

Sam Hou Fai announces his CE candidacy

'Macau's long-term development depends on nation's support'

Yuki Lei

With only 46 days left until the polling day of the sixth-term chief executive election on October 13, Sam Hou Fai, the former president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) who revealed last week that he was considering running in the election, formally announced at a press conference yesterday his candidacy for the position of the Macau Special Administrative Region's chief executive (CE), putting forward his philosophy of administration of "forging ahead together by upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground".

During the one-hour press conference at the Macau Science Centre in Nape, Sam underlined that Macau's long-term development could not be achieved without the nation's support and, therefore, with the nation's reform and opening-up by adopting the new era's economic development strategy, Macau must take timely measures to seize the opportunity and follow the pace of the nation's development: "In the past 25 years, Macau has undergone tremendous changes in terms of its total economic output, the income of its residents, employment security and social welfare, which is a 'non-disadvantageous' development thanks to the implementation of a unique political institutional arrangement in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), that is, the high degree of autonomy given to us by the nation under the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, which is further proof of the fact that we, as a part of our country and our motherland, have to seize the great opportunities of fully integrating into the nation's development, making use of the advantages of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle to serve and deepen the progress of the nation's reforms and opening-up by taking advantage of the blending of Chinese and Western cultures".

Sam went on to emphasise the need for "upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground" in Macau: "In the face of challenges and difficulties encountered in the course of development, Macau should insist on reform and opening-up to stimulate social development and integrate into the overall situation of the nation's development, recognising its own regional advantages and giving full play to its positioning as the 'One Centre, One Platform and One Base' to contribute to the nation's development".

Macau's former chief judge added that in the past 25 years since Macau's return to the



Sam Hou Fai announces his candidacy for the sixth-term chief executive election during yesterday's press conference at the Macau Science Centre in Nape. - Xinhua

motherland, the "One Country, Two Systems" principle has advanced to the middle stage and social development has entered an important phase, facing many challenges and contradictions, including natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the international political environment in recent years. Sam also said he believed that it was necessary for Macau to reform and open up as well in order to achieve new breakthroughs in development.

Considering that Macau includes the Macanese community, Sam pledged that Macau will continue to protect the rights and interests of the Macanese community in accordance with the law, respecting its traditions, customs and culture, and at the same time, continue to make use of the position of "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" to create a better environment and opportunities for its development: "The Macanese community is an important part of Macau's society and a manifestation of Macau's uniqueness, and they have made significant contributions to Macau's development".

According to previous statements by the

local government, the central government has granted Macau the positions of "One Centre, One Platform and One Base", namely a "World Centre of Tourism and Leisure", a "China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform", and an "Exchange and Cooperation Base with Chinese Culture as its Mainstream and Coexistence of Different Cultures", to bolster the city's appropriate economic diversification and sustainable growth.

The Macanese community is estimated by observers to account for about 2 percent of Macau's population. Customarily, the term "Macanese" refers to local-born residents of mixed Portuguese and Asian extraction or upbringing, as well as the community's diaspora.

Sam's 5-point philosophy of administration

Sam delivered at the press conference his manifesto on his candidature for the sixth-term chief executive post, putting forward a five-point philosophy of administration, the first of which includes the accurate implementation of the "One Country, Two

Systems" principle, stressing the importance of the central government's jurisdiction over Macau and the autonomy Macau enjoys, and that neither of the two should be neglected.

Secondly, to capitalise on the advantages of "One Country, Two Systems" in order to deepen ties and exchanges with other countries and regions, especially Portuguese-speaking and Southeast Asian countries, with a view to transforming Macau into an international metropolis and attracting top talents from all over the world. He also mentioned the need to speed up the integration into the overall situation of the nation's development, and to spare no efforts in promoting the appropriate diversification of the local economy and fostering the development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, as well as in building "law-based Macau", pushing forward innovative changes in the public administration and enhancing the level of scientific decision making.

'Many Macau residents recognise me as long-time Macau resident'

As a native of Zhongshan City in Guangdong Province who moved to Macau in 1986, Sam, 62, said that although he has not been a prominent figure in society, he has started his family in Macau, and his children and grandchildren were born in Macau, with three generations living in Macau, "I believe that many Macau residents recognise me as a long-time Macau resident", adding that he has travelled around Macau, including its narrow streets and alleys, and his knowledge of markets and supermarkets is no worse than that of many well-known people.

With nearly 40 years of experience in Macau's judicial system, including serving as the president of the Court of Final Appeal for nearly 25 years, Sam pointed out that the biggest reform of Macau's judicial system after its return to the motherland was the handing over of the judicial administration, which was previously the responsibility of the local government, to the courts themselves, adding that he set up a central court office, which, under the law, consists of three parts, namely judges, judicial staff, and public servants responsible for administrative and financial affairs, with different requirements and benefits for each group, similar to a "comprehensive small-scale government".

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The Macau Post Daily

China-US strategic communication held in Beijing, seeing candid, substantive, constructive discussions

- Story on p. 6

Thailand has suffered 'judicial coup': opposition leader

Thailand's main opposition leader yesterday accused judges of mounting a "judicial coup", after court rulings that ousted the kingdom's prime minister and dissolved its most popular party.

- Story on p. 8

UK's Starmer promises 'reset' on Germany trip

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on a visit to Berlin yesterday that a planned new treaty with Germany was part of his nation's push to mend EU ties damaged by Brexit.

- Story on p. 11

Declaration of Candidacy*

As stipulated in the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Chief Executive Election Law of the Macao SAR, I hereby announce my decision to stand for the election for the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Macao SAR.

This decision is fundamentally driven by the call of the times to fully, faithfully, and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems and contribute to building a great country and achieving national rejuvenation. It is made out of a strong sense of mission to uphold Macao's long-term prosperity and stability and demonstrate Macao's renewed sense of responsibility and enterprise on the new journey of the new era. It also derives from an original aspiration to work together for a better future of Macao and deliver better lives for the people of Macao.

Cherished as a pearl of our motherland, Macao has seen a sea change since its return and impressive achievements in the practice of One Country, Two Systems. Such accomplishments would not have been possible without the enduring strong support of the country and the concerted efforts of various sectors of society and Macao residents. Macao, our common home, carries our precious memories, unremitting efforts, and aspirations and dreams. With deep love for this warm and harmonious home, I have dedicated myself to the work of the judiciary with a strong passion for nearly four decades. I have been advocating the core value of the rule of law, upholding Macao's sound reputation of the rule of law and responding to people's desire for equity and justice. Together with all of you, I have experienced and witnessed Macao's extraordinary journey of returning to the motherland and implementing the policy of One Country, Two Systems.

The motherland always provides the strongest backing for Macao. With

a prosperous motherland, Macao will embrace even broader horizons. Our country has now drawn a blueprint for further deepening reform comprehensively to move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. This endeavor to build a great country and realize national rejuvenation is closely intertwined with the future of Macao and the well-being of Macao residents. Macao is a member of the big family of our motherland. It is thus incumbent upon the SAR to keep pace with national development momentum, give full play to its distinctive strengths and strive for new progress to make its due contribution. That said, I'm fully aware of the issues and challenges facing Macao's development and prosperity amid profound changes in and outside the SAR. I also recognize that our people have many new expectations and aspirations for better lives. All this entails better governance of the SAR. The reason why I stand for the election is to contribute my share to uniting various sectors of society in an effort to make Macao more prosperous and harmonious and make people's lives better and happier. I am ready to work with tireless dedication for the development of Macao and the country.

My philosophy of administration is to **forge ahead together by upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground**. In doing so, we will pool wisdom and strength to ensure steady and sustained progress. At the new historical starting point, we need to build consensus of the whole society, remain mindful of potential risks and move forward to open up new prospects. We need to bring together different sectors to jointly pursue development and prosperity, see that the fruits of economic and social development are shared among the people and inspire love for the country and Macao among the broadest public. We need to uphold the right path and direction of One Country, Two Systems, resolutely safeguard national

sovereignty, security and development interests and maintain Macao's long-term prosperity and stability. And we need to rise to challenges, deepen reform with determination and strive for new horizons and new progress.

If successfully elected, I pledge to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems, faithfully uphold the fundamental purpose of One Country, Two Systems and fulfill duties in strict accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law. I pledge to seize the historic opportunities brought about by national development and work with the governing team of the new-term government to create a brighter future for Macao together with all sectors of society.

--We will be committed to **improving governance efficiency**. We will, with greater resolve, apply a new thinking to administration, deepen public administrative reform, adopt a better way of exercising administration, provide higher-quality public services and improve the legal system. We will work diligently and frugally to meet our duty, build a vibrant, united and coordinated governing team and enhance the capability to advance law-based governance.

--We will be committed to **leveraging distinctive strengths**. We will, with more concrete steps, pursue greater development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to proactively align with national strategies in a more targeted manner. We will endeavor to build Macao into an international hub for high-caliber talent and polish Macao's "golden business card" as an international metropolis, so that the SAR can make greater contribution in the process of integrating itself into overall national development.

--We will be committed to **promoting diversified development**. We will, with new measures, encourage all-round innovation and improve the business environment

with a focus on the development of "One Center, One Platform and One Base". We will consolidate and strengthen the tourism and leisure industry, vigorously foster new quality productive forces, support the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries and push forward the innovative development of small and medium enterprises to improve the quality and effectiveness of appropriate economic diversification.

--We will be committed to **building a better home**. We will, with redoubled efforts, forge a solid shield for safeguarding national security, carry forward the fine tradition of loving the country and Macao, advance all-round progress of social programs, continuously improve residents' livelihoods and care for young people. With people's aspirations for better lives as our top priority of administration, we will endeavor to increase people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and also the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland. As Macao ushers in the best times for its development, I'm confident and determined to, under the strong leadership of the Central Government and with the strong support from the mainland, write a new chapter of the successful practice of One Country, Two Systems with Macao characteristics together with all of you.

**English translation of Sam Hou Fai's Declaration of Candidacy for the October 13 Macao Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Election provided by his election campaign office yesterday. The full text has not been edited by the Post in order to ensure its authenticity. Sam delivered the candidacy declaration in a nine-minute speech at the Macao Science Centre yesterday morning, followed by an hour-long press conference.*

Sam Hou Fai announces his CE candidacy

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'It is necessary to promote economic diversification'

Sam, who has no business background, underlined yesterday that "no matter how difficult or tough the situation may be, it is necessary to promote economic diversification, and there is no turning back", adding that "economic diversification is a must-answer question" which is not only a requirement by the central authorities, but also a consensus of the local community: "The tourism and gaming industry has seen disorderly development and wild expansion, not only crowded social resources, but also affected the career development of young people – one industry only is not conducive to the long-term development of Macau, and has a very large negative impact".

In the future, Sam said, his team will also reach out to the community and the business sector, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to jointly study and explore how to change their business models and concepts and innovate their business practices and methods: "We cannot change the general trend of society, but we can follow the trend to develop and improve our competitiveness".

At the press conference, Sam also announced the members of his campaign office, including his election campaign trustee



Members of the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office, including Chan Ka Leong (from left to right), president of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau; Lei Wun Kong, president of the Macao Legal Promotion Association; Sam Hou Fai; and Ip Sio Kai, a lawmaker and chairman of the Macao Bankers' Association as well as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), pose after the one-hour press conference. – Photo: Yuki Lei

Lei Wun Kong, president of the Macao Legal Promotion Association; office head Ip Sio Kai, a member of the Macao Legislative Assembly (AL) and chairman of the Macao Bankers' Association and a member of the National

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC); and deputy office head Chan Ka Leong, president of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (commonly known as Kai Fong).

The nomination period for the sixth-term chief executive election begins today and runs until September 12, indicating that Sam has two weeks to be endorsed by at least 66 members of the 400-member Macao Chief Executive Election Committee, or 16.5 percent of its total number of electors, to formally launch his bid to become Macau's sixth-term chief executive.

Meanwhile, Sam's election campaign office announced yesterday afternoon that his election campaign trustee will collect his nomination form from the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo at 9:30 a.m. today.

If, as widely expected, elected Macau's next chief executive, Sam would be the special administrative region's first head of government not born here. However, he would be the first to be fluent in Portuguese, one of Macau's two official languages, alongside Chinese.

While Sam would be the first judge to head the Macao SAR, Macau's first- and second-term chief executive (Edmund Ho Hau Wah) was a chartered accountant and certified auditor, while third- and fourth-term chief executive (Fernando Chui Sai On) studied public hygiene and public health in the US and worked a school principal. Current chief executive Ho Iat Seng was a businessman before he became Macau's fifth-term chief executive nearly five years ago. ■

Spirit of CPC Central Committee 3rd plenum helps guiding Macau development: Ho

William Chan

A seminar to promote the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held yesterday afternoon at the Services Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex).

During the seminar, where 500 government officials and sector leaders attended, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng highlighted that the event aided government officials and various sectors of Macau's civil society in grasping the essence of the third plenary session, elucidating crucial issues regarding the new era's path and changes to be undertaken.

The seminar featured Shen Chunyao, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Constitution and Law Committee and Director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, along with Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao as key speakers.

In specific terms, Ho said the third plenary session aims to further capitalise on Macau's unique advantages under the "One Country, Two Systems" institutional framework, make the city's "golden business card" as an international metropolis shine even brighter, as well as contributing to the nation's rapid establishment of a new development pattern. This includes fostering a hub for international high-end talent, playing a more significant role in the country's external opening, and deepening cooperation within the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Ho noted that his government will "transform the decisions and plans made during the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee into concrete actions"

in compliance with the central authorities' resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively.

Zheng Xincong, the Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), also spoke at the seminar, expressing his hope that everyone actively learns and promotes the spirit of the plenary session.

Zheng also called for continuous efforts to deepen understanding of the spirit, comprehensively grasp the significance of further reform, support the local government in its reform endeavours and national security, while advancing economic diversification and modernising governance capabilities.

By fully utilising Macau's role as a bridge to international countries, Zheng encourages the continuous promotion of broader and deeper cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Southeast Asian, and European countries, in order to instil confidence in the international community that a better China leads to a better world, rallying widespread support for China's reform and opening-up efforts.

Another seminar, aimed at government and judicial officials, as well as members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly, was conducted at the Forum Macao Complex in the morning. Following the seminar, several government officials spoke to the press.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon noted that Macau needed to fully recognise its own advantages and steadfastly advance the "One Centre, One Platform, and One Base" policy.

Particularly in economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchange with Portuguese-speaking



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng delivers a speech during yesterday afternoon's seminar to promote the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).
- Photo: William Chan

countries, Cheong noted that in order to ensure the full implementation of the central authorities' decisions and plans for Macau, the city should effectively leverage its role as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, an economic and trade cooperation platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Ng Wai Han, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), noted that

the spirit of the Third Plenary Session underscores the importance of further comprehensive deepening of reforms. This provides crucial guidance for the local government to deepen public administrative reforms, reinforcing the determination to further deepen these reforms.

In specific terms, Ng noted that the government will aim to make services more responsive to the needs of citizens and businesses,

further increasing public satisfaction with public services.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that Shen, the seminar's key speaker, expressed his hope that Macau will further establish itself as an international hub for high-end talent, enhancing its role in China's external opening. Additionally, Lei noted Shen pointed out the necessity of the deepening cooperation within the Greater Bay Area, underlining the need for Macau to play a more significant role in policy alignment and integration within the Greater Bay Area. Lei also highlighted the importance of appropriately diversifying the city's economy based on its "1+4" model.

Deputy Director of the Economic and Technology Development Bureau (DSED) Chan Tze Wai underlined that Macau serves as a World Centre for Tourism and Leisure, with favourable conditions such as a free port, and a standalone customs territory which align well with international business practices. She noted that Macau should further advance its internationalised, market-orientated, and rule-of-law business environment to attract more foreign enterprises and talents from around the world, while also serving as a platform for foreign enterprises to access the vast mainland market. ■

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Central authorities' delegation delivers spirit of CPC Central Committee 3rd plenum in Macau

Tony Wong

During a session yesterday afternoon held in Macau about the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao said that the nation's next five-year plan for its socioeconomic development will be a powerful force that can help Macau make concrete achievements in its appropriate economic diversification campaign.

The nation's ongoing 14th Five-Year Plan for its socioeconomic development covers the period from 2021 to 2025.

Wang said that Macau should more actively align itself with the nation's development planning with the aim of continuing to enhance its competitiveness internationally.

At the invitation of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government, a delegation from the central authorities visited Macau yesterday where its two members briefed representatives from various sectors of Macau's civil society about the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

The delegation's two members were Wang, and Shen Chunyao, a vice chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Constitution and Law Committee and the director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.

The MSAR government held two sessions yesterday, one in the morning and the other in the



Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao (left) and Shen Chunyao, a vice chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Constitution and Law Committee and the director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, address yesterday afternoon's session about the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), at the Forum Macao Complex. — Photos: GCS

afternoon, where Wang and Shen briefed the respective participants about the third plenary session's spirit. According to a statement from the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday, the session in the morning was attended by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, senior local officials, members of the local government's top advisory Executive Council, local legislators, judges, and prosecutors.

According to the GCS statement, in addition to Ho Iat Seng and top local officials, the session in the afternoon was attended by Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Macau's first chief executive and now vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Central People's Government Liaison Office in the MSAR Director Zheng Xincong, Ho Iat

Seng's predecessor Fernando Chui Sai On, local deputies to the NPC, Macau members of the CPPCC National Committee, as well as representatives from various sectors of Macau's civil society such as business, professional, education, and news media.

According to the GCS statement, both sessions yesterday were each attended by about 500 participants.

The local government invited the media to cover yesterday afternoon's session.

Yesterday's two sessions were held at the Services Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex), located near Macau Tower.

The third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, which was held in Beijing from July



15 to 18, adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation.

During yesterday afternoon's session, Wang praised Macau for making extraordinary contributions to the nation's reform and opening up and modernisation by giving full play to its unique advantages in linking the motherland with the rest of the world.

Wang also said that the Ministry of Commerce is now planning the extension of the implementation of the Mainland and Macau Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), aiming to benefit Macau's continuous development.

Wang also pointed out that the central government's objective of pushing ahead with the

development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is to help Macau promote its appropriate economic diversification campaign.

During yesterday afternoon's session, Shen acknowledged that Macau's civil society is paying close attention to the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

Shen also suggested that Macau can promote its institutional innovations in compliance with the spirit of the third plenary session.

Shen also suggested that Macau should tell a good story to the world about its implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle with the aim of highlighting its distinctive multicultural blend.

Shen said that the "One Country, Two Systems" principle is an example of institutional innovations. ■

Cross-platform interchange b/w LRT Taipa & Seac Pai Van sections to open Sunday

Tony Wong

The cross-platform interchange connecting the current Light Rail Transit (LRT) Taipa-Cotai section and Union Hospital Station on the future Seac Pai Van section will open on Sunday, enabling passengers to take trains on the Taipa-Cotai section from the Macao Union Hospital through an indoor corridor, the government-owned LRT operator, Macau Light Rapid Transit Corporation Limited (MLM), announced in a statement yesterday.

The 1.6-kilometre-long Seac Pai Van section, which is scheduled to open at the end of this year, will connect the Macao Union Hospital in Cotai and Coloane's sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing community.

The LRT Seac Pai Van section only has two stations - one outside the Macao Union Hospital and the other one outside the Seac Pai Van public housing community.

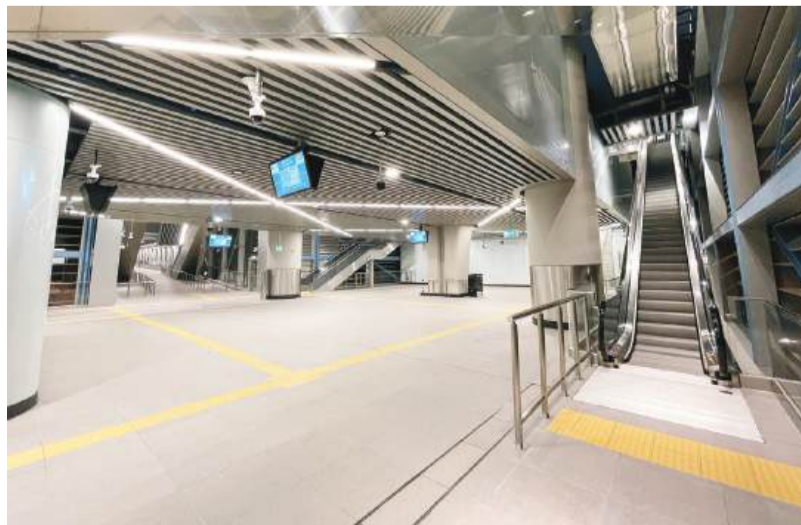
The two stations are officially known as Union Hospital Station and Seac Pai Van Station.

The cross-platform interchange that will open on Sunday has been built on the LRT Taipa-Cotai section, with an indoor corridor connected to its nearby Union Hospital Station, enabling LRT passengers to change trains between the Taipa-Cotai section and the Seac Pai Van section, after the latter starts operating.

The upcoming opening of the cross-platform interchange and its adjacent Union Hospital Station on September 1, announced by yesterday's MLM statement, will first enable those from the large-scale hospital to walk from Union Hospital Station, through an indoor corridor, to the interchange to catch a train on the Taipa-Cotai section.

The new cross-platform interchange is located between Lotus Station and East Asian Games Station on the Taipa-Cotai section.

Yesterday's statement noted that from the coming Sunday, trains travelling on the Taipa-Cotai section will stop at the new cross-platform interchange, enabling LRT passengers to walk to the adjacent Union Hospital Station and then the Macao Union Hospital through an indoor corridor. ■



This photo taken in May shows the then newly completed cross-platform interchange on the LRT Taipa-Cotai section. — Photo: DSOP

Filipino domestic helper nabbed for stealing goods in supermarket

Ginnie Liang

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested a Filipino woman on Monday for stealing goods worth 400 patacas from a supermarket in San Kio district, a PSP spokesperson announced during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 40-year-old suspect surnamed Mayuyu, who holds a Philippine passport, has just been hired as a domestic helper.

According to the spokesperson, the supermarket staff saw a Filipino woman putting several items from the shelves in the supermarket into her own bag and attempting to leave without paying for them, and the staff immediately stepped forward to stop her and reported it to the police.

Under questioning, the spokesperson said, the woman told the police that she was suddenly in a trance and only forgot to pay for the goods, without any intention of stealing the goods.

The woman has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge, according to the spokesperson. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows two PSP officers escorting the theft suspect to the police station in the northern district.

Elderly woman cheated by 'guess who I am' scam: police

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) uncovered yesterday a "guess who I am" phone scam, in which a man purporting to be the victims' "son" cheated an elderly local woman out of a total of 300,000 patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a special press conference yesterday.

The victim received a call on her landline on Monday from her "son" who told her that he needed 300,000 patacas immediately, asking the victim to hand the cash over to a "female friend of his" outside her home in the central district, according to Lei.

The victim then followed the scammers' instructions, withdrew the money and handed over the cash to her "son's friend", a 21-year-old Hong Kong unemployed woman surnamed Lo, and then left separately.

The fraudster then called the victim again to ask for an additional 500,000 patacas, and

when the victim went to the bank to withdraw money, the bank staff noticed that it was suspicious that the victim withdraw a large amount of cash in one day, and contacted the victim's family members and the staff then discovered that she had been scammed, therefore, the staff reported the case to the police for assistance, Lei said.

The Judiciary Police identified Lo and arrested her on Tuesday in a hotel in the northern district, Lei said, adding that Lo admitted to committing the crime, and told the police that she had received 4,000 patacas as payment to collect the fraudulent money and hand it over to two male partners as told by "employer".

The police are still tracing the whereabouts of the money and the rest of the people involved in the case. Lo was referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for investigation, facing a charge of fraud involving a considerably large sum of money. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded fraud suspect from Hong Kong involving a "guess who I am" phone scam from the PJ headquarters in Zape to a PJ vehicle yesterday. - Photo: Ginnie Liang

32nd Int'l fireworks contest to budget at around 18.45 million patacas



The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Acting Director Cheng Wai Tong (fifth from left), jury members, and prize winners pose during yesterday's press conference held at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre. - Photo: Ginnie Liang

Ginnie Liang

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Acting Director Cheng Wai Tong announced yesterday that the 32nd Macao International Fireworks Display Contest slated to be held on September 7, 14 and 21 and October 1 and 6 will be budgeted at around 18.45 million patacas, with 18 million patacas to be borne by the city's six integrated resort (IR) operators.

Cheng made the announcement yesterday during a press conference held at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre yesterday, adding that the five nights of pyrotechnic displays will feature 10 competitors from China, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Spain and Thailand with each spanning about 18 minutes.

Besides, a prize giving ceremony for the event's Chinese language slogan competition was also held during yesterday's press conference, with a total of eight slogans selected from 236 entries with the theme of the 32nd Int'l fireworks contest.

Cheng said he believes the international firework companies will create ten mesmerising shows and spark greater joy for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, adding that he expected this year's event to attract around 700,000 spectators, which is similar to last year.

The firework shows will be held at 9 p.m. and at 9:40 p.m. on the five days in the sky above Macau Tower, Cheng said, adding that the recommended five best viewing locations to watch the fireworks are, namely Anim'Arte NAM VAN; Avenida de Sagres (next to the Mandarin Oriental hotel); the area between Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre and Kun Iam Statue Waterfront Leisure Area on Avenida Dr Sun Yat-Sen; the waterfront at the Macau Science Centre (MSC),

and Avenida do Oceano in Taipa, according to Cheng.

The firework displays will be broadcast live on TDM Ou Mun TV Channel and TDM Entertainment TV Channel, while synchronized music will stream from TDM - Radio Macao's Chinese Channel (FM100.7) at 9 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. every firework display evenings, Cheng noted.

In addition, MGTO and the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (commonly known as Kai Fong in Cantonese) will present a Fireworks Carnival next to the waterfront of Macao Science Centre from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on each fireworks evening, combining food, performances and games, adding vibrant vibes to the five firework nights, according to Cheng.

To boost the public's engagement with the Fireworks Contest, the Photo Contest and Student Drawing Contest will also be held this year. Details about the 32nd Macao International Fireworks Display Contest can be found on: <https://fireworks.macaotourism.gov.mo>. ■

Over 20 fans fall for concert ticket scam

Rui Pastorin

The Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement yesterday that fans of a famous boy band from the mainland fell for an online ticket

scam for a recently held concert in Macau, noting that PJ had received at least 20 reports involving 24 victims since August 23 resulting in a loss exceeding 210,000 patacas.

The statement noted that fraudsters claimed on social media that they had concert tickets for sale after official channels had sold out. The victims were lured into paying in full or making a deposit, with the promise that the tickets would be delivered on the day of the concert. But when the day came, the victims were unable to contact the scammers.

The Judiciary Police's Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre urged members of the public to always buy tickets from event organisers or licensed retailers; avoid buying through private or unofficial channels, especially if they demand one to pay first and get the tickets later; and to use the Judiciary Police's "Anti-Fraud Programme" to check the scam risk index or dial their anti-fraud enquiry hotline on 8800 7777 or the crime report hotline on 993. ■

Renowned Boy Band from Mainland China held concert in Macao Over 20 "fans" fell prey to concert ticket scam



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns members of the public about a concert ticket scam.

STOCK MARKETS

HK's Hang Seng Index closes 1.02 pct lower

HONG KONG - Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 182.22

points, or 1.02 percent, to close at 17,692.45 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.27

percent to end at 6,225.99 points and the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 1.59 percent to 3,445.46 points. -Xinhua



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