

Govt to improve wealth-sharing system: Sam

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday his government will improve the system for its annual wealth-sharing programme in terms of aspects such as its eligibility of beneficiaries and ways of distributing the handouts and that it is studying how to improve the system benefitting Macau residents in line with opinions raised by various segments of civil society, with the aim of achieving a higher level of fairness and more precisely benefitting Macau residents with closer ties with the city.

Speaking during a post-policy address press conference at Government Headquarters, the chief executive said that his government will now continue to gather opinions from civil society concerning improvements to the system for its annual wealth-sharing programme before finalising the design of the improved system, because of which this

year's handouts will be issued a bit later than in previous years.

The press conference, which lasted one and a half hours, was held after Sam delivered his first policy address to the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday afternoon. His 2025 Policy Address lasted two hours.

Sam said in his 2025 Policy Address that eligible permanent local residents will receive 10,000 patacas each this year, while eligible non-permanent local residents will receive 6,000 patacas each, with the amounts of the handouts for each beneficiary unchanged from last year.

Since the government's annual wealth-sharing programme was launched in 2008, the cash handouts have been paid out to every ID card holder of Macau permanent and non-permanent residents, irrespective of place of birth, nationality, age, and current place of residence.

Permanent residency can be acquired

after habitually living in Macau for seven consecutive years.

When the programme was rolled out in 2008, each permanent resident received 5,000 patacas while each non-permanent resident received 3,000 patacas. Since then, the amount had been gradually raised, before it was increased to the current amount of 10,000 patacas for permanent residents and 6,000 patacas for non-permanent residents in 2019.

Normally, the cash handouts have been paid out in July every year.

Since taking office in December last year, Sam has pledged that his government will adopt a more targeted approach in its policy of improving residents' well-being, such as by more precisely helping those in need and allocating more welfare resources to the elderly, children, those with disabilities, and others in vulnerable groups.

Continued on p.2

Trump blames Zelensky for 'millions' of deaths

WASHINGTON –US President Donald Trump yesterday blamed Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky for the war in his country, accusing him of responsibility for “millions” of deaths.

Trump – who had a blazing public row in the Oval Office with Zelensky six weeks ago – said the Ukrainian shared the blame with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who ordered the February 2022 military operation, and then-US president Joe Biden.

Trump told reporters that there were “millions of people dead because of three people.”

“Let’s say Putin number one, but let’s say Biden, who had no idea what the hell he was doing, number two, and Zelensky,” Trump said during a meeting with the visiting president of El Salvador.

Trump then doubled down on his attack on Zelensky.

“He’s always looking to purchase missiles,” adding,

“When you start a war, you got to know that you can win the war,” Trump said. “You don’t start a war against somebody that’s 20 times your size, and then hope that people give you some missiles.”

– AFP, MPD



President Xi Jinping (front) and Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary To Lam (centre) look at copies of agreements signed between China and Vietnam following their meeting at the Office of the Party Central Committee in Hanoi yesterday. Xi warned that protectionism “leads nowhere” and that a trade war would have “no winners”, as he arrived in Vietnam yesterday for a two-day visit on the first leg of a three-nation tour of Southeast Asia, which also includes Malaysia and Cambodia. (More on p. 6)

– AFP

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FM spokesperson elaborates on coordination between China, EU on additional US tariffs

China stands ready to work with the international community, including the EU, to defend international trade rules, fairness and justice, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

– Story on p. 7

China's foreign trade up 1.3 pct in Q1, sustaining stable development

China's total goods imports and exports in yuan-denominated terms expanded 1.3 percent year on year in the first quarter of this year, demonstrating stable growth and strong resilience despite external headwinds, official data showed yesterday.

– Story on p. 7

Trump says no one 'off the hook' on tariffs but markets rise

Stock markets yesterday welcomed US tariff exemptions for electronics, but President Donald Trump signalled the reprieve would be temporary and warned no country would get “off the hook” in his trade war – especially China.

– Story on p. 16

Govt to improve wealth-sharing system: Sam

Continued from p.1

Delivering his 2025 Policy Address in the legislature's hemicycle yesterday, Sam reaffirmed that his government should implement social welfare measures in a sustainable way, pointing out that Macau's economic outlook is currently facing various uncertainties, with the government's heavy reliance on a single source of its revenues and a large sum of its annual regular and fixed expenditures.

Consequently, Sam said, the government should make better use of its financial resources to implement targeted social welfare measures with the aim of more precisely helping those in need.

Sam said in his 2025 Policy Address that after considering Macau's current socioeconomic conditions and on the premise of adhering to prudent public financial management, his government will continue with its various tax deductions and social welfare measures this year.

However, Sam said, the government will improve the system for its annual wealth-sharing programme in line with opinions raised by various segments of civil society, adding that the government will then use the money that it can save thanks to lower expenditure on its wealth-sharing programme to enhance various other social welfare measures and promote



Journalists raise their hands to ask questions during yesterday evening's press conference at Government Headquarters in Nam Van about Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai's 2025 Policy Address. — Photo: GCS

the development of Macau's community economy.

During yesterday's press conference, Sam was asked how his government planned to improve the system for its wealth-sharing programme. He said that the government has still not come up with its final decision on how the system should be improved, adding that government will continue to gather more opinions from civil society concerning improvements to the system.

Sam noted that the improvements will cover aspects such as eligibility

of beneficiaries and ways of distributing the handouts, adding that the government's decision to improve the operation of its wealth-sharing programme aims to achieve fairness of the programme as well as enabling the programme to only benefit those with close ties to Macau, and more precisely help those in need.

Sam pointed out that the local government rolled out the wealth-sharing programme in 2008 on a temporary basis aiming to help local residents as Macau was then affected by high inflation and the adverse impact of the global financial crisis on its economy. He noted that the government has spent 92.1 billion patacas in total on the handouts since the programme's launch.

Sam noted that while the programme was launched on a temporary basis, in reality it has been implemented every year since its launch, pointing out that the government has been required to draw up an administrative regulation every year to implement the programme in the respective years.

Consequently, Sam pointed out, the government's current wealth-

sharing programme, in principle, is not a permanent and regular social welfare measure.

Sam noted that in previous years, the government normally completed drawing up an administrative regulation in April every year for the implementation of the programme in the run-up to the commencement of the payments normally in July. Sam said that for this year, as the government will improve the system for the programme, it will complete drawing up an administrative regulation (by-law) this time a bit later than normal in previous years. He asked residents to show understanding that this year the handouts will be issued a bit later than in previous years.

Meanwhile, Sam announced in his 2025 Policy Address that the government will increase the amounts of its various allowances for local residents.

New childcare allowance

Sam announced that the government will launch a childcare allowance for local residents with the aim of tackling the city's low birth rate by supporting parents to

take care of their children.

According to Sam, the new childcare allowance will be issued to parents of children under the age of three years every month. During the period, they will receive an allowance of 1,500 patacas a month, equivalent to 18,000 patacas a year.

In addition, Sam said, the government will increase its birth allowance, a one-off sum, to 6,500 patacas from the current 5,418 patacas, while the marriage allowance will be increased to 2,220 patacas from the current 2,122 patacas.

More cash for seniors, those with disabilities

Sam also announced that the monthly pension for senior citizens will increase to 3,900 patacas from the current 3,740 patacas, while the annual allowance for them, issued once a year, will be increased to 10,000 patacas from the current 9,000 patacas.

The annual subsidy for those with disabilities, issued by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) once every year, will be increased to 10,000 patacas from the current 9,000 patacas for those with a lower level of disabilities, while the amount will be increased to 20,000 patacas from the current 18,000 patacas for those with a higher level of disabilities.

The annual health vouchers for permanent residents will be increased to 700 patacas from the current 600 patacas.

Subsidies for uni graduates working in GBA

Moreover, Sam said, the local government will launch a 5,000 pataca monthly subsidy for young locals up to the age of 35 who work in the Guangdong cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), lasting 18 months. The beneficiaries must have graduated from tertiary education institutions in Macau or elsewhere. ■

Sam keen to strengthen coordination mechanisms

The Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) will make efforts to open a new chapter through strengthening coordination mechanisms, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday while delivering the 2025 Policy Address.

In his first policy address, Sam pointed out that enhancing coordination mechanisms is a key measure for the new administration to deepen administrative reform and improve governance capacity.

The new SAR government, he noted, will adopt a proactive and responsible attitude, along with a pragmatic and efficient work style, to resolutely address issues of inaction, passive behavior, and failure to act in accordance with the law.

He said that the SAR government has established

six leadership groups and working groups to coordinate the advancement of major cross-sectoral affairs. These include the leadership group for public administration reform, the leadership group for promoting the construction of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone, and the legal coordination working group.

Going forward, more cross-sector and interdepartmental coordination mechanisms will be established to break down administrative barriers, promote efficient collaboration across departments, and enhance overall coordination with the aim of improving efficiency and ensuring the smooth advancement of various reform measures and governance initiatives. — Xinhua

Sam pledges to promote healthy, orderly development of gaming industry

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai yesterday pledged to promote the healthy and orderly development of the city's gaming industry in accordance with the law, amid the government's continuous efforts to further diversify the economy.

In his inaugural policy address as chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR), Sam emphasized stringent compliance frameworks for gaming concessionaires, requiring operators to "strictly adhere to legal provisions and regulatory requirements."

This commitment forms part of a comprehensive plan to implement intelligent management systems and advance responsible gaming initiatives across the region, Sam noted.

While casino gambling is illegal in the Chinese mainland, it is a key industry for Macau, governed under

the "One Country, Two Systems" policy since the Chinese government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over it in 1999 following a long period of Portuguese colonial rule.

With the December 2025 deadline approaching for satellite casino transitions, Sam pledged to coordinate policy implementation and contingency planning.

These third-party operated venues, currently operating under primary concessionaires' licenses, must transition to a management fee-based partnership model — a regulatory reform initiated through a three-year adjustment period aimed at strengthening industry oversight.

Sam's policy blueprint urges gaming operators to strategically allocate resources to non-gaming sectors, particularly focusing on major development projects in Macau and initiatives enhancing the

city's global competitiveness.

To ensure accountability, the SAR government will establish key performance indicators for non-gaming investments and implement regular compliance audits of concession contracts.

This monitoring mechanism builds upon Macao's 2002 market liberalization reforms that transformed the gaming sector from a monopoly structure into an open one. By 2006, Macau's gaming revenue had surpassed that of Las Vegas, solidifying its position as the world's largest gaming hub.

Recent economic diversification efforts have yielded measurable results, with gaming's contribution to GDP declining to 37.2 percent in 2023, a 14-percentage-point reduction from 2019 levels, according to official data.

— Xinhua

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

DRY.
MAINLY FINE.
HAZE.
FORCE 2 TO 3 NORTH TO
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS,
BECOMING SOUTHEASTERLIES.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
WILL RANGE
BETWEEN 35%
AND 80%.



18°C~29°C

Source: SMG

Statement by Central People’s Govt Liaison Office in Macao SAR on 2025 Policy Address

Spokesperson for the Central People’s Government Liaison Office in Macao: Full Support for the New SAR Government’s Innovative Development Efforts and Striving for New Progress

Today [April 14, 2025], the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Sam Hou Fai, delivered the first policy address of the new SAR government. A spokesperson for the Central Government Liaison Office in Macao said that the policy address deeply implements the spirit of President Xi Jinping’s important speeches during his inspection tour of Macao, bravely undertaking the important mission of practicing “One Country, Two Systems” in the new era. It is grounded in Macao’s realities and responds to social concerns. The policy address not only outlines the overall direction and key measures for governance in 2025 but also provides foresight planning for medium- and long-term reform and development tasks, fully demonstrating a spirit of pragmatism and determination.

The spokesperson stated that the policy

address is guided by the “three expectations” and “four hopes” proposed by President Xi during his visit to Macao last year, with a focus on deploying two significant tasks: enhancing the coordination mechanism and promoting the construction of the Guangdong-Macao integrated development. It emphasizes improving government governance efficiency, advancing public administration reform, and systematically restructuring government functions. The report addresses the primary task of appropriately diversifying the economy, improving the economic governance system, optimizing the business environment, and developing diverse industries and new productive forces. Additionally, it aims to safeguard the bottom line of people’s livelihoods by proposing precise assistance, policy inclination, and

resource allocation policies. Furthermore, it plans for long-term development, introducing four significant projects with driving effects, and actively aligning with national development strategies, showcasing a strong desire to contribute more to the country.

The policy address presents clear ideas and powerful measures, representing a pragmatic and progressive governance program. During the drafting of the report, the chief executive frequently led officials from various sectors of the SAR government to gather opinions from experts, community representatives, and the general public, responding positively and demonstrating a humble approach of consulting the people and embracing public opinion.

The spokesperson concluded that the Liaison Office of the Central People’s

Government in Macao will fully support the new SAR government in seizing opportunities, governing according to law, and moving forward courageously, innovating for development and striving for new progress. We firmly believe that under the leadership of President Xi and the strong guidance of the central government, the Macao SAR government and all sectors of society will be able to unite and succeed, continuously creating new high-quality development for Macao and writing a brilliant chapter in the successful practice of “One Country, Two Systems” with Macao characteristics!

N.B. Translation arranged by The Macau Post Daily. The Chinese-language statement was released by the Central People’s Government Liaison Office in the Macao SAR last night

Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council on Macao SAR 2025 Policy Address

Spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council: Full Support for Macao to Create a New Chapter of High-Quality Development

On April 14, a spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council made a statement indicating that the first policy address delivered on that day by the sixth Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Sam Hou Fai, thoroughly implements the spirit of President Xi Jinping’s important speeches during his inspection tour of Macao last December. It fully demonstrates the reform and innovation, pragmatic responsibility, and proactive governance philosophy of the new SAR government.

We fully support the Macao SAR government and all sectors of society in bravely undertaking the important mission of practicing “One Country, Two Systems” in the new era, and strive to create a new chapter of high-quality development for Macao. The spokesperson noted that the policy address is guided by the “three expectations” and “four hopes” proposed by President Xi during his visit to Macao. It closely aligns with the positioning of “One Center, One Platform,

and One Base,” leveraging Macao’s own advantages and resource endowments, and advancing appropriately diversified economic development, especially in the construction of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone, through updated thinking, stronger measures, practical actions, and significant achievements.

With greater determination and courage, the policy address aims to deepen reforms and enhance the governance effectiveness of the SAR. It seeks to strengthen internal connectivity and external communication, create a higher-level open platform for foreign exchanges, and actively integrate and serve the national development strategy, while implementing precise and pragmatic policy measures to address issues of concern by Macao residents such as elderly care, employment, and housing. The policy address aims to transform President Xi’s earnest concerns for Macao’s development and the aspirations of residents for a better life into specific governance measures, outlining a

beautiful vision and implementation path for achieving a law-based, vibrant, culturally rich, and happy Macao.

Moreover, the policy address confronts problems and challenges head-on, strengthens top-level design and institutional mechanism reforms, and proposes a series of targeted new ideas and measures that reflect the new SAR government’s commitment to courageously innovate, seek change, and overcome difficulties. The spokesperson mentioned that on the first working day after taking office, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai announced the initiation of the drafting of the policy address, immediately leading the governing team to engage broadly with various sectors, industries, and social strata, deeply communicating and exchanging views, and fully listening to opinions and suggestions to continuously enrich and improve governance ideas. “Many hands make light work; together, we can sail any sea”. The new SAR government actively responds to public opinion, gathers collective

wisdom, and builds consensus, laying a solid social foundation for the subsequent implementation of the policy address.

In conclusion, the spokesperson stated that the Chinese nation is advancing towards great rejuvenation at an unstoppable pace, and Macao is experiencing its best period for development. We firmly believe that with President Xi at the helm and the strong support of the central government and the mainland, the Macao SAR government and all sectors of society will fully leverage the institutional advantages of “One Country, Two Systems,” seize opportunities, and strive for progress. With solid actions and tangible results, they will open new avenues for development, always strive for brilliance, and make new and greater contributions to the comprehensive advancement of national construction and the great cause of national rejuvenation through Chinese-style modernization.

N.B. Translation arranged by The Macau Post Daily. The Chinese-language statement was released by the office last night.



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (left) shakes hands with Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In after presenting his policy address during yesterday afternoon's plenary session in the legislature's hemicycle. – Photo: GCS

Sam vows to push forward appropriate economic diversification

The appropriate economic diversification is the priority of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday, while delivering his 2025 Policy Address at the Legislative Assembly.

This was the first policy address since Sam took office. He said the relatively undiversified economic structure remains the primary challenge for the current SAR government.

Sam noted that long-standing issues persist, such as a narrow visitor base, imbalanced fiscal revenue, and insufficient innovation capacity.

Furthermore, the progress of diversifying industries still falls short of social expectations, and the role of Hengqin in supporting Macau’s economic

diversification has yet to materialize fully.

He pointed out that efforts must be focused on enhancing economic governance systems, continuously improving the business environment, enriching the content of the World Center of Tourism and Leisure, accelerating the cultivation and development of key emerging industries, and fostering new quality productive forces based on Macau’s realities.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are vital to Macau’s economic and social development, Sam emphasized, adding that the SAR government will take a long-term perspective, tapping into local communities’ rich historical and cultural resources, revitalizing the community economy, and supporting SMEs in upgrading their quality and development. – Xinhua

Macau to step up development of cooperation zone in Hengqin: Sam

Hengqin is the key to unlocking Macau’s appropriate economic diversification, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday, while delivering his 2025 fiscal year policy address at the Legislative Assembly.

This was the first policy address since Sam took office. He noted that the SAR government

regards the high-quality achievement of the second-stage development goals of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin as a significant task.

Sam underscored that the SAR government will give full play to the coordinating role of a leadership group for promoting the construction

of Hengqin, work on formulating key policies and laws to support the zone’s development, and promote the alignment of civil and commercial legal frameworks in the zone with those of Macau and international practices.

He stated that Macau must be more prominent and leading in constructing the cooperation zone,

increasing its involvement in policy coordination, rule-setting, capital investment, joint business promotion, and project development.

Sam also highlighted the need to step up investment promotion efforts, and enhance industry collaboration between Macau and Hengqin. – Xinhua

From Embers to Blossoms
Sou Pui Kun

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FROM EMBERS TO BLOSSOMS
SOU PUI KUN



Sou Pui Kun (left) and Lai Sio Kit pose in front of Cloud Gallery earlier this month.

– Photos provided by Cloud Gallery

Cloud Gallery hosts inaugural exhibition 'From Embers to Blossoms'

Interview by William Chan

Cloud Gallery is debuting in the Barra neighbourhood with its inaugural exhibition "From Embers to Blossoms: Sou Pui Kun Printmaking Exhibition." The exhibition highlights local artist Sou Pui Kun's latest works, featuring approximately 30 pieces created using his signature "UV-cured ink intaglio printmaking" technique. Sou and the gallery's director, Lai Sio Kit, shared insights with the *Post* prior to the exhibition opening on April 6.

Sou is a retired associate professor from the Faculty of Arts and Design at Macao Polytechnic University (MPU). His works, which have garnered numerous international awards, are part of collections in institutions like the National Museum of Chinese History, the Guangdong Museum of Art, the Chongqing Art Museum, and the Macao Museum of Art (MAM).

Cloud Gallery is located on Rua do Almirante Costa Cabral, in Ngan Son Building. Lai mentioned his vision to enhance the art scene in the area, inspired by the revitalisation of Doca D. Carlos I in the Barra ("Harbour Entrance") neighbourhood with art-focused events.

"In Macau, most venues are large galleries or public museums, which can be challenging for single or emerging artists to access due to their typically smaller collections. A smaller gallery like ours provides an ideal platform to showcase their art," Lai said, noting that the commercial gallery will also have artists' works for sale. "For most local artists, their work often remains in storage or is kept by museums and institutions. We aim to make these artworks accessible to the public."

Sou added that the gallery offers an excellent opportunity for artists, especially younger ones, to showcase their work in a smaller, more accessible space, as any emerging artists may not yet have a large enough collection to host an exhibition in a museum, making a smaller gallery an ideal platform for their creations.

'From Embers to Blossoms'

The exhibition is divided into two sections: "Embers" and "Blossoms." An anti-imperialist artist, Sou was inspired by the tragedies in Ukraine during the COVID-19 pandemic to create the "Embers" series. His collection features motifs of aircraft and bombs, reflecting the destruction caused by modern warfare. "I want to pay tribute to all those who have suffered in wars through my artworks," Sou said.

Meanwhile, the "Blossoms" series celebrates the vibrancy of nature, showcasing flowers and leaves through rich, flowing shades of rouge and indigo. In "Blossom 13," for example, Sou collected numerous dry leaves to create inverted moulds as well as prints in the form of a cat. He then pressed these onto a single plate to build layers of transparent colours in different sequences and ideas of combination. "This process is somewhat like painting, allowing you to decide the placement of the prints. It is more accessible as beginners, with the prints and moulds already available, would not need drawing skills, yet it remains a highly creative endeavour," Sou explained. He also mentioned hosting workshops in schools to teach students these techniques and encourage experimentation.

According to the exhibition's statement, Sou's technique combines traditional print techniques with modern photochemistry to develop the "Ultraviolet Ink Layered Exposure Method." By precisely controlling the exposure time, multiple layers of transparent colours can be printed on a single plate.

Sou also incorporates multimedia elements into his prints. In a piece critiquing United States imperialism, viewers can press a button to hear Handel's "Messiah," with the ironic solo "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Sou explained his intent, "While many highlight war's violence, I use satire. For example, with the US facing an egg shortage, despite dropping bombs globally, I depicted bombs as eggs, titling it: 'Lord, can I have some eggs instead?'"

The exhibition will run until May 11, with free admission. It is closed on Mondays. The gallery opens from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit: www.cloudgallerymo.com



Lord, can I have some eggs instead?

– Photos: William Chan



Police nab Filipina domestic helper for using drugs

Ada Lei

A female non-resident worker (NRW) from the Philippines was arrested on Saturday for trafficking in and taking drugs, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspect as a 39-year-old woman surnamed Nicdao, who works as a domestic helper.

According to Ho, based on a tipoff, the Judiciary Police (PJ) identified Nicdao as a suspected drug trafficker who went to Hong Kong to buy drugs on Friday last week and intended to sell them to her compatriots. Nicdao re-entered Macau on Saturday morning through the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal. The police arrested her near her flat in the city centre later that day. They seized a total of three packets of methamphetamine (also known as ice), weighing 23.67 grams, with an estimated street value of about 71,000 patacas.

Ho noted that the police



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. — Photo: Ada Lei

discovered that Nicdao had been involved in drug trafficking for less than six months and tested positive for methamphetamine. Under questioning, Nicdao admitted to using drugs and selling drugs bought in Hong Kong to her compatriots.

Nicdao has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) and is facing charges of drug use and drug trafficking. ■

IC calls for 'Macao • Hengqin Craft Market' stall operators

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is calling for stall operators for the 'Macao • Hengqin Craft Market', with applications for handicraft stall operators open until April 28.

The craft market is set to be held at the Hengqin Culture and Art Complex from June 12 to 15 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., the bureau noted in a statement yesterday.

The statement said that application is open for handicraft stall operators, with those interested able to apply on www5.icm.gov.mo/craftmarketV2, where more

detailed information can also be found.

The bureau reminded interested applicants that products "must be of original design, excluding food and beverages, with a minimum of 10 types of products available for sale", while services offering "cultural and artistic experiences" can also be included.

The statement said that a lucky draw will be held if the number of applicants exceeds the number of available stalls.

Those interested may call 8399 6292 or 8399 6289. ■



This undated file photo shows last year's "Macao • Hengqin Craft Market", which was held at Ponto Legend Square in Hengqin. — Photo: Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC)

Pedestrians respond to bad air: Vox pop

Interviews by Rui Pastorin

Macau yesterday continued to be affected by bad air quality, with the air quality level remaining between "very bad" and "severe". Given the predicament the *Post* wanted to know how this was affecting members of the public, with one saying that she had noticed some effects while another was not able to tell the difference.

The local observatory noted in a statement on Sunday that the city was affected due to the continued influence of dusty weather associated with a northeast monsoon.

Affecting someone with allergies

Feli, a 40-year-old Filipina, was not aware of the city's air quality situation until the *Post* spoke to her yesterday. All she knew was that when she left her flat that morning, there was some heaviness in her chest and she felt a little unwell.

Feli had asthma as a child and now, she said, has allergic rhinitis*, noting that situations like this could trigger it as she is very sensitive to dust. "Whenever the weather changes or maybe when the air quality's bad, I feel unwell", opting to go out as little as possible, if the situation allows, as she tends to feel sick. And if the bad air quality situation persists, Feli said that she might have some concerns. "I'm a little bit concerned because I have allergies. If the bad air quality persists, maybe I will not feel very good. I'm very sensitive to that kind of situation".

'A bit surprised'

Local businessman Cheong said



An electronic sign near Flora Garden (二龍喉公園) shows Macau's temperature, relative humidity and "very bad" air quality last night. — Photo: Rui Pastorin

that he had heard the news about the city's bad air quality, which made him feel "a bit surprised", adding that he did not expect the situation to be that serious. "I mustn't forget that I need to wear a mask when I go out."

However, despite his initial surprise, Cheong said he was not too worried, noting: "It happens sometimes, but it's not something that happens every day". But in cases where the air quality is bad, Cheong said it's best to wear a mask when going out. And when indoors, he said people can turn on an air purifier – if they have one.

'I don't feel any difference'

"I don't feel any difference from last night" said Wong, a teacher. However, the 34-year-old attributed this to the fact that she works indoors. Although the situation was not something Wong said she was worried about, she wore a mask as a form of protection, something

that, she said, she recommends for situations like this, along with staying at home for people who might be particularly susceptible to the effects of bad air quality.

Moreover, a step she takes at home, she said, is to ensure that her air purifiers "are on every day, all the time".

'You can't change the air, you can't change the weather'

A local woman in her sixties meanwhile noted that the situation was not something to worry about, accepting that it is what it is. And for those who are worried, a mask was a viable option. "You can't change the air, you can't change the weather", she insisted. ■

*Allergic rhinitis is inflammation (redness and swelling) of the inside of the nose. It's caused by an allergen, such as pollen, dust, mould, or flakes of skin from certain animals. — Source: NHS Inform

MGTO to hold mega roadshow in Tokyo

Rui Pastorin

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is scheduled to hold the mega roadshow "Journey to Experience Macao" in Tokyo from Thursday through Sunday as part of its plan aiming to expand Macau's international market segments.

MGTO said in a statement last night that Japan has long been one of Macau's major foreign visitor markets, with the event aiming to "ignite" Japanese travellers' intention to visit Macau, further tapping into the Japanese market.

The event will feature a series of offline events, among which is the anime-themed mega roadshow at Tokyo's Akihabara shopping precinct, held in partnership with Macau's six integrated resort operators and Air Macau, among others.

The roadshow will be presented as a "Macao tourism pop-up zone" and include anime culture and special Macau travel offers. Among the activities featured are a talk by Macau's tourism mascot MAK MAK's designer Tou Chon Wai on its creation. The main stage will also feature the famous Japanese IP "Ghost in the Shell SAC2045" as part



This artist's rendition provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday shows the mega roadshow "Journey to Experience Macao" to be staged in Tokyo later this week.

of its design, while a Macau Pass with anime themes will also be launched.

The statement added that Kamen Rider, a classic comic character in Japan, will also be the theme of a booth at the event, while Toei Company Ltd, which designed Kamen Rider, also partners with a Macau enterprise to launch a co-branded themed wine product that will be displayed at the event.

Meanwhile, the statement said that MGTO has also been releasing promotional videos at various

promotional landmarks in Tokyo and distributing leaflets at MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) entrances and exits.

The statement added that MGTO has also partnered with several online and offline travel agencies to launch tourism products and special offers. Moreover, the "Macao Tourism + MICE Product Updates Seminar & Travel Mart" will be held tomorrow to promote cooperation between Japanese and Macau tourism operators, the statement said. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 2.4 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 2.4 percent to close at 21,417.4 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 2.11 percent to end at 7,965.81 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 2.34 percent to end at 5,015.12 points. — Xinhua

Xi calls on China, Vietnam to 'oppose unilateral bullying' on regional tour

HANOI – President Xi Jinping yesterday called on his country and Vietnam to “oppose unilateral bullying”, Beijing’s state media reported, during a regional tour as leaders confront US tariffs.

Xi is in Vietnam for the first leg of a Southeast Asia tour, with Beijing trying to present itself as a reliable alternative to an erratic US President Donald Trump, who announced – and then mostly reversed – sweeping tariffs this month.

He was welcomed to Hanoi yesterday with a 21-cannon salute, a guard of honour and rows of flag-waving children at the presidential palace, before holding talks with Vietnam’s top leaders including General Secretary To Lam.

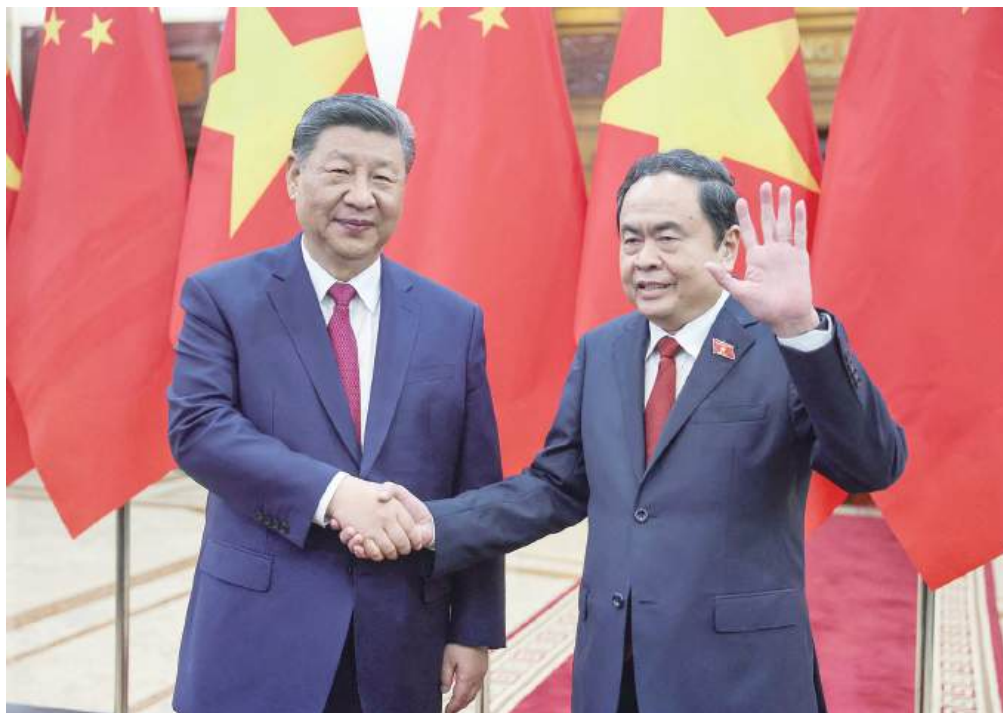
Xi told Lam their two countries must “jointly oppose unilateral bullying, and uphold the stability of the global free trade system as well as industrial and supply chains,” according to Xinhua.

The two neighbours signed 45 cooperation agreements, including on supply chains, artificial intelligence, joint maritime patrols and railway development.

Xi’s visit comes almost two weeks after the United States – the biggest export market for Vietnam, a manufacturing powerhouse, in the first three months of the year – imposed a 46 percent levy on Vietnamese goods as part of a global tariff blitz.

Although the US tariffs on Vietnam and most other countries have been paused, China still faces enormous levies and is seeking to tighten regional trade ties and offset their impact during Xi’s first overseas trip of the year.

Xi will depart Vietnam today, travelling to



President Xi Jinping (left) and Vietnam's National Assembly Chairman Tran Thanh Man shake hands prior to their meeting in Hanoi yesterday. – Xinhua

Malaysia and Cambodia on a tour that “bears major importance” for the broader region, Beijing has said.

Speaking during a meeting with Lam, Xi said Vietnam and China were “standing at the turning point of history... and should move forward” together.

Xi earlier urged the two countries to “resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading system, stable global industrial and supply chains, and open and cooperative international environment”.

He also reiterated Beijing’s line that a “trade war and tariff war will produce no

winner, and protectionism will lead nowhere” in an article published yesterday in Vietnam’s state-run *Nhan Dan* newspaper.

Lam said in an article posted on the government’s news portal yesterday that his country “is always ready to join hands with China to make cooperation between the two countries more substantive, profound, balanced and sustainable”.

‘Bamboo diplomacy’

Vietnam was Southeast Asia’s biggest buyer of Chinese goods last year, with a bill of US\$161.9 billion, followed by Malaysia,

which bought Chinese imports worth US\$101.5 billion.

Firming up ties with Southeast Asian neighbours could also help offset the impact from a closed United States, the largest single recipient of Chinese goods last year.

Xi is visiting Vietnam for the first time since December 2023.

China and Vietnam, both governed by communist parties, already share a “comprehensive strategic partnership”, Hanoi’s highest diplomatic status.

Vietnam has long pursued a “bamboo diplomacy” approach that aims to stay on good terms with both China and the United States.

The two countries have close economic ties.

Xi said in his article yesterday that Beijing and Hanoi could resolve those disputes through dialogue.

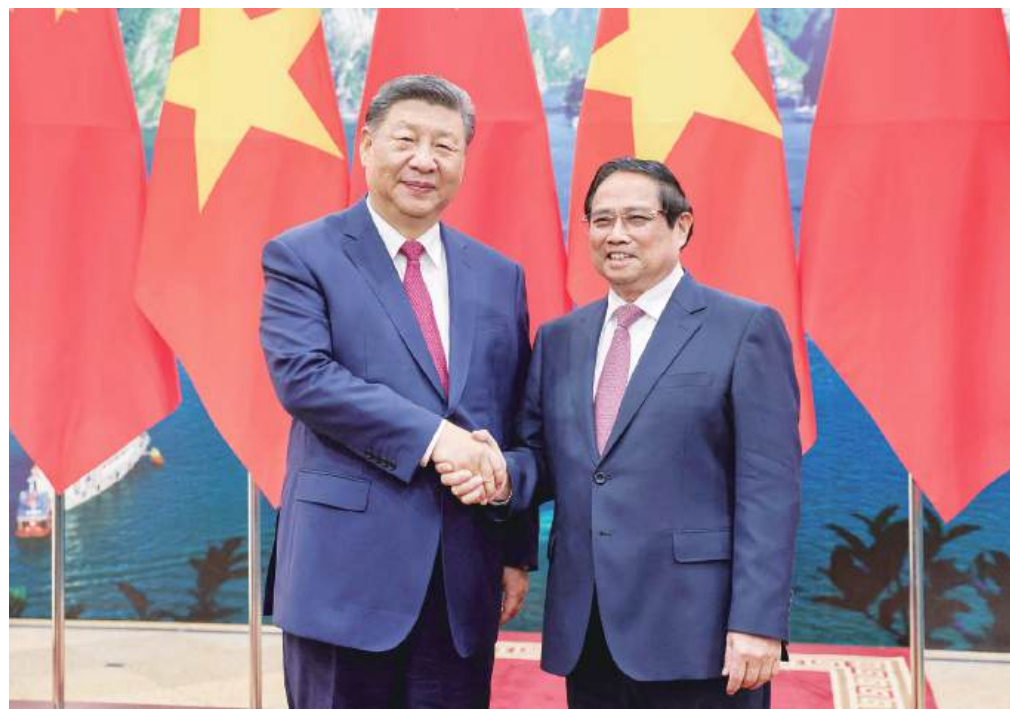
“We should properly manage differences and safeguard peace and stability in our region,” Xi wrote. “With vision, we are fully capable of properly settling maritime issues through consultation and negotiation.”

Lam said in his article that “joint efforts to control and satisfactorily resolve disagreements... is an important stabilising factor in the current complex and unpredictable international and regional situation”.

In Malaysia, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said Xi’s imminent visit was “part of the government’s efforts... to see better trade relations with various countries including China”.

Xi will then travel to Cambodia, one of China’s staunchest allies in Southeast Asia.

– AFP, MPD



Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh (right) and President Xi Jinping shake hands before their meeting at the Office of the Party Central Committee in Hanoi yesterday. – AFP



Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary To Lam (right) and President Xi Jinping wave during a meeting at the Office of the Party Central Committee in Hanoi yesterday. – AFP

Police arrest mainlander for selling phoney phone

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Saturday for selling a counterfeit phone, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Wai Chon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Wong identified the suspect as a man surnamed Zhou, who is in his fifties.

According to Wong, the police received a report on Wednesday from a mainland man who had been sold a knockoff phone. The victim was walking along Rua Cidade de Sintra (仙德麗街) when he was

approached by Zhou. Zhou claimed to have gambled away all his money and offered to sell a phone he claimed to be worth approximately HK\$10,000 for HK\$6,000. The victim agreed and paid him HK\$6,000 for the phone. They parted after the deal. However, when the victim tried to use the phone, he discovered that it had a rough appearance and an unusual interface. He suspected that the phone was a counterfeit and immediately reported the case to the police, which confirmed that the phone was a pirated product.

The police identified Zhou as the suspect through citywide CCTV surveillance and intercepted him in the departure hall of the local airport.

Under questioning, Zhou admitted to selling the replica phone to the victim. He told the police that he had purchased the phone on the mainland for 800 yuan, claiming that he had meanwhile gambled away the HK\$6,000 received from the victim.

According to Wong, Zhou has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) and is facing a fraud charge. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the phoney phone suspect into a police station.