the results revealed that, on average, mosquito larvae were found in containers at approximately 16 out of every 100 households inspected.

Moreover, Dr Lo urged residents to seek medical attention early if symptoms, such as fever, joint pain, and rash, appear and seek immediate medical attention,

家居常見積水 (孳生源) - 巡查發現



門口神台的水杯



花盆托槽



無蓋的容器



植物的托盤



無蓋的儲水容器



室外的容器殘骸



陽台的地面



水桶蓋的表面



無蓋的水桶



花盆底盤

This power point presentation by the Health Bureau (SSM) yesterday shows mosquito larvae found in different types of containers in households during inspections by SSM inspectors.

— Photos: Ida Cheong

to consistently implement the "Three Key Mosquito Prevention Measures"**, and to cooperate fully with the government's overall prevention, control strategy and specific implementation measures for Chikungunya fever by conducting indoor and outdoor mosquito eradication, adding that, currently, medical institutions across Macau are testing more than 20 persons for the disease daily.

Dr Lo added that his bureau has

trained over 400 personnel from schools, private enterprises and the property management sector in mosquito eradication, as well as reserved about 300 mosquito eradication foggers. He also said that private enterprises had already reserved 40 foggers, while schools were in the process of procuring 198 foggers.

Dr Lo urged residents who live in mosquito-prone environments to stock up on items such as mosquito coils, mosquito spray, or mosquito

traps, for ten days' use.

SSM Disease Control and Prevention Centre Chief Leong Iek Hou added that over the past two weeks, 40 locations in Macau have been identified as potential risk areas for Chikungunya transmission, which are concentrated in the old quarters of the city, including the Inner Harbour, Ruins of St. Paul's, and Barrier Gate areas, which all are also known for high tourist flows.

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China defends rare earth export controls, urges US to manage differences through dialogue

BEIJING – The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) yesterday defended the country's export control measures on rare earths and related items as a legitimate action, while urging the United States to properly manage differences through dialogues and on the basis of mutual respect and equal-footed consultation.

China, as a responsible major country, employs export controls on related items according to the law, in order to better defend world

peace and regional stability, and to fulfill non-proliferation and other international obligations, a spokesperson for the ministry said in response to media inquiries.

"China's export controls are not export bans," said the spokesperson, adding that licenses will be granted for eligible applications.

Before the measures were announced, China had already notified relevant countries and regions through bilateral export control dialogue mechanisms, the

spokesperson noted.

China stands ready to work with the rest of the world to step up export control dialogue and exchange, so as to better safeguard the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, according to the spokesperson.

In response to a question regarding the US announcement of imposing a tariff of 100 percent on China and export control on all critical software, the spokesperson said for a long time, the United

States has been overstretching the concept of national security, abusing export control, taking discriminatory actions against China, and imposing unilateral long-arm jurisdiction measures on various products including semiconductor equipment and chips.

Particularly since the China-US economic and trade talks in Madrid in September, the United States, in just 20 days, has introduced a string of new restrictive measures

targeting China, the spokesperson noted, stressing that the US actions have severely harmed China's interests and undermined the atmosphere of bilateral economic and trade talks, and China is resolutely opposed to them.

"Willful threats of high tariffs are not the right way to get along with China," the spokesperson emphasized. "China's position on the trade war is consistent: we do not want it, but we are not afraid of it."

— Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

Countdown to hostage release as Trump to host Gaza peace summit

Hamas said it had finished preparations for freeing its remaining living hostages, which Israel expects to take place early today, fulfilling a key step in Donald Trump's Gaza plan hours before he hosts a peace summit in Egypt. — Story on p. 10

Madagascar army installs new chief, president denounces power grab

A Madagascar army unit siding with anti-government protesters installed a new military chief yesterday as President Andry Rajoelina denounced an "attempt to seize power illegally". — Story on p. 11

Peru's ousted president denies she will try to seek asylum

Peru's former president Dina Boluarte – who was removed from office by lawmakers and is facing multiple probes for corruption and abuse of power – said on Friday she would not attempt to seek asylum abroad. — Story on p. 12

Gongbei Customs seizes 192 pet fish

Armindo Neves

Gongbei Customs announced in a statement on Saturday that its officers seized 192 ornamental fish from a Hong Kong – Guangdong dual-plates vehicle.

According to the statement, at 5 p.m. on September 20, Gongbei customs officers at the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge (HKZMB) Zhuhai checkpoint discovered during a routine check an anomaly in a dual plate vehicle from Hong Kong.

A follow-up inspection revealed that three large white plastic bags were discovered inside the spare wheel compartment of the boot. Each bag was filled with numerous small, inflated, water-filled transparent plastic bags. The openings of these small bags were tightly sealed with rubber bands and yellow tape, and each contained an ornamental fish.

A total of 192 aquarium fish were found. After questioning, the driver admitted to carrying the batch of fish with the intent to resell them for profit.

According to the identification results from the Technical Centre of Gongbei Customs, this batch of



This undated handout photo provided by Gongbei Customs on Saturday shows ornamental fish seized from a dual-plate vehicle.

ornamental fish included 16 species in total, such as the Centropyge argi (cherubfish), Microcanthus strigatus (zebra fish), Diagramma pictum (painted sweetlips), and Acanthurus coeruleus (blue tang).

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminds the public that, in accordance with laws and regulations, bringing live animals and plants into the country without

approval is prohibited. Those who violate these provisions will be held legally responsible by Customs.

Customs bust man for smuggling US\$ 275,000 in cash

Meanwhile, Gongbei Customs announced in a separate statement on Saturday that its officers caught a local driver smuggling US\$275,000 (2.196



This undated handout photo provided by the Gongbei Customs on Saturday shows the smuggler pointing at the glove compartment where he concealed US\$275,000.

million patacas) in cash into Macau.

According to the statement, on October 1, Gongbei Customs officers at the Gongbei Border checkpoint while inspecting a dual-plate vehicle noticed anomalies and signs of modification in the glove compartment of the front passenger seat.

A follow-up inspection revealed that six bundles of US dollar banknotes, totalling US\$275,000, were concealed

behind the glove compartment.

Gongbei Customs reminded the public that currency in cash is a restricted entry and exit item. Passengers entering and exiting the mainland are required to follow the national regulations and take the initiative to declare the amount of cash they are carrying. Any traveller violating the regulations faces a fine. ■

Police nab 5 HK men for fraud, organised crime

Armindo Neves

Police arrested five Hongkongers on Thursday for fraud and organised crime, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a special press conference on Saturday.

Chao said that the five male suspects are aged between 39 and 60, surnamed Lei, Cheng, Yu, Chan

and Leung. According to Chao, the suspects said that their jobs are construction worker, cleaner, and warehouse keeper. There were five victims in the case, losing a total of 290,000 patacas, Chao said.

According to PJ Information Technology Crimes Division Supervisor Lei Chi Wai, the Judiciary Police have been

continuously carrying out operations to dismantle phone scam dens, successfully raiding four of them recently. Lei pointed out that PJ investigators recently discovered that criminal groups have begun changing their tactics by sending members to Macau to purchase and register pre-paid SIM cards under real names. These cards are then taken out of Macau to be used in conducting phone scams from outside the territory, Lei Chi Wai said.

Lei Chi Wai said the investigation revealed that the police identified a fraud syndicate that had been operating since the middle of last month. The group posed as Alipay and Taobao customer service representatives to carry out their scams, falsely claiming that the victims' fund security protection had expired and required a renewal fee, Lei Chi Wai said.

On the evening of October 9, according to Lei Chi Wai, the five suspects entered Macau and went to various telecom operators' shops in the city centre or Taipa to purchase and register pre-paid SIM cards. The Judiciary Police intercepted the quintet on the same night at the local checkpoint of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge (HZMB), seizing 41 activated pre-paid cards. Four of them admitted to having been paid HK\$1,600 each to travel to Macau and register the cards, while the suspect surnamed Lei refused to cooperate, according to Lei Chi Wai.

The group of five were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Saturday facing organised crime charges, while Lei faces an additional charge of fraud. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the five suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Macau logs this year's 32nd Chikungunya case

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2 more local Chikungunya cases

Meanwhile, the Health Bureau announced in a statement on Saturday that it confirmed two more local Chikungunya cases, the 7th and 8th recorded in Macau so far this year, and one imported case, the 24th.

The statement noted that a 68-year-old local male, living in U I Kok Building on Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral (關閘馬路), developed a fever, muscle pain and fatigue on Thursday, and sought medical attention at the private Kiang Wu Hospital on Friday. On Saturday, the patient was confirmed to be the 7th local Chikungunya case.

A 62-year-old local woman, residing at Jardim de Luis de Camões Building on Rua da Gruta (洞穴街), developed a fever, rash, and foot pain on Saturday, and sought medical attention at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre on the same day, when she was confirmed as the 8th local Chikungunya case, the statement said.

The statement pointed out that both patients were in a stable condition on Saturday, with no symptoms reported among their cohabitants, and no recent travel history. Laboratory tests by the Public Health Laboratory confirmed their Chikungunya virus infection.

In another case, a 68-year-old local female, who lives at Rua dos Hortelãos (菜園路), visited Kaiping City in Guangdong Province with her family from October 4 to October 8. She

developed fever, joint pain and muscle pain on Friday and sought medical treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre on Saturday.

Laboratory tests by the Public Health Laboratory confirmed her Chikungunya infection. On Saturday, the patient was in a stable condition, with no symptoms reported among her cohabitants, based on the patient's travel history, symptoms onset time, and laboratory test results, the statement said.

According to the statement, the case has been listed as the 24th imported case of Chikungunya fever this year. ■

**Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes, primarily Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus (the same mosquitoes that spread dengue fever and Zika).*

The word "Chikungunya" comes from the Kimakonde language (spoken in Tanzania and Mozambique) and means "to become contorted" or "that which bends up," describing the stooped posture of patients due to severe joint pain. In colloquial Cantonese, the disease is known as "wat gung beng".

***The SSM website lists the following "Three Key Mosquito Prevention Measures" – (1) removing stagnant water regularly in workplace and residential environments, (2) installing window screens, mosquito nets, or air conditioning at home to reduce the chance of mosquito bites, (3) wearing light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and trousers, and applying insect repellent to exposed skin or clothing to prevent mosquito bites.*

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
OCCASIONAL SHOWERS.
A FEW THUNDERSTORMS.
FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 95%.



25°C~30°C

Source: SMG

Over 580 local athletes to compete in National Games

Ida Cheong

Over 400 local athletes will compete in the 15th National Games, while more than 180 local athletes will compete in the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games, Macau Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said in a speech during a flag presentation ceremony on Saturday.

Sam made the remarks at a flag presentation ceremony for the Macau delegation for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities, and the 9th National Special Olympic Games at Mong-Ha Sports Centre.

Sam also presented the flag of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) to the local delegation and oversaw the swearing-in of volunteers.

Sam noted that the Games are not only a major event for athletes, but also a celebration of the volunteers assisting in the event, adding that, based on the close collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, and the joint efforts of the MSAR government and all sectors of civil society, Macau will strive to host a Games characterised by “simplicity, safety, and brilliance”, aiming to deliver a successful event, as well as the smooth execution of all tasks in the local Competition Zone.

For the first time, the Games will be hosted by more than one place – Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau.

Pun Weng Kun, who heads the preparatory office for the National Games, told reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony that the target of recruiting 3,500 volunteers has been met, with support from local universities and multiple community organisations.

Pun noted that among the

eight local border checkpoints, four will be designated for use by competitors and technical representatives, while the remaining four will serve tourists and residents, adding that the first batch of non-local athletes is slated to arrive on November 3, while the first competition hosted by Macau, karate, will start on November 6.

Pun did not disclose which four local border checkpoints will be designated for the Games’ participants.

Besides, tickets for karate, women’s volleyball, and table tennis are already on sale, with key sessions already sold out, while tickets for five-a-side basketball and three-a-side basketball expected to go on sale in the middle of this month, the specific time of which will be announced in advance once confirmed, Pun said.

Considering the overlapping of the Games and the 72nd Macau Grand Prix, which will be held from November 13 to 16, Pun noted that his office, through careful zoning of event areas and advance coordination, anticipates that significant pressure on vehicular traffic will not occur, adding that multiple contingency plans have also been formulated to address any unforeseen situations.

Pun also said that most events will be held in Cotai, and only karate and five-a-side basketball will take place on the Macau peninsula. Besides, Pun stressed, the karate event will conclude before the Macau Grand Prix starts, and the basketball venue is located away from the Grand Prix Guia Circuit, which could be expected to minimise potential traffic problems.

Pun also said that he expected the Games to leverage sports to boost the local economy and various industries. ■



Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (right, front) and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam pose during a flag presentation ceremony for the over 580-athlete-strong Macau delegation for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities, and the 9th National Special Olympic Games at Mong-Ha Sports Centre on Saturday.

– Photo: Ida Cheong

Month-long event continues to highlight Na Tcha beliefs & customs



Stalls selling Na Tcha-related cultural items are being set up in front of Na Tcha Temple near the Ruins of St. Paul's early yesterday afternoon before torrential rain set in. Both the temple and the ruins are part of Macau's UNESCO World Heritage.

– Photo: Armindo Neves

Armindo Neves

This month’s “Travel around Macao” Community Tourism Financial Support Programme series – “Na Tcha Phantom at the Santo António Market Tour,” organised by the Na Tcha Temple Association and sponsored by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), which got off the ground on October 4 in front of Na Tcha Temple close to the Ruins of St. Paul’s, continued over the weekend.

It is slated to end on October 24-25 (Friday-Saturday).

According to a statement by the association, the event aims to promote the traditional Na Tcha beliefs and customs alongside Macau’s cultural and creative industries. By integrating traditional culture with modern light and shadow technology, it aims to showcase the profound historical heritage and vibrant community spirit of Santo António district.

According to his local adherents, Na Tcha, known in Putonghua as Nezha (哪吒), aka Nezha the Crown Prince (哪吒太子), is a protection deity in Taoism, Buddhism, and Chinese folk religion. Besides, Na Tcha, a prominent figure in Chinese mythology, is a divine hero whose origins are rooted in ancient Chinese folklore and religious traditions. According to the mythological narrative, Na Tcha was born during the Shang Dynasty (商朝, around 1600–1046 BCE), and his famed story is closely tied to the Investiture of the Gods (封神演义), a Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) novel set in that era.

Meanwhile, the Pátio do Espinho Market, one of the event’s activities, which had also commenced on October 4, ended yesterday. The owner of a stall featuring Na Tcha-themed cultural and creative products surnamed Lee said she hoped that more tourists would learn about Na Tcha culture. She said that, in general, not many people are aware of Na Tcha’s influence on local culture, customs and traditions, and the related beliefs and customs, which made the market rather important.

Chi Lam Vai (茨林圍, aka Chi Lam Chuen – 茨林村) known in Portuguese as “Pátio do Espinho”, is a 400-year-old, formerly walled village that lies just a street away

from the UNESCO World Heritage-protected Na Tcha Temple, one of Macau’s two temples dedicated to the divinity, which thanks to this year’s phenomenal success of the Chinese animated adventure fantasy action “Ne Zha 2”, has become well known across the world. According to a string of film industry reports earlier this year, “Ne Zha 2” is nowadays the world’s highest-grossing animated film, the highest-grossing non-English language film and the first animated film in history to cross the US\$2 billion mark, as well as being the highest-selling animated film based on ticket sales. It also ranks as the highest-grossing film of 2025 and the fifth-highest-grossing film of all time.

In addition to the Pátio do Espinho Market, the month-long programme will also hold another market in the square in front of Na Tcha Temple near the Ruins of St. Paul’s on October 18 and 19 and 24 and 25, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. respectively.

Concurrently, a Na Tcha Temple light and shadow show will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily from

October 1 to October 30. Anyone interested in the programme may access the MGTO website for more information. <https://www.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/events/whatson/12342>

According to a brief article about the month-long event highlighting the importance of Na Tcha culture in Macau, “every evening this October, a stunning light show is being staged on the outer walls of Na Tcha Temple next to the Ruins of St Paul’s. The aim is to reveal beliefs and customs surrounding the deity Na Tcha, which are part of Macau’s intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the Pátio do Espinho Culture Hall is presenting twice-daily sessions of a special light-and-shadow production devoted to Na Tcha.”

The *Post* has published about two dozen articles featuring Na Tcha over the past six months, as well as an editorial on March 3, headlined “Ne Zha – China’s soft power answer to Mickey Mouse” <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/24225> ■

哪吒幻影 玩轉花王堂
Na Tcha phantom at the Santo António Market Tour

活動路線:
大三巴廟前地
Ruins of St. Paul's Na Tcha Temple
哪吒風館
Na Tcha Exhibition Hall
哪吒文化館
Na Tcha Culture Hall
茨林圍市集
Pátio do Espinho Market

哪吒廟光影秀
Light Projection Show of Na Tcha Temple
日期:
10.01 * 10.30
(19:00/19:15/19:30/19:45)

哪吒沉浸式體驗館
Na Tcha Immersive Experience Hall
日期:
10.01 * 10.30
(14:00/20:00)

茨林圍市集
Pátio do Espinho Market
10/04, 10/05
10/17, 10/18
14:00-21:00 (共4天, 4Days)

大三巴廟前地市集
Ruins of St. Paul's Square of Na Tcha Market
10/18, 10/19
10/24, 10/25
14:00-21:00 (共4天, 4Days)

2025 10.01 * 10.30
全演首個「哪吒IP世道」
Macau's First "Na Tcha IP+ Heritage"
沉浸式體驗
Immersive Experience
館內全景影片
Holographic films inside the venue
非遗文創市集工作坊
Intangible cultural heritage creative market workshops
戶外廟場光影秀
Outdoor Temple Wall Projection Show

NBA slam dunks at The Venetian Arena



Photos of yesterday's NBA China Games 2025 held at The Venetian Arena in Cotai taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin

NBA opens first flagship store in Macau

Khalel Vallo

The National Basketball Association (NBA) of the United States and integrated resort operator Sands China Ltd, inaugurated the first NBA Macao Flagship Store at The Londoner Macao in Cotai on Saturday, coinciding with the NBA China Games 2025.

Operated by Sands China, the store is located on the second floor of the integrated resort, offering a wide selection of official NBA merchandise and memorabilia, including player jerseys, footwear, and collectibles from brands such as Nike, Chow Tai Fook and New Era.

The store features a customisation area for jerseys and apparel, authentic NBA memorabilia, and an LED half-court where visitors can join basketball activities and view live games.

The opening ceremony was attended by NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum, Dallas Mavericks Governor and Las Vegas Corp. President Patrick Dumont, Sands China Chief Executive Officer Grant Chum Kwan Lock, NBA Asia Managing Director Wayne Chang, NBA China Senior Vice President Jonathan Li, NBA Legend Tim Hardaway Sr. and WNBA champion Myisha Hines-Allen.

“The best part is that the fans get to experience the joy of the NBA, and the experience of the



Dallas Mavericks Governor and Las Vegas Corp. President Patrick Dumont addresses the opening ceremony of the NBA Macao Flagship Store at The Londoner Macao in Cotai on Saturday.

– Photo: Khalel Vallo

games here in Macau. NBA China has been phenomenal, and we really appreciate the partnership,” Dumont said in his remarks.

“Opening the NBA’s first store in Macau in collaboration with Sands China reflects our commitment to providing fans in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) with easier access to merchandise and products so that they can showcase their favourite teams and players,” Li added.

The launch marks the NBA’s first flagship retail presence in Macau and adds to more than 200 NBA-branded stores and attractions worldwide serving as official destinations for fans, according to a statement from NBA China. ■



This undated handout photo downloaded from the official Londoner Macao website yesterday shows the newly launched NBA Macao Flagship Store in Cotai.

NBA slam dunks at The Venetian Arena

Khalel Vallo

The United States’ National Basketball Association (NBA) held its NBA China Games 2025 at The Venetian Arena in Cotai on Friday and yesterday, alongside a fan interactive event on Saturday at the featured “NBA House” at Cotai Expo.

Phoenix Suns, Brooklyn Nets face off in Cotai

The NBA China Games 2025 wrapped up last night at The Venetian Arena, as the Brooklyn Nets edged out the Phoenix Suns 111–109 to split their two-game preseason series. The Suns had previously claimed victory on Friday with a 132–127 win.

Both games drew a capacity crowd, with fans cheering loudly through back-and-forth performances from both teams. Among the guests attending the events were former football player David Beckham, Hong Kong stars Fang Shilong, known professionally as Jackie Chan, Karen Mok Man-wai, and Simon Yam Tat-wah.

During the post-match press conference, Nets’ head coach Jordi Fernández praised his team’s composure under pressure, saying, “They punched, we responded, they punched, we responded – and I think that’s how the NBA works. The resilience, I’m very happy with.”

He added that the games were “an amazing experience” for the team, noting the enthusiasm of the local fans and the cultural exchange that came with playing abroad.

Meanwhile, Suns’ head coach Jordan Ott reflected on the benefits of the international series for team building, calling it “incredibly important for our own development – not only for the young players, but for me and my staff.” He emphasised that the trip helped new roster members bond and refine their playing style ahead of the regular season.

For the Nets, player Cam Thomas described the win as a valuable step forward. “It was a good start for us,” he told the *Post*. “We’re just applying everything we learned in preseason training camp. We still got some work to do, but we’re in a good spot,” he added.



The Brooklyn Nets score during yesterday’s NBA China Games at The Venetian Arena.

– Photos: Rui Pastorin



Excitement builds among spectators – including celebrity guests.

Cultural slam dunk fills the week

The first-ever NBA House Macao at Cotai Expo hosted interactive basketball games, photo zones, LED courts, and meet-and-greets featuring guest stars including NBA legends Shaquille O’Neal, Tim Hardaway Sr., Shawn Marion, and Yao Ming.

For many, it was a rare chance to see their idols up close. “We’ve got to meet so many people, especially when we just had the possibility of meeting legends such as Vince Carter and Shaq,” Rodrigues, one of the fans attending the event for the first time, told the *Post*, adding that he hoped “these kinds of events would happen more.”

The event also inspired local and regional basketball advocates. Nic Sandler, representing former Lakers staff coach Jamal Boykin and the

local “Falcons Macau” training camp, said their presence in Macau was about “giving back.”

For Sandler, who first fell in love with the NBA through Michael Jordan, his occasional visits to Macau in order to help coach young athletes carried meaning. “We just want to ‘give back’ to the community,” Sandler told the *Post*. “We’re working with the Terance Mann Foundation and the local Falcon training camp. It’s an amazing experience – we want to help develop the next generation,” he said.

Throughout the week, the basketball celebration spilled into shopping malls and entertainment venues across the city, with the opening of the first NBA Flagship Store at integrated resort The Londoner Macao in Cotai, drawing fans to explore exclusive Macau-themed NBA merchandise. ■

Locals’ gambling rate drops to lowest on record: govt

Staff Reporter

The Macau government has underlined that according to the latest available data, local residents’ participation rate in gambling has dropped to the lowest on record.

Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) Vice President Hoi Va Pou made the remarks while addressing the “2025 Academic Forum on the Prevention and Treatment of Gambling Disorders” held on Friday, where she said that local residents’ participation rate in gambling decreased from 59.2 percent in 2007 to 30.1 percent in 2022, the lowest percentage on record, while their awareness rate of responsible gambling increased from 16.2 percent in 2009 to 64.9 percent in 2023.

The one-day forum was organised by the bureau in collaboration with the public University of Macau (UM),

the public Macao Polytechnic University (MPU), and the Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) Macau Social Services Coordination Office.

Sheng Kung Hui is the official Cantonese name for the Anglican Church.

According to an IAS statement on Friday, the forum, attended by local experts and scholars as well as those from Hong Kong and foreign countries, addressed the latest research achievements in the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders, as well as the latest developments in such services.

In addition to experts and scholars, the forum was also attended by representatives from various social service organisations in Hong Kong and Macau, including those specialising in the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders.

Delivering a speech during the forum’s opening ceremony, which was held on the UM campus, Hoi noted that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the bureau’s centre for problem gambling counselling services, adding that the local government has, over the years, been paying close attention to the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders as well as the promotion of responsible gambling.

For instance, Hoi said, the amended version of the city’s gaming law formally lists responsible gambling requirements for the city’s gaming operators, while the government has set up various responsible gambling information kiosks in casinos and in various social service organisations in the city, with the most extensive coverage of such facilities among

all gaming destinations worldwide.

Hoi also underlined that the government has been providing systematic and professional training for social service workers and casino workers, while having set up a 24/7 counselling hotline for those affected by problem gambling or gambling disorders.

The government has also been providing financial education in different levels for kindergarten and school students, Hoi said.

Hoi underlined that Macau’s achievements in lowering local residents’ participation rate in gambling and in raising their awareness rate of responsible gambling demonstrate that the city’s gaming industry has, thanks to the joint efforts of various segments of civil society, been transitioning to a healthier and more sustainable development. ■



Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) Vice President Hoi Va Pou addresses Friday’s opening ceremony of the “2025 Academic Forum on the Prevention and Treatment of Gambling Disorders” on the University of Macau (UM) campus.

– Photo courtesy of TDM

Govt to impose ceilings on bureaus' leadership positions, departments, divisions

Tony Wong

The Macau government has drawn up a new administrative regulation governing the setting-up and organisational structures of public entities, formally imposing ceilings on the number of leadership positions, departments and divisions in a bureau, or a bureau-level entity, as well as listing restrictions on the establishment of a new public entity.

Bureaus are the top-level administrative entities of the local government. While bureaus consist of departments, the latter consist of divisions. However, in some cases, divisions can be directly under a bureau.

Leadership positions of a bureau refer to the director (or president) and deputy director(s) (or vice-presidents).

Government-drafted administration regulations, aka by-laws, do not require the legislature's approval.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, also the spokesman for the government's top advisory Executive Council, made the announcement during a press conference at Government Headquarters on Friday.

The new administration regulation announced on Friday will take effect on the day after its promulgation in the Official Gazette (BO).

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has appointed Cheong as a member of the new term of the Legislative Assembly (AL), which will start on Thursday this week. The press conference on Friday last week was the last one that Cheong chaired in his capacity as the spokesman for the government's Executive Council.

The new administration regulation will replace the current

decree law regulating the matter, which was promulgated in 1984 when Macau was still under temporary Portuguese administration.

During Friday's press conference, Cheong said that with the aim of advancing public administration reform, further streamlining government structure, and enhancing government efficiency, it was necessary for the local government to conduct a comprehensive review of Decree Law 85/84/M regulating the organisational structures of public entities, which has been in force for over 40 years.

After its review of the decree law, Cheong said, the government has drawn up the new administrative regulation, which will serve as the mandatory legal basis for the restructuring of public entities in the future, in compliance with the guidelines and objectives laid out by the Leadership Group for Public Administration Reform, which was set up by Sam early this year, as well as Macau's current situation.

According to Cheong, the new administrative regulation lists fundamental principles that must be observed in the establishment of new public entities and the restructuring of existing public entities.

The administrative regulation designates the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) as the public entity to be tasked with monitoring, coordinating and evaluating the government's restructuring of public entities in compliance with the provisions listed in the administrative regulation, as well as overseeing the regulation's implementation.

Moreover, Cheong said, the administrative regulation also lists various criteria and requirements



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon speaks during Friday's Executive Council press conference at Government Headquarters. – Photo courtesy of TDM

for the establishment of new public entities, the organisational structures of public entities, and their staff allocation.

Concerning the establishment of public entities, Cheong said, the administrative regulation expressly stipulates that the government can only establish a new public entity when new functions and duties have arisen and it will be difficult for the government to exercise them through amendments to the organisational structures of existing public entities.

Consequently, Cheong noted, the new administrative regulation, after it comes into force, will impose restrictions on the government's establishment of new public entities and clearly define them.

Concerning the organisational structures of public entities, Cheong said, the administrative regulation lists principles for the setting-up

of departments and divisions in a bureau, or a bureau-level entity, including the principle of rational division of labour and procedure management.

According to the new administrative regulation, functions and duties of a similar nature must be performed within the same subunit, namely a department or division, of a bureau. Departments will be tasked with pursuing the policy objectives and core functions of the respective bureaus, while divisions can only be set up in a department when necessary.

However, according to the regulation, a subunit to perform the functions and duties of providing administrative or technical support to the respective bureau, such as administrative affairs, personnel, finance, information technology, legal affairs, and public relations, can only be set up as a division-level one.

According to Cheong, the administrative regulation also sets the ceiling on the number of leadership positions, departments and divisions in a bureau.

A bureau with fewer than 200 personnel, according to the regulation, can only comprise up to two leadership positions, two departments, and four divisions, while a bureau with between 200 and 1,000 personnel can only comprise up to three leadership positions, six departments, and 12 divisions.

A bureau with over 1,000 personnel can only comprise up to four leadership positions, eight departments, and 16 divisions.

In addition, the administrative regulation also improves the provisions governing the structures of project teams, autonomous funds and consultative bodies,

expressly stipulating that they do not constitute any subunit.

Also addressing the press conference, SAFP Director Leong Weng In said after the new administrative regulation takes effect, the government will start reviewing the existing functions, duties and organisational structure of every public entity in compliance with the provisions listed in the regulation. She said that the government aims to complete its reviews of all public entities in three years.

The government will then amend the organisational structures of the respective bureaus, or merge them, in compliance with the results of its review process.

Leong also said that according to the definitions listed in the new administrative regulation, the local government should comprise 47 bureaus or bureau-level entities. She did not mention the current number of public entities.

Govt to axe Printing Bureau

Meanwhile, Cheong also announced that the Printing Bureau (IO) will be merged into the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) from October 31.

Currently, the Printing Bureau is tasked with publishing the Official Gazette (BO) as well as government publications.

After the merger, the Legal Affairs Bureau will take over the functions currently carried out by the Printing Bureau, while continuing with its current functions such as conducting research in improving Macau's legal system, drafting legislation, coordinating legislative drafting by different public entities, and law popularisation. ■

Sands roundtable discusses sports ownership, global communities

Rui Pastorin

"Pivot Point: How Sports Ownership Is Reaching Global Communities" was held at The Parisian Macao in Cotai yesterday, gathering guest speakers to tackle the topic and talk about their experiences throughout the hour-long event.

Speakers comprised Alibaba Group Co-founder and Chairman Joseph Chung-Hsin Tsai (蔡崇信), who is also the owner of the Brooklyn Nets and New York Liberty; Las Vegas Sands President and Chief Operating Officer Patrick Dumont, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks; and former international footballer David Beckham, who is the co-owner of Inter Miami and Salford City FC, as well as being an entrepreneur and philanthropist. NBA legend Vince Carter moderated the event.

The speakers talked about their ownership of each of their respective teams, including stories behind their acquisitions as well as their development, among other key points.



NBA legend Vince Carter (from left to right), Alibaba Group Co-founder and Chairman Joe Tsai, who is also the owner of the Brooklyn Nets and New York Liberty; former international footballer David Beckham, who is the co-owner of Inter Miami and Salford City FC; and Las Vegas Sands President and Chief Operating Officer Patrick Dumont, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, speak at yesterday's roundtable at The Parisian Macao. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

Dumont also remarked that there has been an evolution in the type of tourism in Macau. He added: "With the infrastructure that was built here, it allowed for business tourism to occur. So, there's been an evolution in the type of tourism that actually comes to Macau", adding that Macau has seen increased tourism thanks to investments in improved hotel

rooms, restaurants, and retail.

Dumont was also asked what other sporting events he was anticipating, responding that the company was thinking about the United States' Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). He added: "The goal is to bring more sports here over time and have that capability".

Meanwhile, Tsai remarked on the cultural differences in

attitudes towards sports and its relationship with education, where in Asia, it's not always conducive to developing athletes and sports teams, particularly in team sports, as well as highlighting the need for understanding from parents on its importance. "Participating in sports teaches you teamwork, discipline, time management, and just how to be a good human being", along

with other aspects such as respect.

Tsai also remarked on how social media platforms in China shape the way basketball content is distributed, noting that with its advanced and vibrant scene, it is pushing the NBA to think about "advanced ways to develop content", besides live games, and the use of AI.

Meanwhile, aside from speaking about his experience in China, which he highlighted as having a large football fanbase, and about Inter Miami and the ambitions behind them, Beckham also echoed Tsai's remarks on investing in youth. He also remarked on the continued growth of football, which is led by social media and investment. Moreover, finding more interesting ways or formats to watch the game could possibly lead to more growth.

Beckham also highlighted the beauty of the World Cup, a special moment for football fans around the world, as well as the opportunities and the emerging talent involved in addition to known players. ■

How China helps empower women from Asia to Africa

Analysis

BEIJING – “Women are creators of material and spiritual wealth, and represent an important force driving social development and progress,” President Xi Jinping once said.

Xi made the observation while chairing the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment at the UN Headquarters in New York on September 27, 2015, where he outlined China’s commitment to advancing women’s development and international cooperation.

Over the past decade, China has made significant strides in promoting the all-round development of women. Countless Chinese women are excelling in different domains, contributing their strength and wisdom to global peace and development, as well as to the better protection of women and children.

At the same time, China has joined hands with countries worldwide to empower women. From Asia to Africa, inspiring stories of shared efforts toward building a better world have accelerated the global advancement of the cause of women.

SAFEGUARDING HER WELL-BEING

In late September, 14-year-old Alifa Chin from Bangladesh visited China for the third time. She toured universities and exchanged ideas with her Chinese peers, gathering inspiration and energy to pursue her dreams.

When Chin was born in 2010, her mother suffered a difficult delivery due to a severe heart problem. At that time, the Chinese naval hospital ship Peace Ark was in Bangladesh as part of a multiple-country mission to provide free medical services to local people. Upon learning of the emergency, Chinese doctors aboard the ship rushed to the local hospital to perform a cesarean section on her mother. Both mother and daughter were saved.

The child’s father, Anwar Hossen, named his daughter “Chin,” meaning “China” in Bengali.

In 2017, Chin met Dr. Sheng Ruifang, a Chinese female doctor who had performed the surgery. As they embraced warmly, the young girl called out “Chinese mother” in English. From that moment, the dream of becoming a doctor took root. Dr. Sheng encouraged her, saying, “I am willing to share all my experience with you.”

In 2023, Chin wrote a letter to Xi, sharing her special connection with China and her dream. The president responded, encouraging her to study hard to make her dream come true, give back to her family, contribute to society and serve her country.

Chin framed Xi’s letter, and displayed it on her desk. “I want to tell dear Grandpa Xi that I have always remembered your advice and am studying hard to achieve my dreams,” she said. “My ‘Chinese mother’ gave me both life and inspiration, and I hope to follow her example by using my abilities to help and save others.”

On a global scale, China’s initiatives demonstrate its commitment to women’s welfare. It has helped developing countries implement 100 “health projects for women and children” and 100 “happy campus projects,” providing educational support to disadvantaged girls.

Irina Bokova, former director-general of UNESCO, spoke highly of the Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education, jointly established by China and UNESCO in 2015. The award has supported 20 projects across 19 countries, raising global awareness about the importance of education for women’s well-being and empowerment.

HELPING HER SHINE IN LIFE

Tahiya Bauso Massawe, a female cattle keeper from Tanzania, has benefited greatly from China’s Juncao technology. At first, she was skeptical about this new type of forage introduced by Chinese experts.

“It looks like sugarcane. Would the cattle actually eat it?” She



This photo taken yesterday shows street banners for the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women displayed Beijing. The Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women will be held in Beijing today and tomorrow.
— Xinhua

wondered. Yet the cows love it, and the milk production nearly doubled.

Rising income has allowed Massawe to buy new equipment and a vehicle, and hired 16 employees – half of them women. She encouraged other women to grow Juncao as well, helping many earn their income for the first time and enabling them to support their families and children’s education.

For Massawe, Juncao symbolizes equality, hope and opportunity. She said that this technology brought by Chinese experts has gradually improved their lives and transformed the role of local women.

Xi has emphasized on multiple international occasions the vital role of women’s development in achieving common progress. “Development cannot be achieved without women, and the benefits it brings must be shared by all,” he said at the 2015 UN meeting.

Today, the Juncao technology has provided employment opportunities for women in 106 countries worldwide. The Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative, jointly launched by China and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization, has improved the lives of women in many African countries. Additionally, Luban Workshop, a Chinese vocational training program, has trained nearly

6,000 female students.

For Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, in some developing countries, women continue to lag behind men in many fields due to a lack of funding, knowledge and skills.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, she expressed her hope for China to continue sharing its experiences and strengthening cooperation with more countries, including African nations, to promote the continuous development of global women’s affairs.

GREATER HER EMPOWERMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In late September, over 40 female officials from Pakistan and the Central African Republic visited China to participate in capacity-building workshops organized by the newly established Global Exchange and Cooperation Center for Digital Empowerment of Women.

In cities and towns like Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Yiwu, they studied China’s grassroots governance, researched cases related to women’s entrepreneurship, digital villages and cross-border e-commerce. The visit helped them

gain firsthand insight into how China leverages digital technologies to empower women, boosting both women’s self-development and their social contribution.

To deepen cooperation in capacity-building for women in developing countries, China has initiated over 100 training projects focused on women and children in developing countries since 2018, training nearly 4,000 talents in the field of women’s empowerment.

Additionally, China has established a global training base for women’s development cooperation and exchange, designing tailored empowerment programs for developing countries. Collaborative training and exchange centers have been set up in partnership with 15 countries. Leveraging the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, China has also implemented women-focused projects in more than 20 countries, with total funding exceeding 40 million US dollars.

For Bokova, the former UNESCO head, one of China’s most impressive recent achievements is how Chinese women are “riding the wave” of the digital economy.

“We know all too well that this is the economy of the future,” Bokova observed. “If we want to support women’s empowerment, we should equip women with digital skills so they can participate flexibly and fully in the growing digital economy. That is exactly what China is doing today.”

Monica Monteiro, chairperson of the Brazilian Chapter of BRICS Women’s Business Alliance, said that while women in developing countries still face certain obstacles, digitalization and the knowledge economy are creating new opportunities and opening new pathways for women’s development.

China has achieved remarkable success in promoting women’s employment and entrepreneurship in the digital technology sector, providing valuable references and examples for Global South countries, she said.
— Xinhua

Empowering women with more equality, resilience and hope

Commentary

BEIJING – Gender equality is not merely a women’s issue but a matter essential to the sustainable development of humanity. While progress has been made, the struggle for gender equality is far from over. Women around the world continue to face significant challenges.

China is to host the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women to reaffirm the spirit of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, to rally collective efforts, and to inject new energy into advancing equality and comprehensive development for more than 4 billion women worldwide.

Over the past decades, Chinese women have achieved higher social status and personal

fulfillment. They uphold half the sky, with their voices increasingly heard, their efforts recognized, and their opportunities secured. Today, Chinese women enjoy healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives.

In China, women’s life expectancy has risen to 80.9 years, and enrollment of girls in compulsory education exceeds 99.9 percent nationwide. Women now comprise over half of all higher education students and account for around 43 percent of the total workforce, with their influence growing across governance, science, business and sports.

China has developed a model for advancing gender equality that is tailored to its national conditions and has proven effective. Gender equality is

enshrined as a fundamental state policy, strengthening both legal protections and social awareness.

For instance, through intensive training in microcredit and e-commerce, an increasing number of rural women are embracing the digital economy, closing the digital gap, and playing a unique role in China’s poverty alleviation and rural revitalization efforts.

As a responsible developing country with nearly 700 million women, China’s efforts to advance women’s empowerment provide valuable experience for the rest of the world, particularly for developing and underdeveloped nations.

As an active supporter of global women’s causes, China has contributed US\$20 million to UN Women since 2015. In partnership

with UNESCO, it established the Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education and supported projects in Africa that promote digital and health education for girls.

Through the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, China has carried out women-focused projects valued at over US\$40 million across more than 20 countries.

Chinese women also actively engage with the global community in peacekeeping, climate action and humanitarian relief. To date, over 1,200 Chinese female peacekeepers and 100 female police officers have served in UN missions, while training programs in China have benefited hundreds of women officials and scholars from developing countries involved in

climate change initiatives.

With only five years left to meet the gender-related targets of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global community must act with greater urgency. Closing the gender gap is not the responsibility of any one country alone; the international community must strengthen cooperation to advance the global cause of women.

Thirty years after the 1995 Beijing conference, the upcoming event is expected to herald another milestone in the advancement of women since that landmark meeting.

As women’s growing presence reshapes the landscape of the modern world, it paves the way for a future defined by greater equality, resilience and hope.
— Xinhua