

# 'Macau Consumer Grand Prix' to start Monday – prizes worth 1.68 million patacas

Yuki Lei

Following the success of the 20-week "Northern District Consumer Grand Prix" sales promotion campaign, the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) has once again joined hands with the Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) to launch next Monday the three-month "Macau Consumer Grand Prix" campaign, with the grand lucky draw featuring prizes worth up to 1.68 million patacas, including a top cash prize of 300,000 patacas.

The large-scale consumer sales promotion drive has been slated to take place between September 30 and December 29, in a bid to boost the community economy. Attended by Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, DSED Acting Director Chan Tze Wai and Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, as well as ACM President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai, representatives from the city's various district industry and commerce



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (front, centre), among other senior government officials, as well as ACM President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai, representatives from the industry and commerce federations, social organisations and business operators of different local districts, including the city's six integrated resort (IR) operators, pose during yesterday's kick-off ceremony of the "Macau Consumer Grand Prix" campaign at the San Kio Basketball Court. – Photos: Yuki Lei

federations, social organisations and business operators, including Macau's six integrated resort (IR) operators, the kick-off ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at the San Kio Basketball Court.

During the 13-week campaign period, all local e-Wallet users will be

entitled to three weekly lucky draws of e-Vouchers each time when they make a single purchase of 50 patacas or more via mobile payment at online and offline merchants throughout Macau between Mondays and Fridays. The e-Vouchers received can be used for each purchase three times or more of their face value at over 22,000 local businesses on the forthcoming Saturdays and Sundays until December 29.

Chan said in a speech during yesterday's ceremony that in order for residents and businesses to be able to celebrate the National Day on October 1 together, the campaign has been brought forward to the end of this month, with a budget of about 110 million patacas, including an additional 10 million patacas in e-Vouchers that will be given out in the first week of the campaign.

In his opening remarks during the ceremony, Ma said that in view of the current socio-economic environment, and considering that residents have already become accustomed to the mode of the "Northern District Consumer Grand Prix", the government has once again joined hands with the Macau Chinese Chamber of Commerce to organise another consumer sales promotion campaign within a short period of time and extend its scope to all districts in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), in the hope that the effectiveness of the event can be continued, the community's economy can be supported and revitalised, and confidence in the sustainability of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can be strengthened. Ma said: "Our

chamber, in recent months, has paid five visits to the various districts to understand the operation of SMEs, San Kio district in particular, to conduct a fact-finding study".

According to Ma, as part of the campaign's attraction, the chamber will contribute 300,000 patacas as a cash prize for the grand lucky draw and, at the same time, receive prize sponsorships from the Bank of China (BOC), Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the six local IR operators, Tai Fung Bank, MacauPass, and China Guangfa Bank (CGB), with the grand lucky draw having a prize pool worth up to 1,680,000 patacas.

"The biggest difference to the last time is that this time we do not need to spend the weekend across the districts, unlike in the past when consumers had to deliberately go to the northern district in order to have their e-Vouchers redeemed in shops or restaurants there," Ma told the media on the sidelines of the ceremony, urging businesses to also provide some weekend spending discounts in conjunction with the sales promotion campaign, thereby jointly promoting the whole consumption atmosphere.

Having participated in the first "Northern District Consumer Grand Prix", a businessman surnamed Ieong, who runs a Burmese restaurant in the northern district, told reporters that his turnover, thanks to the last campaign, had been increased by more than 15 percent, adding he expected the upcoming campaign to stimulate his takings by about 20 percent. ■



Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Acting Director Chan Tze Wai delivers a speech during the ceremony.



Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai delivers a speech during the ceremony.

## Russia to consider nuclear response in event of 'massive' air attack: Putin

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin yesterday presented proposed changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine that would allow it to launch a nuclear response to a "massive air attack".

"We will consider such a possibility once we receive reliable

information about a massive launch of air and space attack weapons and their crossing our state border," the president said at a televised meeting with security officials on updating the country's nuclear deterrence doctrine.

– AFP

## Trump says would destroy Iran if it 'harms' a US election candidate



WASHINGTON – Donald Trump said yesterday that Iran should be blown "to smithereens" if the Islamic republic is involved in the harming of a US election candidate or ex-president, after US intelligence warned of threats from Tehran against the Republican's life.

"If I were the president, I would inform the threatening country, in this case Iran, that if you do anything to harm this person, we are going to blow your largest cities and the country itself to smithereens," Trump said at a campaign event in North Carolina. – AFP

Macau's most popular English-language newspaper – Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

### Young people's changing attitude toward food reflects nation's evolution

Chinese people have come a long way in ensuring their food security over the 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

– Story on p. 6

### 'The UN has betrayed us': Israeli ambassador

Israel's new UN ambassador accused the global body of pummeling his nation with unfair and disproportionate criticism since the October 7 onslaught, leaving the country feeling betrayed.

– Story on p. 10

### 'Crazy' tree planter greening São Paulo concrete jungle

In just over two decades, Brazilian Hélio da Silva has single-handedly planted about 40,000 trees in the urban jungle that is São Paulo.

– Story on p. 12



# 2024 GEG Int'l Marathon slated for Dec 1

Ginnie Liang

The 2024 Galaxy Entertainment Macau International Marathon will be held on Sunday, December 1, Sports Bureau (ID) President Luis Gomes announced during a press conference at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai yesterday, adding that an all-online registration system will open for sign-up on Saturday for the marathon and half-marathon categories, and on Sunday for the mini-marathon, according to an ID statement yesterday.

The event is jointly organised by the Sports Bureau and the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM) as well as the Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), the statement noted.

According to the statement, a total of 12,000 spots are available for this year's event, comprising 1,600 for the marathon, 4,800 for the half-marathon and 5,600 for the mini-marathon.

The races will start at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, with the marathon and half-marathon races starting at 6 a.m. and the mini-marathon race starting at 6:15 a.m. The marathon and half-marathon courses will cross the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge (colloquially known as the old bridge) past the UNESCO World Heritage-listed A-Ma Temple and across Sai Van Bridge



This poster provided by the Sports Bureau (ID) yesterday promotes the upcoming 2024 Galaxy Entertainment Macau International Marathon.

on the way back to the finish line, the statement noted.

Gomes pointed out in his speech that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, which, he said, makes this edition of the Macau International Marathon "even more significant".

"Hosting a variety of large-scale international sporting events will help to continually drive the sport development in Macau, and the synergistic effect of sporting

events will bolster the city's sports industry and appropriate economic diversification", Gomes was quoted in the statement as saying during yesterday's conference.

GEG Director Philip Cheng Yee Sing said that GEG will continue to host the GEG Handover Cup and the Galaxy Entertainment Macau International Marathon Carnival to enhance the festive spirit in multifaceted ways, and showcase Macau's charm as a "City of Sports" to the world, the statement said.

To encourage participants to

achieve great results, the 'GEG Handover Cup' will be introduced in this edition's event, with winners to be awarded prizes from GEG, according to the statement.

AGAM President Chan Pou Sin noted that his association attaches great importance to the preparation and organisation of this annual large-scale running event, adding that it has started a raft of training sessions, including staff selection and recruitment, task training, and course measurement, in order to enhance preparations and arrangements for

the event, the statement said.

The statement underlined that all those keen to join must have a personal online registration account for the event to sign up for the race. Those without an online account may create one via the official website, the statement added.

The statement noted that Visa, MasterCard, UnionPay, MPay, BOC Mobile Banking, UnionPay Online Pay, WeChat Pay China and Alipay China are all accepted for registration fee payments.

Members of the public may register on the event's official website: [www.macaomarathon.com](http://www.macaomarathon.com), or via the "Macao International Marathon" mobile app, adding that participants may collect their number bib, timing chip, and the notes to participants on M/F of Broadway Macau™ between November 27 and November 30 by presenting their registration receipt and identification document.

Participants are reminded to carefully read the regulations and understand the race route, and are advised to prepare and practise for the event based on their own physical conditions. For more information, interested individuals may visit the official website [www.macaomarathon.com](http://www.macaomarathon.com), or follow the 'Macao Major Sporting Events' Facebook page, '澳門體育' (Macao Sports) WeChat public account and '澳門特區體育局' (Macao SAR Sports Bureau) WeChat subscription account. ■

## Mainland visitor loses 120,000 yuan in online loan scam

William Chan

A mainland visitor reported to the police on Tuesday that he was cheated out of 120,000 yuan in an online loan scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said at a press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, earlier on Tuesday the victim saw a post on



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday's press conference.

- Photo: William Chan

social media offering a personal cash loan. He clicked onto the link and was contacted by a "customer service manager", who asked the victim to fill in his personal information and bank account details on the website to borrow 100,000 yuan.

The victim followed the instruction and submitted a loan request, after which the "manager" told him that he had input the incorrect bank card details, and demanded he deposit money to facilitate the granting of the loan. The victim transferred a total of 120,000 yuan to the scammers.

Later that day, the victim received a call from the mainland anti-fraud centre, informing him that his bank transfer was linked to fraudulent activities. Eventually having doubts about the "deal", the victim reported the case to the Judiciary Police. ■

## Hit-and-run driver crashes into road verge, railings

William Chan

A local man has been arrested after crashing into the road verge, as well as two trees, and the railings along Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Sai Van and then simply driving away, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Wong, who is in his thirties, told the police that he's a car salesman.

According to Cheong, the police received a report in the early hours of Monday from a carpark security guard at Alameda Dr Carlos d'Assumpcao about a car with both front and rear damage that ruined the carpark, scraping the wheel rims along the surface as the tyres were flat.

The police identified the car owner as Wong, and discovered that he was responsible for the accident in Sai Wan, leaving debris and car-part fragments behind, as well as damaging the road



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the local hit-and-run suspect to the Traffic Police Headquarters.

surface in Nape, before entering the car park. Cheong added that despite the police attempting to contact Wong numerous times and even visiting his flat, he did not respond.

Later that day, Wong went to the police station and confessed to causing the accidents. He claimed that he was frightened and unsure

of what to do, so he parked the car and returned home.

A breathalyser test showed that his alcohol concentration was 0 grams per litre of blood at the police station.

Wong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of evading responsibility, Cheong said. ■

## 9 locals fall for phishing scams

William Chan

Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said at a press conference yesterday that the police received separate reports from nine local residents saying that their credit card information was stolen when clicking onto phishing links earlier this week.

According to Cheong, the victims received messages

from local banks claiming that their loyalty points were close to expiration. The messages urged the victims to click on embedded links to reclaim their purported "gifts".

The victims provided their credit card information as requested. However, they later discovered that unauthorised deductions had been made from their bank accounts, ranging from 1,700 to 26,200 patacas. ■

### Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor - Harald Brüning
- Office Manager - Sally Cheong
- Marketing Manager - Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor - Maria Cheang Ut Meng
- Editors - Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporter - Tony Wong
- Reporters - Rui Pastorin, Yuki Lei, Ginnie Liang, William Chan
- Chief Graphic Designer - Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer - Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants - Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services - AFP, Xinhua



### Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.  
ONE OR TWO SHOWERS.  
FORCE 2 TO 4 SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 98%.



26°C~31°C

Source: SMG



# Public bus traffic to be adjusted for National Day Golden Week

MGTO chief expects daily average of 100,000 visitors

Yuki Lei

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday a raft of temporary traffic arrangements for the National Day Golden Week, reminding the public that the stopping points of some bus routes will be adjusted on October 1-7, while also urging residents and tourists alike, in addition to planning their journeys as early as possible, to also double check the real-time traffic information in advance through the bureau's "Macao Smart Go", "Bus Location" mobile apps, the official DSAT WeChat account and its website to ensure a smooth holiday.

According to yesterday's DSAT statement, next Tuesday and Wednesday no public bus routes will halt at the "Zona P/Passageiros-Este P. do Cerco" stop, but at the temporary stop next to the Police Tactical Intervention Unit (UTIP) headquarters instead. On October 3-7, as before the Golden Week, public buses will stop at the "Zona P/Passageiros-Este P. do Cerco", which, however, will only be in effect before 8 a.m. and after 3 p.m.,

i.e., between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. the buses will only pick up and set down their passengers at the temporary stop near the UTIP headquarters.

"P. do Cerco" is the Portuguese abbreviation for the Barrier Gate checkpoint.

The statement noted that between noon and 8 p.m. every day during the holidays, the bus stops at "Rua das Estalagens", "Rua dos Mercadores", "Praia Grande / Si Toi" and "Av. D. João IV / R. do Comandante Mata e Oliveira" will be temporarily suspended, while temporary traffic control will be implemented at the "Rua do Guimarães" and "Auto-silo Pak Kong" stops, during which MT4, 26, 26A and 33 passengers, instead of getting on or off the bus at the two stops, can only use the nearby temporary stops installed at Rua do Visconde Paço de Arcos, next to Rua do Coronel Ferreira and Rua Norte, respectively.

The statement added that screening measures will be adopted, as usual, to divert the flow of people in the areas with the highest concentration of tourists, between



This file photo taken last month shows passengers waiting for public buses on Rua do Campo. — Photo: Tony Wong

noon and 8 p.m. daily on October 1-7, during which the junction of Rua do Dr Pedro José Lobo and Avenida do Infante D. Henrique will be closed and queues will be set up for passengers heading to the Barrier Gate checkpoint. Routes 3 and 3X will not stop at the "Almeida Ribeiro / OCBC" stop but at the temporary stop on Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, next to Rua do Dr Pedro José Lobo.

The statement pointed out that the city's two public bus operators will deploy their staff members at the busiest stops to assist passengers, as well as closely monitor the situation at various stops, while also increasing the frequency of buses and provide additional special buses to divert passengers. The special bus routes Nos. 3BX, 17T, 21AT and 26AT will operate daily at set times. In addition, the special route No.

101XS will operate from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on October 1 (next Tuesday), while No. 25BS will operate from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the Golden Week.

The statement noted that this coming Sunday and Monday, appropriate locations will be reserved for hotel and casino shuttle buses at all border checkpoints, while between this Sunday (September 29) and October 7, the hotel and casino shuttle buses at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint will only provide point-to-point transport services.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a public event yesterday, Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that about 70 percent of the city's hotel guestroom have already been booked for the National Day holiday, with an estimated daily average of about 100,000 visitor arrivals, adding: "If the weather is favourable and all the other factors are positive, the figure might be even slightly higher than the forecast". ■

## Additional tickets for MIMF concert go on sale today



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) earlier this week shows Portuguese fado singer Mariza (left), conductor Tsung Yeh (top right) and the Macao Chinese Orchestra.

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement earlier this week that additional tickets for the "Mariza and the Macao Chinese Orchestra" concert will be available from 10 a.m. today through the Macau Ticketing Network.

The concert, for which tickets had quickly sold out due to popular demand, is part of the month-long 36<sup>th</sup> Macao International Music Festival (MIMF), themed "And the Stars Shine", taking place from Friday next week to November 4.

Other festival highlights are performances by pianists Ivo Pogorelich and Hélène Grimaud. The statement said that on October 12, Grimaud, who is from France, and the Camerata Salzburg will present Viennese School classics by Mozart and Beethoven. Meanwhile, on October 20, Yugoslav-born Croatian Pogorelich will present musical works of

the Romantic Period by Chopin, Schumann, Sibelius and Schubert, according to the statement.

Camerata Salzburg is an Austrian Chamber orchestra. Salzburg is Mozart's birthplace.

The statement added that "And the Stars Shine" installations are open to the public in Largo Camões in Taipa until Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., which also present classic scenes of the century-old opera "Tosca". The statement said that service counters will also be set up at all installations from tomorrow through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, tickets for the outreach activity "Music on the Big Screen: Cinematheque•Passion" are on sale at Cinematheque•Passion, while registration for other outreach activities can be made via one's Macao One account.

More details can be found on [www.icm.gov.mo/fimm](http://www.icm.gov.mo/fimm) ■

## Sands China, Marriott Int'l to unveil Macau's 1<sup>st</sup> 'Luxury Collection Hotel'

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator Sands China and Marriott International are slated to welcome Londoner Grand, Macau's first "Luxury Collection Hotel", set within The Londoner Macao resort, which will feature an addition of 2,405 rooms and suites.

According to a statement from Sands China earlier this week, the Georgian-inspired\* hotel is designed by Peter Silling & Associates and features rooms and suites that emit "an elegant townhouse ambience that is inspired by London's prestigious Mayfair district". Select suites will offer private terraces, dedicated children's rooms, state-of-the-art media rooms, and exclusive private plunge pools, the statement noted.

Moreover, the hotel will see five "distinctive concepts" added to The Londoner Macao's dining offerings, each "designed

to provide a unique culinary adventure". They are namely Hampton Court, which will have an international and Chinese buffet; all-day dining outlet Chelsea Garden that will feature "the widest selection of local and regional Chinese cuisines"; The Conservatory, which consists of a dim sum restaurant and tearoom, a sweet shop, and a British pub bar; and two signature Chinese restaurants, namely one serving Cantonese cuisine and the other Sichuan cuisine.

Sands China Chief Executive Officer and President Grant Chum Kwan Lock was quoted by the statement as saying: "Building on the success of The Londoner Macao, adding Londoner Grand to its portfolio represents a pivotal moment in our mission to elevate Macau's luxury hospitality landscape. This extraordinary hotel will serve as a gateway to Macau's fascinating

cultural heritage, offering guests an immersive journey into a city steeped in history, gastronomy and unforgettable experiences".

Moreover, Chief Development Officer, Greater China, Marriott International, Gavin Yu was quoted as saying: "The highly anticipated hotel will blend Macau's East-meets-West culture with The Luxury Collection's distinctive perspective on luxury, providing our guests unparalleled access to a city rich with heritage, cuisine, and captivating experiences." ■

\*Georgian architecture refers to the style of architecture that was prevalent in Britain and its colonies during the reigns of the first four British monarchs named George, from 1714 to 1830. Georgian architecture is known for its elegance and formality, and it has influenced many architectural styles in various parts of the world, especially in the US and Canada. — Source: Poe



This undated handout photo provided by Sands China earlier this week shows the Londoner Grand's Grand Terrace Suite.





# S Korean artist showcases works at Humarish Club

Rui Pastorin

Cats are taking the centre stage at the exhibition “Here or nowhere is our heaven”, which is currently on at the Humarish Club Gallery in Lisboeta Macau’s H853 Fun Factory in Cotai.

The exhibition, which kicked off last week, features over 15 works by South Korean artist Lee Kyungmi. Those visiting the exhibition will find works created using oils on constructed birch panels, almost seeming as though they are about to pop out of their frame, alongside works like “Nana ASTRO”, which are created through using oils on shaped panels.

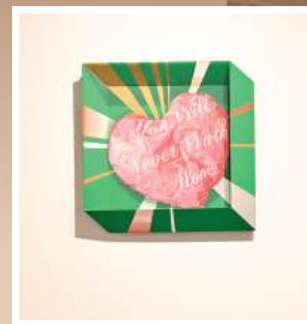
On her works, the gallery statement noted that Lee “layers time and intertwines various symbols and metaphors to create surreal landscapes from a unique perspective”, adding that her delicate and realistic brushwork shows her “ingenuity and control over

the painting in a surreal style”.

Lee, born in South Korea in 1977, is famous for her love of cats and her “street scenes on the table” oils series painted on birch boards, according to the statement. She has held solo exhibitions in places such as Seoul, Shanghai and China’s Taiwan region, as well as participated in several group exhibitions.

The statement said that the artist lives and works in South Korea, but had also previously lived in Germany and the US for many years. She has won awards and has public collections in Shanghai and different places in South Korea.

The free admission exhibition is on until October 13, with the gallery open from 12 noon to 8 p.m. daily. More details can be found on Humarish Club’s website on <https://www.humarish.com>



Here or nowhere  
is our heaven  
無論何處都是我們的天堂



Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin



## Civic leaders call for urgent revamp of sitting-out areas

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) Consultative Committee member Ku Man Tat voiced his concern yesterday over the urgency to revamp several of Macau's sitting-out areas, particularly in the densely populated northern district.

Addressing a current affairs phone-in programme, Ou Mun Gwong Cheung, hosted by Ou Mun Tin Toi – the Chinese-language radio channel of public broadcaster TDM, Ku deplord the deteriorating conditions of facilities considering the high usage rates among local residents, especially by the elderly and children.

Ku noted that the existing facilities are "outdated" and require significant upgrades. He emphasised the importance of introducing fitness equipment tailored to senior citizens' needs, ensuring that they are accessible and beneficial for all age groups.

During yesterday's phone-in programme, Northern District Community Service Consultative Council Committee Deputy Convener Kou Ngon Fong yesterday singled out specific areas that need improvement, such as the Toi San sitting-out area, which he described as too small and lacking adequate facilities compared to larger ones like the Leisure Area in Doca do Lam Mau.

Kou insisted that the community needs more spacious areas for relaxation and exercise, and he also referred to the government's plans for revamping eight sitting-out areas in the Ilha Verde and Toi San districts including a large square adjacent to Edificio do Bairro da Ilha Verde, where the government intends to introduce unique features that differ from other recreational areas.

Concerns were also raised regarding the management of sitting-out areas. Some callers told the phone-in programme that large gatherings, particularly by non-local residents, can disrupt others' enjoyment of these spaces.

Ku suggested that the bureau increase patrols in these areas and enhance education outreach to individuals from different nationalities, guiding them on the appropriate use of public spaces. Ku also said that outsourced security personnel ought to be trained to effectively handle any incidents that may arise.

Kou acknowledged that while gatherings by foreign nationals are not illegal, the length and size of these gatherings can sometimes hinder others from using the facilities. He urged the government to engage in dialogue with these groups to promote reasonable usage of the sitting-out areas. ■



Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) Consultative Committee member Ku Man Tat (right) and Northern District Community Service Consultative Council Committee Deputy Convener Kou Ngon Fong pose during the current affairs phone-in programme, Ou Mun Gwong Cheung, hosted by Ou Mun Tin Toi – the Chinese-language radio channel of public broadcaster TDM yesterday.

– Photo courtesy of TDM

## Digital pataca issuance to be launched in 3 phases: monetary chief

Staff Reporter

The local government says that the ongoing research and development of its digital pataca issuance, including trial operations, is being carried out in three phases before it can be officially launched.

The government also underlines that the future digital patacas will also be Macau's legal tender, the same as physical money, with zero credit risks.

The government also says that the future first-phase trial issuance and operation of digital patacas will be carried out by the Bank of China (BOC) Macau Branch, one of the city's two note-issuing banks, alongside Portugal's BNU.

Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) President Benjamin Chan Sau San made the remarks in an interview with public broadcaster TDM on Tuesday, which came after Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said on Monday that the government was planning to carry out a public demonstration of the prototype of the digital pataca development project at the end of this year. Ho made the remarks during Monday's opening ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Central Banks and Financiers Conference in Cotai.

The BOC Macau Branch told TDM on Tuesday that its trial operation of digital patacas was expected to start at the end of next year.

Ho said on Monday that the Macau Monetary Authority is carrying out the research and development of the digital pataca issuance in collaboration with the People's Bank of China's (PBOC) Digital Currency Institute.

Last year, Macau enacted a new law regulating its money issuance, which took effect on September 1, according to which Macau's legal tender encompasses digital currency alongside the traditional forms of currency, namely banknotes and coins, granting digital currency the same legal status as physical money.

The pataca is Macau's sole legal tender.

A follow-up AMCM statement on Monday noted that unlike common cryptocurrencies developed by the private sector, the digital pataca, aka e-Mop, is legal tender in a digital form.

The statement underlined that digital patacas have the same legal status as banknotes and coins, with zero credit risks.

The statement said that the Macau Monetary Authority is aiming to complete the setting-up of the prototype of its digital pataca development project at the end of this year, enabling the government to display the future digital patacas' functions and applications to members of the public.

The statement also said that the Macau Monetary Authority will carry out tests on the prototype in a controlled environment, aka sandbox testing, with the aim of exploring the scenarios where



Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) President Benjamin Chan Sau San talks during Tuesday's interview with public broadcaster TDM. – Photo courtesy of TDM

digital patacas can be used.

Sandbox testing refers to a controlled environment where software applications can be tested in isolation from the rest of the system.

### How 3 phases will be carried out

Speaking to TDM on Tuesday, Chan said that the local government's research and development of its digital pataca issuance is being carried out in three phases. According to Chan, the first phase is the ongoing development of a core system for the digital pataca issuance, including defining its functional scope and designing its user interface, with its prototype's public demonstration scheduled for this December.

According to TDM, Chan said that the second phase is to carry out the e-Mop development project's internal trial operation where tests will be conducted on its prototype in a controlled environment, aka sandbox tests, under a whitelist comprising certain entities and users to be selected to take part in the tests.

In the second phase, Chan said, the controlled-environment tests are expected to gradually cover different retail payments as well as payments in other scenarios.

Chan also said that the first-phase e-Mop trial operation will be carried out by the BOC Macau Branch.

Chan said that based on the results obtained from the controlled-environment tests, the government will then draft legislation regulating the e-Mop issuance and its respective regulations as well as drawing up the respective regulatory guidelines.

According to Macau's new money issuance law enacted last year, the government's e-Mop issuance is to be regulated by specific pieces of legislation.

According to Chan, the second phase will also include the possible addition of other financial institutions to the e-Mop operation.

According to TDM, Chan said that the third phase is to launch comprehensive public tests in compliance with the future completed enactment of the necessary legislation as well as its respective regulations and guidelines, when the e-Mop

system will be fully developed, with the aim of enabling digital patacas to be gradually applied in various payment scenarios for members of the general public.

Chan also said that in the third phase, the government will also launch a project to develop wholesale digital patacas, i.e., the one used for interbank settlements.

The e-Mop to be used by consumers and businesses is known as retail digital patacas.

### How e-Mop & mobile payments differ

According to TDM, Chan also pointed out that as e-Mops will also be Macau's legal tender, the government must prevent the occurrence of any incidents that jeopardise the e-Mop system's stability. Consequently, Chan said, the government will only fully get its digital pataca issuance off the ground after ensuring the system's complete security, reliability and stability.

According to TDM, Chan also noted that the e-Mop and the various mobile payment apps are two different types of payments. Chan noted that after completing their transactions with customers via mobile payment platforms, businesses are still required to settle transactions with banks or other financial institutions before they finally receive the money.

Chan said that when using e-Mops, the settlements are immediately done when the transactions are carried out, identical to the scenario when cash is used, because of which the e-Mop will be a payment with zero credit risks.

Moreover, Chan also said that the government plans to roll out the e-Mop in two forms, where the physical wallet will be a card to be used by those without a smartphone such as some senior citizens and children, while the e-wallet will also be a mobile payment app similar to the various current mobile payment tools.

Meanwhile, the BOC Macau Branch told TDM on Tuesday that it is part of the government's whitelist for the e-Mop trial operation, which is expected to start at the end of next year. ■

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.68 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.68 percent to close at 19,129.10 points.

The Hang Seng China

Enterprises Index rose 0.76 percent to end at 6,765.60 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 0.23 percent to close at 3,924.45 points.

– Xinhua