

Govt aims for LRT circle route for peninsula: Tam



Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man addresses yesterday's Q&A session about his portfolio's 2025 policy guidelines in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle. — Photo: GCS

Tony Wong

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man said yesterday that the government is studying the feasibility of expanding the city's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) network, with the aim of creating a circle route* serving the peninsula, covering districts such as Fai Chi Kei, Inner Harbour, Nam Van, and Sai Van.

Tam made the remarks during yesterday's one-day Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle about his portfolio's policy guidelines for this year.

Macau's LRT system currently comprises Taipa Line, Seac Pai Van Line, and Hengqin Line in operation. The Taipa Line serves Taipa and Cotai with its extended section connecting to the peninsula's Barra through the lower enclosed deck of the Macau-Taipa Sai Van Bridge.

The Seac Pai Van Line connects the Taipa Line's Cotai section with Coloane's sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing neighbourhood, while the Hengqin Line connects the Taipa Line's Cotai section with the Macau-side zone of the Hengqin joint checkpoint.

Currently, the only ongoing LRT project is the East Line project connecting the Barrier Gate checkpoint at the peninsula's northern tip and the Taipa Ferry Terminal via the Zone A and Zone E1 land reclamation areas. The East Line will cross the sea between Zone A and Zone E1 through an undersea tunnel.

The government is currently planning a project to extend the LRT East Line to the Qingmao pedestrian border checkpoint in Ilha Verde from the Barrier Gate.

The ongoing LRT East Line project, without the projected extension to the Qingmao checkpoint, is scheduled to be completed in 2028, which the government is aiming to open in 2029.

During yesterday's Q&A session, Tam underlined the government's commitment to constantly expanding the city's LRT network as well as its ongoing efforts to ensure the ongoing LRT East Line project's completion as scheduled.

Moreover, Tam said, the government has launched a study on the feasibility of expanding the LRT system to other areas in the city in the future.

Pointing out that Macau's LRT has



been in service for several years, the policy secretary underlined the need for its network to continue expanding in line with the city's continuous socioeconomic development.

More specifically, Tam said, the government is studying the feasibility of building the LRT West Line connecting the Qingmao checkpoint with Fai Chi Kei, from where it would run along the Inner Harbour to Barra at the peninsula's south-western tip.

Continued on p.5

Chinese PLA Guard of Honor attends Vietnam's 50th anniversary of South liberation parade

HO CHI MINH CITY — At the invitation of Vietnam's Ministry of National Defense, the Guard of Honor of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) participated in a military parade in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday, celebrating Vietnam's 50th anniversary of the liberation of the South and national reunification.

As the Chinese formation entered the parade ground, the Vietnamese spectators rose to their feet and greeted them with enthusiastic applause.

"I was deeply impressed by the Chinese soldiers' dignified appearance and movements. I feel proud of the comradeship and brotherhood between Vietnam and China," said Vietnamese spectator Pham Thi Hue after the parade.

This marked the first time for the PLA's Guard of Honor to be invited to participate in a military parade in Vietnam. Troops from the Vietnamese army, navy and air force, police forces, as well as foreign military formations participated in the parade. — Xinhua



Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Guard of Honour soldiers take part in a parade marking the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. Vietnam held its biggest celebration of the liberation of Saigon on its 50th anniversary yesterday. — AFP

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Xi stresses sound planning for economic, social development in 2026-2030

President Xi Jinping yesterday called for making sound plans for the country's economic and social development in the 2026-2030 period, stressing "managing our own affairs well" and ensuring both development and security.

— Story on p. 7

Reports find both anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim sentiment at Harvard

Harvard University task forces charged with investigating claims of anti-Semitism, and anti-Arab and Muslim hate reported on Tuesday that such prejudice had taken root on campus, urging the college to champion the fight against bigotry.

— Story on p. 10

BRICS blast 'resurgence of protectionism' in Trump era

China, Brazil and other members of the BRICS grouping on Tuesday slammed the "resurgence of trade protectionism" at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro dominated by US President Donald Trump's tariffs blitz.

— Story on p. 12

Local man loses nearly 55,000 patacas in 'fake police' scam

Ada Lei

A local man has been cheated out of 54,966 patacas in a "fake police" scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said at a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Lei, a local young man reported to the police on Monday afternoon that he had been scammed, having lost a total of 54,966 patacas. The victim received a call on Friday afternoon from a man ("Man A") speaking Putonghua, who identified himself as a "Wuhan police officer."

Wuhan is the capital of Hubei Province. Wuhan lies some 940 kilometres north of Macau.

"Man A" claimed that the victim's identity information had been stolen and used to register a mainland phone number, which allegedly was used to send out numerous scam messages. "Man A" identified the victim as the "main suspect" in the case and requested he immediately travel to the mainland for further investigation. The victim denied any involvement in the crime and said that he was unable to go to the mainland due to work commitments.

The victim was then transferred to another man ("Man B") who also claimed to be a "police officer" and instructed the victim to switch to FaceTime for further communication. "Man B" then claimed that he was not in charge of the case and transferred the victim to a man ("Man C"), who identified himself as a "Central Task Force police officer." "Man C" told the victim that although his identity information had been stolen, he was still implicated in the case, and that the Ministry of Public Security had issued a

"criminal arrest warrant" for him. "Man C" then showed the victim, through FaceTime, what appeared to be "an arrest warrant, an asset freezing order, an assistance investigation notice, and a confidentiality notice."

The victim later told the police that these documents displayed his identity information and photo, leading him to believe they were genuine and the individuals he was speaking to were indeed Public Security officers which also made him believe that his identity information had really been stolen for criminal activities in the mainland.

After speaking with "Man C", the victim was transferred to another man ("Man D"), who claimed to be a "director of the Wuhan Municipal Procuratorate" and the "chief official in charge of this case." "Man D" asked the victim to provide his bank account information and transfer all his money to a "safe account" under the pretext of a "fund review." He also told him to stay in a hotel near his home, claiming that he needed to be "isolated for investigation" to prevent information leakage.

Following "Man D's" instructions, the victim booked into a hotel near his flat later that day and stayed there until Monday. During this period, he was told to pay a "deposit" of 50,000 patacas and "bail" of 50,000 patacas, totalling 100,000 patacas – amounts that he did not pay because of lack of funds. Afterwards, however, 54,996.52 patacas in his account was transferred to two unknown accounts, which he wasn't aware of at the time.

On Monday afternoon, the victim received a call from a bank

in Macau, informing him that his bank account might have been involved in suspicious transactions and asking if he had been defrauded. The victim realised he had been scammed and reported the total loss of 54,966 patacas to the police on Monday. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

– Photo: Ada Lei

Police nab local man for covering up friend's crime

Ada Lei

A local student was arrested on Saturday for covering up a friend's crime, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Kong identified the suspect as a man surnamed Lo who is a student in his twenties.

According to Kong, the police received a report from a driver about a traffic accident in Rua das Lorchas (火船頭街) in the Inner Harbour district. The driver told the police that the front left side of his car was hit by a motorcycle while undertaking on the inside. The motorcyclist then fled the scene without stopping, but the car's driver gave chase and stopped him. The rider then abandoned his vehicle and ran away, after which the car driver called the police.

The police arrived at the scene and saw Lo, who claimed to be the rider of the motorcycle and to have caused the accident. However, the police discovered that Lo was not the rider. The police later apprehended the actual rider near the scene, and they then discovered that he was under 16 years old. Eighteen is the minimum age to obtain a driving licence in Macau. Besides, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 16.



Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

– Photo: Ada Lei

Lo was then arrested for covering up his friend's crime.

Under questioning, Lo admitted that his friend, the rider, had called him after the accident and asked him to cover up his offence because he was under 16 and, consequently, didn't have a driving licence. Lo also told the police that he owned the motorcycle and had lent it to his friend before the accident.

Lo has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) and is facing a charge of aiding and abetting another person's crime. ■

59 contracts inked, over 16,000 business matching sessions held at 13th MITE



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday shows attendees of the three-day 13th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE), which was held at The Venetian Macao in Cotai between last Friday and Sunday.

Rui Pastorin

The 13th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE) concluded on Sunday, with the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) noting in a statement yesterday that 59 contracts were signed and 16,225 online and offline business matching sessions were held.

The three-day expo, themed "Explore MITE, Experience the World" and featuring six new highlights, was held at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo and this year received over 38,000 visitors, 1,000 more than last year, the statement noted.

The statement said that the 59 contracts signed, which is four more than last year, were for cooperation in fields such as

tourism, health and wellness, "IP trendy fun", educational tourism, and culture. The statement added that 125 enterprises signed the contracts, an increase of 18 from last year's fair.

The 16,225 business matching sessions also marked a rise of over 1,000 compared to last year, while online sessions continued through yesterday, the statement said.

Moreover, this year's expo saw a 50 percent increase in international exhibitor booths. The statement said that 755 tourism-related enterprises and governmental entities from 70 countries and regions set up 1,502 booths at the expo, which also included 496 hosted buyers* from around the world.

The cumulative live-stream

views and pageviews, meanwhile, exceeded 26 million. Moreover, the expo also saw 75 tourism presentation sessions and forums, as well as other sessions, with 20 more than last year.

The statement added that upon gathering opinions from the fair's exhibitors and buyers, over 80 percent "expressed support for the next edition of MITE and interest in participation".

The statement said that event highlights can be found by visiting www.mitexpo.mo ■

*The term "hosted buyers" refers to a group of pre-qualified, high-potential buyers invited and hosted by event organisers (such as trade shows, exhibitions, or corporate meetings) to attend a business event. – DeepSeek

We're sorry if this caught you by surprise.
We'll be closed on May 1st – as we have been for the past 40 years. It's only 1 day per year. Tomorrow we will be open again.
Our apologies to the ones who forgot or were caught by surprise.

Restaurante Fernando

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Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY.
OCCASIONAL SHOWERS.
POSSIBLE THUNDERSTORMS.
FORCE 2 TO 3 SOUTH TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 98%.



23°C~28°C

Source: SMG



Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering to be held in Macau for first time, at Lai Chi Vun shipyards



This combo photo shows Macau International Grand Event Promotion Association Chairman Lo Tak Chong (left) and Huang Xiaojun, a senior representative for the Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering Competition, addressing Tuesday's press conference at Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai.

— Photos: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The annual “Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering Competition”, which was launched in the neighbouring province in 2016 and was held in Hong Kong for the first time in 2023, will be held in Macau for the first time where it will take place later this month for two days in Coloane’s Lai Chi Vun shipyards area and the nearby Coloane Village, the event’s joint organisers have announced.

The first phase of the government-revitalised Lai Chi Vun shipyards area opened in June 2023, while later that year it became one

of the government’s several ongoing revitalisation projects carried out in collaboration with the city’s six gaming operators.

The government launched its initiative to revitalise six historic areas in the second half of 2023, with each of the city’s six gaming operators to invest in and carry out one of the six revitalisation projects and the government to plan, coordinate and oversee their operations.

The ongoing revitalisation of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area is implemented by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG).

A press conference about the



This photo taken on Tuesday shows a part of Coloane’s Lai Chi Vun shipyards revitalised area featuring play facilities for children.

upcoming orienteering competition was held on Tuesday at Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai.

The orienteering competition is one of the three main events of the two-day “Galaxy Entertainment Macau Culture City Carnival”, which will be held on May 24 and 25.

Titled-sponsored by GEG, the Galaxy Entertainment Macau Culture City Carnival will be organised by the Macau International Grand Event Promotion Association in collaboration with several event-organising companies.

According to the press conference, the other two main events of the two-day carnival will be a cultural market to be held at GEG’s Lai Chi Vun Shipyards revitalisation site and a community exploration to be held at the revitalisation site and the nearby Coloane Village.

The upcoming Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering Competition to be held in Macau will be the 85th contest since its inception in Guangdong in 2016. Since its launch, several contests have been held in different places in the province every year. The contests held in 2023 included one in Hong Kong where it took place for the first time, while a contest was held in Hong Kong again last year.

Moreover, the upcoming orienteering competition to be held in Macau’s Lai Chi Vun shipyards area and its nearby Coloane Village will also be one organised in collaboration with Park World Tour (PWT), an international orienteering organisation. The upcoming contest on May 24 and 25 is fully known as “World Orienteering PWT International Invitation Competition and Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering Competition (Macau, China)”.

A statement by the Macau International Grand Event Promotion Association on Tuesday said that centred on an urban orienteering competition, the two-day carnival will integrate three core elements – a cultural market, community exploration, and orienteering race, encouraging participants to explore Coloane Village. The carnival aims to uncover Macau’s rich historical

heritage and unique community charm through a multidimensional “culture + community + sports” approach while promoting local small- and medium-sized enterprises’ (SMEs) participation in stimulating the community economy.

During the press conference, Lo Tak Chong, the association’s chairman, said that he aimed for the orienteering competition to attract international participants and visitors to Macau, showcasing Macau’s diversified “tourism+” elements and contributing to the integrated development of the culture, sports, and tourism industries in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Huang Xiaojun, a senior representative for the Guangdong Historical Road Orienteering Competition, said during the press conference that the upcoming two-day orienteering competition will include contests held for different groups such as professional orienteering athletes, general adults, and teenagers and children.

Huang said that the upcoming orienteering competition is expected to draw about 1,000 participants in total from the different groups, including the world’s top orienteering athletes.

Details in Chinese about the carnival can be found on <https://gegmgcc.com> where people can also sign up for the orienteering competition

**An orienteering competition is a sport where participants navigate through unfamiliar terrain using a map and compass to find a series of checkpoints (called “controls”) in the shortest possible time. — DeepSeek*

Cinematheque•Passion to host 2025 Panoramic Vision – Macao Contemporary Film Festival

Adrian Vallesteros

Cinematheque•Passion is set to present the 2025 Panoramic Vision – Macao Contemporary Film Festival from tomorrow to May 23, according to a Tuesday statement.

The statement noted that the festival aims to highlight local cinematic talent, featuring a diverse programme that includes a competition segment for Macau filmmakers. The festival will showcase 17 local

productions, with a jury panel consisting of young filmmakers from Hong Kong and Macau evaluating entries in the Macao Competition section.

According to the statement, this year, the festival will continue its “Local Directors and Their Inspirational Classics” segment, which highlights films supported by previous production programmes and features screenings of classic films that have inspired local directors.

The statement highlighted that the “Macao Competition” section will be open again to local directors and students enrolled in Macau. The preliminary jury has selected 11 finalists from the entries. Emerging filmmakers from Hong Kong and Macau will serve as final jury members, responsible for awarding honours such as the “Grand Jury Prize,” “Best Screenplay,” “Best Performance,” and “Best Director”, the statement said.

The statement also mentioned that the event will include a collaboration with Tokyo University of the Arts to debut five student films in Macau, offering insights into the “genre aesthetics and technical prowess of Japanese film students.”

Moreover, the statement noted that the festival will feature a special free screening of an interdisciplinary project that merges film and theatre, in which the creative team will attend a post-screening discussion to share their experiences and vision for this combination.

The statement noted that tickets for the festival are now available for purchase at 60 patacas. Senior citizens and students can buy tickets for just 30 patacas. Those purchasing more than 10 tickets at once are entitled to a 20 percent discount. The venue, located in Travessa da Paixão (戀愛巷), will operate daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on Mondays.

For more details about the festival and ticket information, visit the Cinematheque•Passion website and social media platforms. ■



This poster provided by Cinematheque•Passion on Tuesday promotes the 2025 Panoramic Vision - Macao Contemporary Film Festival starting tomorrow.

Pedro Paz presents 33 smartphone photos in 'Remains of the City' exhibition

Rui Pastorin

A total of 33 photos are being showcased at the Portuguese Bookshop Art Gallery in a solo exhibition titled "Remains of the City", where Portuguese photography enthusiast Pedro Paz presents fragments of daily life and details that might go unnoticed in a busy city – all captured on his Samsung smartphone.

The gallery is located in the basement of the Portuguese Bookshop on Rua de São Domingos (板樟堂街).

Ending on Tuesday, Paz showcases his works across three sections that each "reveal traces and memories of a city rich in history and contrasts", according to a statement from the gallery.

The first section, "You've Got Mail", sees Lisbon-born Paz present a series of photographs featuring mailboxes, highlighting both their symbolic and historical importance. Each mailbox presents a story, the statement said, and is more than an object, but a time marker, a "symbol that connects us to a collective memory". Mailboxes were also described by the statement as being a "silent witness of life", a gateway to stories.

Various windows captured around the city are the focus in the section "Framing the Invisible", each also possessing a story. The statement said that windows hide and reveal, observing the world while showing fragments of its interior. The windows captured are witnesses to the passing of years.

Lastly, "Where Chaos Meets Colour" has bright colours come together with chaos. The chaos found serves as "an invitation to explore the complexity and relationships between elements, where light, shadow and form intertwine in an unpredictable way", the statement noted, while each photo shown in this section is a small piece of something larger.

Paz, born in Lisbon in 1979, lived in Macau until 1997 and returned in 2012. He has a degree in History and a minor in Arts and Heritage.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free.



Photos: Rui Pastorin

Labour Day & Buddha's Birthday holidays

Due to it being the Labour Day public holiday today and Buddha's Birthday public holiday on Monday, *The Macau Post Daily's* editing team will be off today and on Sunday and will return to work on Monday so the print edition of

your favourite newspaper will be on the newsstands again on Tuesday morning. However, our digital edition on our website <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/> will be updated round-the-clock. Our local news and editorials as well as commentary

by national media organisations are also available on various LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The Macau Post Daily's office will be closed today and Monday.

We wish all our readers, advertisers,

distributors and contributors a restful holiday.

All government offices and banks will be closed today and on Monday, but both will be open tomorrow, returning to work on Tuesday.

MGP Museum to offer free admission on Int'l Museum Day

Kristina Vallesteros

The Macau Grand Prix (MGP) Museum, managed by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), is providing free admission to the public on May 18, in celebration of International Museum Day.

International Museum Day is annually celebrated on May 18 or thereabouts.

According to an MGTO statement yesterday, three sessions of an educational activity will be available on May 18, with online signups starting today.

The theme for International Museum Day 2025 is "The Future of Museums in Rapidly

Changing Communities." The statement noted that the theme aims to "inspire people to rethink the role of museums as essential connectors, innovators, and stewards of cultural identity".

On the day of the event, the museum will also host the "Race & Print Academy" at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. The workshop will focus on the Triumph TR2, the sports car driven by the winner of the first Macau Grand Prix. According to the statement, participants will learn about the history and technology of the Macau Grand Prix and enjoy a hands-on craft activity. Each session will last about an hour and a half and is open

for free registration to children aged 6 to 12, along with their parents.

Interested individuals can sign up on the official website from 10 a.m. today until 6 p.m. on May 7. The statement said that each session will accommodate 15 pairs of children and parents. As slots are limited, a

lucky draw will be held, with the results to be announced on the museum's website on May 13, and winners will be notified via email.

For more information about the Macau Grand Prix Museum, one may visit the official website <https://mgpm.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/>. ■



This undated handout photo downloaded from the Macau Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) official website last night shows the exterior of the Macau Grand Prix Museum in Zape.

Govt aims for LRT circle route for peninsula: Tam

Continued from p.1

According to Tam, the government is also studying the feasibility of building an LRT line connecting the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's (HZMB) Macau checkpoint and its adjacent Zone A from where it would run to the peninsula's Nam Van and Sai Van districts via its Outer Harbour district before finally arriving at Barra.

Tam noted that the two projected LRT lines would form a circle route serving the peninsula.

Tam also underlined that according to the experience about urban metro development in other countries and regions, more LRT lines to come into service in Macau in the future would lead to an exponential growth in the number of passengers, in the wake of which, he said, the government expects the LRT to become Macau's major means of public transport in the future.

Tam also acknowledged the still limited choice of e-payment methods used for LRT rides, which was not meeting residents' needs. He said that the government was determined to tackle the issue in the near future so that passengers would be able to use more e-payment methods, but he admitted that the government does not yet have an exact schedule as to when it expects to be able to solve the payment matter.

Smaller-scale urban redevelopment projects

Meanwhile, Tam also said during yesterday's Q&A session that in addition to advancing large-scale urban redevelopment

projects such as the ongoing plan to redevelop seven dilapidated residential estates comprising low-rise buildings in Iao Hon district, the government will now also place special emphasis on redeveloping single old buildings across the city.

Tam said that the government has selected an old building which was previously used as a dormitory for the Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) staff located near the Red Market for an urban redevelopment project, adding that the government will launch the building redevelopment project in the near future.

Tam also said that the project would be an example showing residents the government's commitment to advancing the city's urban renewal process.

3 plots for temporary sports facilities

Meanwhile, Tam also said during yesterday's Q&A session that three government plots, the permanent use of which has still not been decided, will be earmarked in the near future for the setting-up of recreational and sports facilities on a temporary basis.

According to Tam, the three plots will comprise one near the headquarters of the Fire Services Bureau (CB) in Sai Van Lake district, one in central Taipa, and one in Zone A. ■

**While a circle route forms a complete closed loop, a loop line typically refers to a branch line that diverges from the main route, forms a loop, and then rejoins the main line. – DeepSeek*

Happy Workers' Day



賀定一
崔世昌

澳門人民力量

澳門中華總商會

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澳門街坊會聯合總會

澳門生產力暨科技轉移中心

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.51 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.51 percent to close at 22,119.41 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises

Index edged up 0.1 percent to end at 8,076.26 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 1.35 percent to end at 5,087.42 points.

– Xinhua

China passes new law in major push to bolster private sector

BEIJING – China’s national lawmakers yesterday voted to adopt the country’s first fundamental law dedicated to promoting the private sector, underscoring support for a key part of the world’s second-largest economy.

After over a year of legislative process, the private sector promotion law, passed at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), will take effect on May 20, 2025.

The law stipulates that the promotion of the sustainable, healthy and high-quality development of the private economy is a significant and long-term policy of China.

From ensuring fair market access and financing support to enhancing services and protection of original innovation, the 78-article law cements efforts to encourage, support and guide the growth of the private sector.

The law will provide a clearer and more solid legal guarantee for the private sector, said Li Shuguang, a professor at China University of Political Science and Law.

This marks China’s latest step in strengthening the sector – recognized by the law as a key component of the socialist market economy – amid efforts to tackle economic headwinds both at home and abroad.

Officials and analysts view the formation and adoption of the law as “highly timely and absolutely essential,” given the private sector’s significant role in the economy.

Boosting the private sector should feature prominently on the country’s economic policy agenda: Whether it is to stimulate domestic demand, expand the domestic market, or boost production and improve the quality of supply, private businesses will be a key participant and contributor, according to Anbound, an independent think tank in China.

Private enterprises have long been a key driving force behind China’s economic growth, contributing more than 60 percent of GDP and 80 percent of urban employment. By the end of March 2025, the country’s more-than-57-million registered private enterprises made up over 92 percent of all businesses in China.

From electric vehicle maker BYD to artificial intelligence innovator DeepSeek and robotics pioneer Unitree Robotics, private enterprises have also become key players in China’s push for innovation-driven growth.

Yet, industry insiders note that challenges remain – domestically, private businesses may face financing constraints and invisible market access barriers in some sectors; while abroad, they must navigate increasing impact from external shocks.

The law will transform policy support into legal guarantees, giving entrepreneurs greater reassurance and motivation to keep moving forward, said Qi Xiangdong, chairman of cybersecurity firm Qi-Anxin and vice chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

“The rule of law is the best business environment,” Qi said.

In February, the country held a high-level symposium on private enterprises, which was widely viewed as a strong signal to boost the confidence and growth of the private sector.

A month later, at the “two sessions,” the country reiterated support for private enterprises, vowing to take effective moves to stimulate the vitality of all market entities.

To support the private sector, China has established a special bureau under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) dedicated to serving the sector’s development. Multiple provincial-level regions, including Guangdong, Shanxi, Qinghai and Zhejiang, have all set up such bureaus.

Efforts to level the playing field are also underway. Last week, the NDRC unveiled the new version of the market access negative list, which specifies fields that are off-limits to both domestic and overseas business entities, reducing the number of items on the list from 117 to 106.

Nan Yi, chairman of Wontai Group, said the law will support private firms’ entry into sectors such as infrastructure and energy, and provide a strong guarantee for their continuous investment in research and development.

“The enactment of this law will inject strong impetus into the sound development of the private economy,” Nan said. – Xinhua



Passengers board a train at Nanjing Railway Station in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, yesterday. China’s railway network is expected to handle approximately 144 million passenger trips during the eight-day May Day holiday travel rush, which kicked off on Tuesday, the national railway operator said. – Xinhua

China revises law to strengthen infectious disease prevention, control

BEIJING – China yesterday adopted a revised Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, aiming to improve its prevention of epidemics and protect the life and health of its people.

The law, originally enacted in 1989, was updated to address weaknesses exposed during China’s response to COVID-19 and elevate proven practices into legal norms, according to an official explanation. The new version of the law will take effect on September 1, 2025.

Monitoring and the issuance of early warnings are the first lines of defense against epidemics. China has established the world’s largest direct-reporting network for infectious diseases, but it aims to accelerate reporting.

The revised law stipulates that rewards will be granted to those who promptly detect and report emerging infectious diseases or outbreaks of unknown cause, and they will be exempt from liability.

“Primary-level medical personnel are the first to come into contact with infectious disease cases. Allowing them to report directly – and exempting them from liability for unintentional errors – will encourage early detection and reporting, which is significant to the prevention and control of newly emerging infectious diseases,” said Cai Weiping from the Guangzhou Eighth People’s Hospital at Guangzhou Medical University.

Lawyer Zhang Yong believes that this change could motivate the public to participate actively in reporting and prevention efforts, enhancing the timeliness and accuracy of reports.

Throughout China’s COVID-19 response, coordinated efforts across regions and departments were essential to curbing the spread of the virus in the country.

This approach has been enshrined in the revised law, playing a central role in the improvement of the country’s infectious disease prevention and control system.

The country has already explored

the establishment of related long-term mechanisms. In September 2024, the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao signed a cooperation agreement on emergency response mechanisms for infectious disease outbreaks. This move will deepen their collaboration and exchange in areas such as information sharing, coordinated emergency response, personnel training and scientific research.

To date, a total of 25 national emergency response teams for acute infectious disease control have been established, and over 3,000 grassroots emergency response squads now fully cover all city and county levels.

Thanks to a continuously refined epidemic prevention and control system, China has achieved remarkable progress in the containment of major infectious diseases, eliminating malaria, achieving a tuberculosis mortality rate that is on par with developed countries, and maintaining a low HIV/AIDS prevalence level. The coverage rate of vaccines included in the national immunization program among eligible children in China had consistently remained above 90 percent.

In addition to building up the system’s capacity, the revised law also highlights the protection of personal privacy.

It prohibits the excessive collection of personal data, and states that such information must not be used for purposes unrelated to disease prevention and control.

“This provision reduces the risk of personal information leaks, prevents privacy violations and guards against the misuse of personal data,” according to lawyer Fang Yan.

The revision adds a human touch to the prevention and control of infectious diseases, underscoring the country’s firm commitment to human rights protection, as well as the practical wisdom behind the modernization of its governance system and capacity, Fang added. – Xinhua



Namibian students perform Chinese martial arts during the Chinese Talent Show, part of the Chinese language competition, in the capital Windhoek, Namibia, on Tuesday. Hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Namibia and organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of Namibia (UNAM), the event marked part of UNAM’s celebrations for the Chinese Language Day, observed annually around April 20. The competition showcased Namibian students’ talents in Chinese literature, poetry, and language, underscoring the deepening cultural ties between the two countries. – Xinhua

China willing to work with Brazil to jointly address common challenges: Wang Yi

BRASÍLIA – Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday said China is willing to work with Brazil to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries and jointly address common challenges.

He made the remarks when meeting with Celso Amorim, special advisor to the president of Brazil, in Brasilia.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that China is willing to work with Brazil in fulfilling the BRICS’

role as Global South’s “first echelon” to jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, and to jointly address common challenges.

Amid uncertainty and instability in the global landscape, China and Brazil, both as major developing countries and representatives of emerging economies, should unite and cooperate in joint commitment to the cause of peace and development of humanity, said Wang.

For his part, Amorim said that China adopting resolute and hefty countermeasures against the

US “reciprocal tariffs” has won understanding and admiration of the affected parties, especially Global South countries.

In the face of the rampant unilateral protectionism, BRICS countries should take active actions, adhere to multilateralism and jointly safeguard the multilateral trading system, Amorim added.

The two sides during the meeting also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and held strategic communication on hotspot issues including the Middle East situation and the Iranian nuclear issue. – Xinhua

Xi stresses sound planning for economic, social development in 2026-2030

SHANGHAI – President Xi Jinping yesterday called for making sound plans for the country's economic and social development in the 2026-2030 period, stressing "managing our own affairs well" and ensuring both development and security.

The remarks came as China revs up efforts to fulfill the targets set in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) in the final year of its implementation and to formulate the next five-year plan.

"The planning must focus on the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization, with a view to building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation," Xi said at a symposium here on China's economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

China's five-year plan is a key guiding document for medium-to-long-term economic and social progress, which outlines the country's overall goals, major tasks and policy orientation across various sectors over a five-year period.

In planning economic and social development for the next five years, it is necessary to adapt to changing situations and grasp strategic priorities, said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee

and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

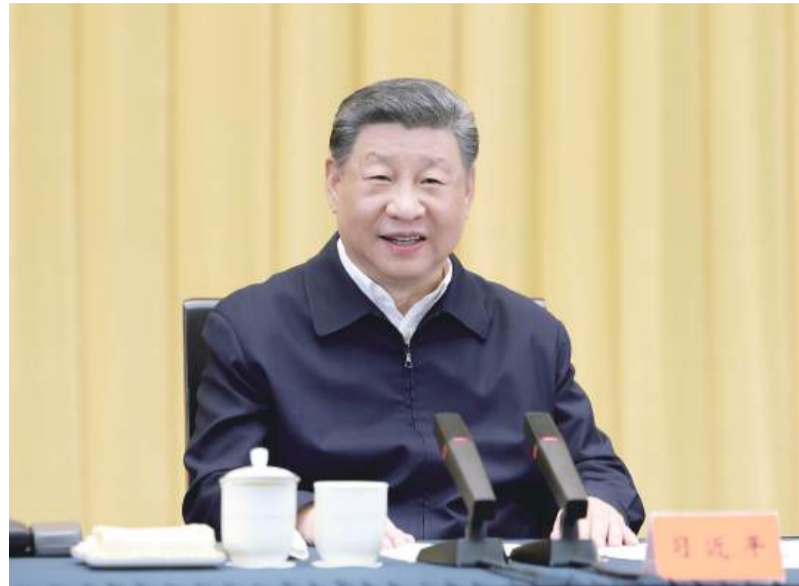
Targets and tasks should be set in a reasonable manner with approaches and measures to be proposed for each specific field, he said.

"We must unwaveringly manage our own affairs well, and stay committed to expanding high-standard opening up," Xi told the symposium, stressing promoting high-quality development on all fronts.

"Greater emphasis should be placed on ensuring both development and security, with a comprehensive assessment of domestic and external risks and challenges," he said, calling for efforts to improve the national security system.

Since its first launch in the 1950s, the five-year plan has been serving as a blueprint for China's overall development. The formulation process operates through a well-structured framework that combines the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee with extensive democratic participation.

In 2020, Xi led the drafting group for proposals for formulating the 14th five-year plan and long-range objectives through 2035. He presided over seven symposiums within three months to seek suggestions from representatives from all walks of life.



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, presides over a symposium on China's economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) and delivers an important speech in Shanghai yesterday. – Xinhua

"China's successive five-year plans provide the global economy with unparalleled certainty—a critical anchor at a time when the world faces profound unpredictability," said Wang Huiyao, president of the Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based think tank.

A meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, chaired by Xi last Friday, called for "addressing the uncertainty of drastic changes in the external environment with the

certainty of the country's high-quality development."

Yesterday's symposium was attended by Premier Li Qiang and Cai Qi, director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, both of whom are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Speaking after listening to opinions and suggestions from leading officials of several provincial regions, Xi said higher strategic priority must be given to

fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions in the next five years.

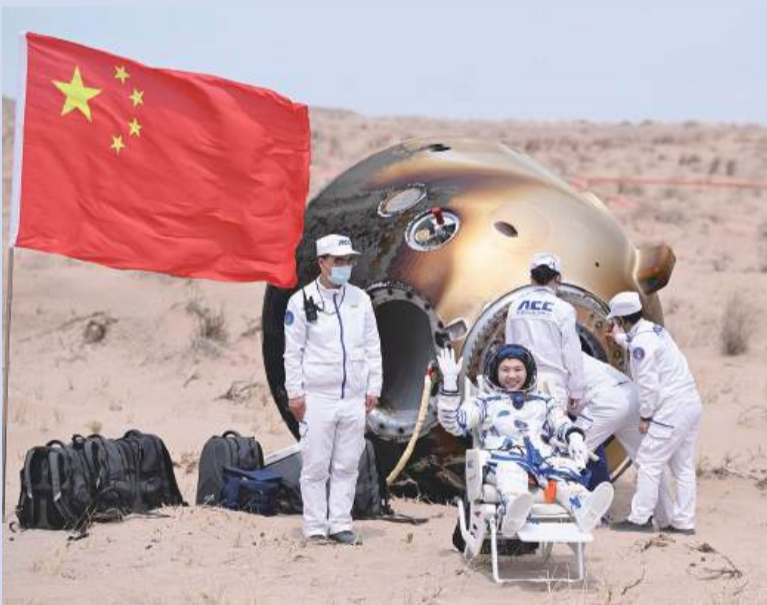
Highlighting the roles of technological innovation and the real economy, he urged efforts to transform and upgrade traditional industries, develop emerging industries, and make forward-thinking arrangements for industries of the future, so as to accelerate modernization of the industrial system.

Underscoring benefiting the people, Xi also called for ensuring and enhancing people's livelihoods through development and steadily advancing common prosperity.

"The next five-year plan could cement China's position as the largest middle-class consumer market as well as a stabilizer and a growth engine for the world," Wang Huiyao told Xinhua, noting that the country will further contribute to the stability of global supply chains and foster long-term international cooperation.

Consulting firm Deloitte China expects the country to accelerate its economic transformation over the next five years. Changes will unfold in such areas as sci-tech innovation, integration of digital economy and artificial intelligence, green development and high-standard opening up, according to a recent report from the company. – Xinhua

Shenzhou-19 astronauts arrive in Beijing



Astronaut Song Lingdong waves in front of the return capsule of the Shenzhou-19 crewed spaceship at the Dongfeng landing site in the northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region yesterday. The three astronauts of the Shenzhou-19 mission left the return capsule one by one yesterday afternoon, and the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) declared the mission a success. – Xinhua

BEIJING – The Shenzhou-19 crew arrived in Beijing by plane yesterday after completing a six-month space station mission.

Shenzhou-19's return capsule, carrying astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 1:08 p.m. yesterday and the crew had all exited the return capsule by 2:02 p.m., according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

After staying in orbit for 183 days, the three astronauts are all in good health, and the Shenzhou-19 crewed mission was a success, the CMSA said.

The crew will now enter a period of medical quarantine, and undergo comprehensive medical examinations and health evaluations, the agency said, noting that they will meet with press in Beijing following the end of this period.

– Xinhua

China's economy demonstrates resilience amid uncertain external environment

Analysis

BEIJING – China's economic output continued to rise in April, though changes in the external trade environment brought a level of disruption to the manufacturing sector, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

In April, China's composite purchasing managers' index (PMI) stood at 50.2, indicating that overall business activity continued to expand, according to data released by the NBS.

The PMI for the manufacturing sector fell to 49, while the PMI for the non-manufacturing sector came in at 50.4. The composite PMI is calculated based on the weighted average of the two indices.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

NBS statistician Zhao Qinghe attributed the manufacturing PMI decline to a high base effect from the previous period's rapid growth in the sector and drastic changes in the external environment.

Wen Tao, an analyst at the China Logistics Information Center, said that April saw market demand and production cool temporarily amid rising external pressures, which also led to fluctuations in raw materials procurement and market prices.

However, he noted that China's economic fundamentals remain solid, supported by its supersized

domestic market and resilient industrial and supply chains, along with policy measures that have helped sustain steady growth.

Though overall manufacturing activity moderated, certain sectors continued to show resilience and growth.

The PMI for high-tech manufacturing stood at 51.5 percent, well above the overall manufacturing level, with both production and new orders sub-indices exceeding 52 percent, reflecting the sector's continued strong momentum.

Sectors such as agricultural and sideline food processing, food, liquor, pharmaceuticals, and beverages and refined tea also saw their production and new orders sub-indices come in above 53 percent, driven by the continued release of demand potential in China's supersized domestic market.

Despite headwinds, business expectations remained in expansion territory, with the production and business activity expectations index standing at 52.1 percent in April.

In particular, enterprises in sectors such as food, liquor, beverages and refined tea, automobiles, and railway, ship and aerospace equipment all saw their expectations indices rise above 58, indicating strong business optimism.

In the non-manufacturing sector, the PMI has stayed above 50 for four consecutive months this

year, indicating a stable pace of expansion.

Business activity indices in sectors related to air transport, telecommunications, radio, television and satellite transmission services, internet software and information technology services, and insurance remained above 55, indicating robust growth in overall business volume.

The business activity expectations index came in at 56.4, remaining in a relatively high range, with most services enterprises maintaining a positive outlook.

China's economy has started 2025 with renewed vigor, with its gross domestic product registering 5.4 percent year-on-year growth in the first quarter.

Chinese policymakers recognized this positive trend at a high-level meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee last Friday, while cautioning that an economic recovery requires further consolidation to withstand intensifying external shocks.

Looking ahead, it is imperative that the country coordinates domestic economic work with responses to international economic headwinds, and deals with the uncertainty of drastic changes in the external environment with the certainty of its own high-quality development, Zhao said. – Xinhua