



Ugo Ugochukwu wins Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR World Cup



Ugochukwu holds up his trophy after winning yesterday's Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR (Formula Regional).

Race GP team Ugo Ugochukwu from New York speeds ahead of Germany's Oliver Goethe from the MP Motorport team during yesterday's Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR (Formula Regional) World Cup at the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP). – Photos: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

Ugo Ugochukwu claimed victory at yesterday's Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR (Formula Regional) World Cup, with the 17-year-old being the first US racer to win the Macau Grand Prix (MGP) since 1981.

The New-York born McLaren junior, who races for the R-ace GP team, is the first to win the MGP's inaugural FR race, which has replaced the Formula 3 races that he had also competed in last year.

Ugochukwu maintained dominance throughout yesterday's 15-lap race, which

saw four safety cars. Germany's Oliver Goethe from the MP Motorport team, who according to the MGP website had the best time overall at 02:19.599, came in a close second, followed by KCMG IXO by Pinnacle Motorsport team's Noel León from Mexico.

The race started off behind a safety car due to the circuit's damp conditions, picking up in lap 2, with Ugochukwu having a 0.8 second advantage over Goethe. However, a red flag was shown after Australia's James Wharton from the ART Grand Prix team crashed into the barriers at Lisboa Bend, with the race

experiencing a short delay to clear the track.

Ugochukwu had a decisive advantage for the restart on lap four, but after one lap, another Safety Car was called after Liu Ruiqi crashed at Post 15 Bend. Ugochukwu again pulled off the perfect restart for the third time at the start of lap eight, though Goethe started to close the gap as the race went on, but another Safety Car was out on lap 11 after Japan's Sota Ogawa's car stopped on the track just after Turn 1.

The race restarted for lap 14, but a safety car would be called yet again in the final lap after Italy's Mattia Colnaghi from MP

Motorsport hit the wall at Fishermen's Bend, with the race finishing under caution.

Speaking with reporters after the post-race press conference, Ugochukwu said that it was "an amazing feeling coming into the weekend", which went "really smoothly" for the young racer and his team, having emerged victorious in qualification races over the weekend. "But, of course, there was one more job to do, which is the main race. It's the important one, so super happy to come home with the win", Ugochukwu said.

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Tourists take a selfie in front of a G20 logo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. The 19th G20 summit will take place in the city today and tomorrow. – Xinhua

Xi calls for reforming IMF, World Bank, WTO, promoting Global South representation

RIO DE JANEIRO – It is important to press ahead with the reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to increase the representation and voice of the Global South, President Xi Jinping said in a signed article published yesterday in

Brazilian media outlet *Folha de S. Paulo*. The article titled "A Friendship Spanning Vast Oceans A Voyage Toward a Brighter Shared Future" was released as Xi was traveling to Brazil for the 19th G20 Leaders' Summit and a state visit to the country. (Full text of Xi's article on p.12)

– Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi, Biden hold 'candid, profound, constructive' meeting in Peru

President Xi Jinping met with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru, on Saturday.

– Story on p. 7

Xi congratulates commissioning of China's deep-ocean drilling vessel

President Xi Jinping sent yesterday a congratulatory letter for the official commissioning of the country's first domestically designed and built deep-ocean drilling vessel Meng Xiang.

– Story on p. 9

Typhoon Man-yi weakens as it crosses Luzon

Typhoon Man-yi lashed the Philippines' most populous island yesterday, with the national weather service warning of flooding, landslides and huge waves as the storm sweeps across the archipelago nation.

– Story on p. 10

Germany's Maro Engel wins GT World Cup at Macau Grand Prix

Yuki Lei

The Macau GT Cup – FIA GT World Cup at the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP) had to cope with a wet track at the Guia Circuit yesterday, with Germany's Maro Engel in a Mercedes winning by just 1.641 seconds, followed by Brazil's Augusto Farfus Jr in second and South African Sheldon Van Der Linde in third.

The Macau GT Cup was a 16-lap battle, with the pole-sitter Raffaele Marciello from Switzerland, even after five laps under the safety car at the start, upholding a commanding lead, while Belgium's Dries Vanthoor, at the back of the field, was trailed by Engel and Italy's Antonio Fuoco, until he was overtaken by Fuoco when getting to lap 8, and then pushed by Engel on St. Francisco Hill, before dropping out of the race.

Climbing into second place, Fuoco tried to snatch the first place from Marciello during the rest of the race until the remaining two laps, when Fuoco who was driving a Ferrari and Marciello in a BMW ran off the track at Lisboa Bend after the latter failed to stop



Engel racing round the Macau Grand Prix's Guia Circuit in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 (Evo).

and rear-ended the former. Engel, who was originally in third place, climbed up to the first place after the duo's crash.

Engel was the first to cross the line, 6.641 seconds ahead of Farfus Jr in second place, but then the committee announced a five-second penalty for Engel, who, consequently, won the race by more than 1 second over Farfus Jr eventually, securing his fourth

Macau GT Cup victory.

"In Macau you always need a little bit of luck, and I think it was a little bit of a miracle that we managed with the performance we had this weekend to win the race... so it was very hard, but without a target we made basically the impossible possible," Engel told the *Post* after yesterday's post-race press conference, admitting that Fuoco's car touching Mariello's



German racer Maro Engel from the Mercedes-AMG Team GMR team holds his trophy after winning yesterday's Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup. – Photos: Rui Pastorin

car created a "big" opportunity for him: "Sometimes in Macau you need to believe and you need to keep fighting and opportunities come".

Speaking during the press conference, Engel pointed out the difficulty of fighting for podium positions: "We didn't expect [Fuoco and Marciello to go straight on] because even in the dry, to fight for the podium was difficult, so we

knew that rain would be our only chance," and he even said sorry to Vanthoor: "I want to say sorry to Dries [Vanthoor]. It's unfortunate that we came together, definitely not on purpose. I went for a move, he tried to close [the gap between us], and we came together slightly..."

Due to the soggy weather, even though the race was not delayed, for safety reasons, it took place with a rolling start. ■

Rain washes out Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix

Lesley Wells

This year's 56th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix was a complete washout due to the rain Macau experienced over the weekend of the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP) with the schedule having been repeatedly changed and the bikers only actually able to

get a practice run and one qualifying round on Saturday.

The Free Practice which was originally set to take place at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday was cancelled altogether with no rescheduling arranged, as was the Qualifying 1.

There were on bikes on the circuit on Friday due to the rain so, the

practice session and qualifying were moved to Saturday morning rather than a practice session and the final originally scheduled to take place at 7:20 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. that day.

It was then announced that the warmup and 12 lap final would be held at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. respectively yesterday.

On Sunday morning the rain had started at about 4 a.m. and continued throughout the morning making it impossible for the race to take place, making it the first time in its history that it had been cancelled.

At 6:58 a.m. the MGP Race Direction Committee declared that, due to Article 4.5 of Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix – 56th Edition Regulations, the warmup session was cancelled.

The rain was relentless and at 7:32 a.m. the MGP Race Direction Committee declared that due to Article 4.5 of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix – 56th Edition Regulations, the race was cancelled and in accordance with Article 42.4 the trophies would be given to the top three riders in the qualifying session and the award of best lap would be given to the fastest rider in the qualifying session.

It was also announced that the podium would go ahead at 8:45 a.m. followed by a press conference.

Disappointed bikers

Due to his pole position after qualifying on Saturday, FHO Racing Team's Davey Todd of Great Britain, second last year, was announced the winner and best lap at 2.25.563, 38 Motorsport by Penz13 Racing's Erno Kostamo of

Finland, previous winner in 2022, was second, and last year's winner FHO Racing Team's Peter Hickman of Great Britain was third.

Three glum-looking riders arrived at the Media Room, no sense of celebration, very disappointed at not being able to race.

Todd, said, "It was a shame about the weather, it is not normal for this time of year but it was cool to have two home race riders on the podium."

Kostamo just said, "It is another podium even in this is crazy Macau weather, but it is good for the team."

Hickman said, "Well, now I have a full set of trophies for Macau, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I was surprised to be on the front row yesterday [after Qualifying], I was really looking forward to the race, so now I am thinking about next year."

Talking to Todd after the press conference, Todd said he was looking forward to next year and hoped to "get this weather behind us", adding: "I was in for a good race this morning."

He went on to say, "This is my first race with the team as it was only agreed a couple of weeks ago that I would join them... so Macau wasn't on the cards for me this year. The boys [mechanics] did an incredible job to build and prepare the bike, so now I am looking forward to 2025," he said.

He continued, "The organisers did everything they could to make this race happen, they have been the worse conditions they have ever had, and Macau is such a dangerous circuit so we [the racers] respect their decision, they did as

much as they could to rearrange the schedule but simply ran out of time. Hopefully the weather will not be the same next year. I think the only time it has rained during a Grand Prix here was in 2008 and 2013, but not like this weekend."

Todd added that he had only managed to get in eight or nine practice laps and Hickman probably 16, "Not good preparation really."

The *Post* also spoke to Hickman who said, "I am really disappointed the race couldn't go ahead as I was really surprised to be on the front row [on the grid] as I have never been top in qualifying. I am not good in the first qualifying, usually I ride, have a good sleep and do better the next day."

He went on to say: "I am really looking forward to next year, the weather this year was not at all good, but there could have been a little more flexibility, yesterday [Saturday] was a good time for us to complete the race."

Hickman said, "Yesterday [Saturday] was not good to race, there was a lot of standing water on the track and some places were quite slick. It wouldn't be good for the bikes especially after all the problems the cars had with four wheels, the circuit was really slippery."

"Us Brits have brought all the rain with us," he said with a laugh.

Meanwhile, during qualifying on Saturday, Briton Matt Stevenson came off his bike and was taken to the public Conde de S. Januário Hospital Centre where he was diagnosed with cerebral concussion, thoracic spine T12 compressive fracture and multiple abrasions of limbs. ■



Second placed 38 Motorsport by Penz13 Racing's Erno Kostamo of Finland (left to right), FHO Racing Team's British rider, first placed Davey Todd, and third placed fellow Briton Peter Hickman riding for FHO Racing Team pose yesterday under an umbrella in the Media Room of the Macau Grand Prix. – Photo: Lesley Wells

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Macau Weather

FLOODING WILL OCCUR IN INNER HARBOUR AREA FROM 8 PM ~ 1 AM DUE TO ASTRONOMICAL TIDE. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS. ONE OR TWO SHOWERS. FORCE 4 TO 5 NORTHERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 6 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.

21°C~26°C

Source: SMG

Borković wins Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event

Ginnie Liang

Serbian racing driver Dušan Borković won the Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event on the Guia Circuit yesterday at the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP) after a dramatic fight for the lead, which was his first international win in more than seven years and the first victory for a Serbian driver in the Guia Race.

The second was Argentina's Esteban Guerrieri, while Italy's Marco Butti came in third, making a 1-2-3 for the GOAT Racing Honda squad.

Hungary's Norbert Michelisz finished the Kumho FIA TCR World Tour in fifth-place, clinching this tour's title.

The race, originally scheduled for 10:55 a.m., was delayed due to heavy rain and started at 1:10 p.m. under a safety car.

Due to the rain, the track surface was still not completely dry. After the safety car left the track, the cars immediately engaged in a fierce battle.

In the first few laps, Andy Yan Cheuk-wai from Hong Kong, mainland China's Cao Hongwei,



Serbia's Dušan Borković (centre) proudly holds up his nation's flag as he stands on the podium. — Photos: Rui Pastorin



Norbert Michelisz (first from right) celebrates his victory with his team after yesterday's Macau Guia Race - Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event

and fellow mainlander Ma Qinghua occupied the top three positions, with Cao subsequently moving into first place. Borković was in fourth, and Michelisz was fifth.

By the fifth lap, Yan had dropped to fourth place, allowing Ma and Borković to advance one position each.

Entering the sixth lap, the standings changed dramatically,

with Borković surging to first place, followed by Cao in second and Ma in third, while Michelisz was fourth. Ma seized the opportunity to overtake Cao and moved up to second place.

With four laps remaining, Guerrieri caught up to third place and then overtook Ma to move into second, while Butti closed in to take third.

The race was then interrupted by a vehicle glitch that triggered a safety car.

When the race restarted, only the final lap remained, and the rankings did not change. Borković, Guerrieri, and Butti finished in the top three positions.

In a post-race media interview, Michelisz expressed his gratitude to

the team for their support throughout the season, adding that achieving such results would have been difficult without their assistance.

Michelisz also mentioned that 14 years ago, he participated in a race in Macau and won his first championship, and this year he clinched the Kumho FIA World Tour title in Macau, which was very significant for him. The 40-year-old, whose racing highlights go back to 2009 said he understood that success is not guaranteed and said that he would continue to maintain a calm mindset to face future races.

Borković told reporters that this season has been very challenging for him, but winning the Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event in

Macau was one of the brightest moments of his life. He expressed great satisfaction with the result and said he hoped to compete in better conditions next year.

Guerrieri thanked the team for supporting him during the race and pointed out that after discussions with the team, as well as considering the track conditions and his experience, they decided to change the tyres for the race, due to the circuit's insufficient traction.

Butti remarked that his performance this past weekend was "average", affected by the rain which slowed down the race pace. However, he said that he enjoyed the event very much and said he hoped to do better next season. ■

101,000 spectators watch 71st MGP despite rain: Gomes



Sports Bureau (ID) President Luís Gomes speaks during yesterday's press conference after the conclusion of the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP), at the MGP complex in Zape. — Photo: Ginnie Liang

Ginnie Liang

Following the completion of the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP), which attracted 33,000 spectators on its final day and 101,000 overall, Sports Bureau (ID) President Luís Gomes said the bureau will collaborate with the world's motorsport governing body FIA to evaluate the event and make the best arrangements for future MGP races, while keeping an open mind on the types of races to be organised in the future.

Gomes made the remarks during a press conference that summarised the 71st Macau Grand Prix (MGP) that finished yesterday.

Gomes expressed gratitude to the sponsors, government and officials for their support. He said that the seven races in this year's MGP were a combination of races targeting different types of race fans, adding he believed that all fans who watched the Macau GT Cup were "satisfied".

He also emphasised the need for races to be in line with the world's motorsport, pointing out that the Guia Circuit is regarded as the cradle of the world's

racing drivers, so that Macau's has its special responsibility for the future development of the international motorsport world.

During yesterday's press conference, journalists asked about some of the spectator stand covers which had not been replaced for several consecutive days.

Gomes responded that the organising committee had taken safety concerns into account, based on a "dynamic assessment", and that it was not desirable to have any large textile objects falling onto the race course during a race, which would pose a certain degree of danger, and that the committee had instead distributed two raincoats to each spectator, and also urged them to bring umbrellas to the racecourse.

Gomes pointed out that safety is the first and foremost principle of the races, and even though they were occasionally impacted by the soggy weather, all adjustments were made after professional discussions with the drivers, the teams and FIA representatives, so as to allow the racers to be well-prepared for the event. ■



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Metal barrier removal schedule for the 71st Macau Grand Prix

Upon conclusion of the 71st Macau Grand Prix, the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee would like to thank all Macau citizens for their support and cooperation of the event and inform that the metal barrier removal works have begun immediately upon the conclusion of the event. It is estimated that these works will be concluded on 28th November, as per the schedule below:

Date	Time	Location
18 th to 21 st of November	08:00 to 20:00	(1) Remove all movable gates (2) Remove all barriers on both sides of the movable gates
18 th to 23 rd of November	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barriers from Avenida da Amizade to Reservoir Bend
21 st to 28 th of November	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barriers from Rua dos Pescadores to Reservoir Bend
23 rd to 28 th of November	08:00 to 20:00	Remove all barriers at the upper part of the Guia Hill (Estrada de S. Francisco, Estrada dos Parses and Estrada de Cacilhas)



Rain doesn't stop 71st Macau Grand Prix excitement

- Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin



Oath-taking to cover all officials & public servants: bill

Tony Wong

The government has finished drafting legislation proposing that all officials and public servants will also be required to take an oath of office.

The proposed amendments are listed in a bill amending the current law regulating top officials and other officials of bureaus and other bureau-level entities, Law 15/2009, namely directors (or presidents), deputy directors (or vice-presidents), department chiefs, and division chiefs, as well as a bill amending the current regulation on public servants, i.e., the Macau Public Administration Staff Statute.

This comes after Macau's amended oath-taking law took effect in May this year according to which members of the Chief Executive Election Committee are required to take an oath of office.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, who is also the spokesman for the government's top advisory Executive Council, announced the two amendment bills during a press conference at Government Headquarters on Friday. The two bills will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly (AL) in due course for debate, review and vote.

Before its amendments took effect on May 28 this year, the law regulating the oath-taking of those in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), Law 4/1999, covered the chief executive, principal officials, the president of the Legislative Assembly, the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), the

public prosecutor-general, members of the government's top advisory Executive Council, legislators, judges, and prosecutors.

According to Article 50 of the MSAR Basic Law and the current structure of the local government, Macau's principal officials comprise the government's five policy secretaries, anti-graft commissioner, audit commissioner, head of the Unitary Police Service (SPU) and chief of the Macau Customs Service.

Amended national security law's oath-taking requirements

However, according to the amended version of the MSAR's national security law, which took effect on May 30 last year, the Chief Executive Election Committee members, all officials listed in Law 15/2009, and all public servants are also required to take an oath of office.

Consequently, the government submitted a bill amending the MSAR's oath-taking law to the legislature early this year, namely the Law 4/1999 amendment bill which was passed by lawmakers in its final reading on May 21 and took effect on May 28, adding the Chief Executive Election Committee members to the law's oath-taking requirements.

Consequently, the current, newly amended version of the MSAR's oath-taking law covers the chief executive, principal officials, the president of the Legislative Assembly, the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), the public prosecutor-general, members of the government's top advisory Executive Council, legislators,

judges, prosecutors, as well as the Chief Executive Election Committee members.

The Chief Executive Election Committee comprises 400 members, who are only required to take their oaths by signing a declaration, unlike all others in the MSAR's executive, legislative and judicial organs who are required to take their oaths in person publicly, i.e., at a ceremony.

Cheong announced during Friday's press conference that in compliance with oath-taking requirements listed in the amended local national security law, the government has drafted a bill amending Law 15/2009 as well as a bill amending the Macau Public Administration Staff Statute.

According to Cheong, the government proposes that officials listed in Law 15/2009 will be required to take their oaths at a ceremony, while public servants in general will only be required to take their oaths by signing a declaration.

The two amendment bills announced by Cheong propose that officials listed in Law 15/2009 and public servants in general must uphold the MSAR Basic Law and bear allegiance to the MSAR.

According to the MSAR's oath-taking law, all those in the MSAR's executive, legislative and judicial organs, including the 400 Chief Executive Election Committee members, must uphold the MSAR Basic Law and bear allegiance to the MSAR, but additionally, the chief executive, principal officials, the Legislative Assembly's president, the Court of Final Appeal's president, and the public prosecutor-general must also bear



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon (right) and Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) Director Ng Wai Han look on during Friday's Executive Council press conference at Government Headquarters.

— Photo courtesy of TDM

allegiance to the People's Republic of China (PRC), which established the MSAR on December 20, 1999.

Refusal to take oath

As all those covered by the MSAR's oath-taking law, i.e., Law 4/1999, the two amendment bills announced on Friday propose that officials listed in Law 15/2009 and public servants in general who refuse to take their oath of office shall be disqualified from taking office. More specifically, the government shall cancel the appointments of officials listed in Law 15/2009 who refuse to take their oath and terminate the employment of public servants who refuse to take their oath, according to Cheong.

Similar to the respective provisions listed in the MSAR's amended oath-taking law, the two amendment bills propose that when

taking one's oath of office, those who intentionally read out words not complying with their oath's respective terms, or sign a declaration in which the terms of the oath have been tampered with, will be regarded as refusing to take the oath.

According to Cheong, the two amendment bills also propose that those who take their oaths in a way that is insincere or unsolemn will also be regarded as refusing to take the oath, also similar to the amended Law 4/1999's respective provisions.

The government proposes that officials listed in Law 15/2009 and public servants in general, i.e., those who have already taken office before the two pieces of future new legislation take effect, will also be required to take their oaths within a specified period of time of the amended legislation coming into force, according to Cheong. ■

Annual food-fest by SMEs underway at Sai Van

Yuki Lei

The annual Macao Food Festival is underway in Praça do Lago Sai Van for 17 days through December 1, and its organising committee chairman, lawmaker-cum-restaurateur Andrew Chan Chak Mo, said during Friday's opening ceremony that all of the 140-plus exhibitors are local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with the aim of supporting them to face the catering sector's business challenges.

"The local catering industry has been facing a more volatile business environment due to changes in local consumer behaviour after the three-year COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the facilitation of immigration clearance between the nine mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the area's two special administrative regions [Macau and Hong Kong]," Chan said in a speech. He pointed out the organising committee's aim to further boost the sector's "sustainable" development through the annual food festival as an "effective" platform: "Among the 140 exhibitors, nearly 50 percent are first-time participants".

Chan also said that the theme of the "Double Celebration" of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (right), accompanied by United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants Chairman Andrew Chan Chak Mo (left), visits a stallholder at the annual Macao Food Festival in Praça do Lago Sai Van, which kicked off on Friday and will end on December 1.

— Photo: Yuki Lei

25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland overlapping with the benefits of the four-day Macau Grand Prix, which took place between Thursday and yesterday, he hoped that the food festival would attract more "international" tourists and that they would extend their length of stay in Macau.

This year's food-fest is divided into

six "food streets" according to their respective cuisine, featuring Chinese, Japanese and Korean, as well as European dishes.

Friday's ceremony was presided over by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, who, after the ceremony, walked around the food stalls and spoke to some of stall holders, accompanied by Chan. ■

Ugo Ugochukwu wins Macau Grand Prix – FIA FR World Cup

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He added that the team knew that the circuit would be tricky in Macau to "get up to speed, to push the limits, of course without making mistakes". Adding to this was the adverse weather, with Ugochukwu pointing out: "I think the change in conditions throughout the weekend made it extremely challenging as we saw all the red flags and safety cars... It made it really tricky with a lot of drivers, of course, I had to avoid making mistakes and just get to the end".

Asked by reporters if he was planning to come back to race in Macau, Ugochukwu said "We'll see", adding that the circuit was exceptional and that he enjoyed racing in the city.

Meanwhile, in a separate interview with the Post after the press conference, Ugochukwu said on maintaining the lead that "the speed was really good most of the weekend", which gave him "confidence to push a lot". He added that his push during restarts was also good, allowing him to have a gap. Moreover, according to Ugochukwu, focusing on the safety car restarts and pulling away as much as possible in the narrow sector of the 6.12 kilometre Guia Circuit, gave him some gap between turn three, the main overtaking spot, allowing him to maintain the lead.

Moreover, on racing a Formula Regional car on the Guia Circuit for the first time, Ugochukwu told the Post: "Everyone had to adapt to the new car, no one had the references. I think it's just about adapting, feeling the limit. And I think we were able to get on top of everything quite quickly". ■

With additional reporting by MGPOC

MUST vows to expel 24 students holding fake HKDSE certificates

Yuki Lei

Hong Kong's Education Bureau (EDB) chief on Saturday said during a phone-in programme there that over 20 non-Macau students were suspected of applying for admission to the private Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) with fake Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) results, and Macau's Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) later responded to media enquiries by saying that it would maintain close contact with the Macau police, adding that it had further verified the qualifications of other local university admissions but not found any other irregularities.

According to Hong Kong's Secretary for Education Christine Choi Yuk-lin, as reported by Hong Kong media, the use of bogus HKDSE certificates was uncovered following the university's verification, in cooperation with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), of the authenticity of the over 20 students' results submitted for admission applications. The HKEAA has reported the cases to the police, Choi said.

The *Post* made enquiries to the Education and Youth Development Bureau by email about the incident at noon on Saturday, and the bureau told the media through a press release late Saturday afternoon that the university would expel 24 students with false HKDSE scores and hold them accountable.

The statement did not reveal where the students came from.

The cases have alerted the police

in both places. The DSEDJ statement noted that "it is reported that the Hong Kong authorities have notified their police forces of the cases for follow-up investigation, and that the DSEDJ will maintain close contact with the Macau police forces".

The statement quoted the enrolment guidelines issued by the bureau to local tertiary education institutions, underlining that enrollees are forbidden to apply for admission through any intermediaries or other individuals; furthermore, any applicants found to have applied for admission to a local university using false documents will be disqualified from enrolling in the university, or have their degree revoked, and would be held legally responsible.

The *Post* also emailed the Macau University of Science and Technology on Saturday regarding the incident, but no reply had been received from the university by last night. On the same day, the university's vice-

president, Kwong Ying Wah, said in an interview with public broadcaster TDM that the cases were uncovered after enquiries were made to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) about the 24 students who failed to submit proof of the required documents when enrolling in the university, adding that the university has reported the cases to the Public Security Police (PSP) regarding the students' special stay permits for further studies in Macau.

According to Kwong, as cited by TDM, this is not the first time that MUST has encountered such a situation, as the university has previously uncovered cases in which applicants had been admitted using forged public examination results from international organisations.

The university is considering setting up enrolment interview sessions in order to prevent such situations from happening again, Kwong said. ■



This undated file photo taken from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) website shows its campus in Taipa.

Senior cheated out of HK\$900,000, lured by 'friend' to invest in e-commerce platform

Yuki Lei

A local female senior citizen fell into an online investment scam several months ago after she had been persuaded by an online male friend to invest in a fake e-commerce platform, resulting in a total loss of about HK\$900,000, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a special press conference on Friday.

They had never met in person.

The scam occurred this early August when the victim met the online friend user on a dating app, who persuaded her to invest in an

"e-commerce platform" on the grounds that she would receive 25 percent of her investment as monthly return, according to Ho. He added that the victim, following her "friend's" instructions to open an account on the platform, initially invested US\$20,000, but later decided to increase the amount by HK\$770,000, attracted by the purportedly "high monthly returns" shown on the account.

Ho said that when the victim contacted the platform's customer service to request an additional investment, she was asked to hand over

the cash to a "company employee" who would come to her home in the northern district, claiming that this was to avoid scrutiny of the relevant payments through bank transfers.

Upon receipt of the victim's report, the Judiciary Police launched an investigation into the case and identified the "company employee" as a 30-year-old local man, surnamed Lou, who received a total of HK\$770,000 in cash from the victim in three instalments, on August 16, 19 and 27, respectively.

The PJ investigation, according to Ho, also discovered that Lou had hidden the money he received from the victim at two mobile phone shops in Zape, one of which was registered in Lou's name.

The Judiciary Police on Thursday arrested Lou and the registrant of another shop – a local man, aged 34, surnamed U – at their shops and recovered the fraudulently obtained money of HK\$900,000.

Under questioning, the duo, who are friends, refused to cooperate with the police. They were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday, facing fraud charges involving a considerably large sum of money. ■



The two hooded local fraud suspects are escorted by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers to a PJ vehicle from the PJ headquarters in Zape. – Photo courtesy of TDM

Spectators share their thoughts on 71st Macau Grand Prix: vox pop



Spectators look on as they watch the races at the 71st Macau Grand Prix.

– Photo: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin, Yuki Lei, Ginnie Liang

The 71st Macau Grand Prix concluded yesterday in excitement, pushing through the damp and rainy weather that plagued the event throughout much its four-day run.

As racers zipped around the Guia Circuit, which saw rain and soggy conditions, the roar of spectators could be heard as drivers fought for the top spot at break-neck speeds, reacting with crashes and near-misses. The *Post* spoke with some spectators to learn more about their MGP experience this year.

Yin, a 31-year-old Hongkonger, said that he was not too happy with the weather, but was very impressed with the skill that the racers displayed and the fast pace yesterday. "I think it is quite amazing that they can control their vehicles so well", Yin said, noting that yesterday marked his first experience watching the sport, which he did not know much about. "I am studying how it all works", adding that he may develop more interest and look at different race categories like Formula 1 later on.

Meanwhile 67-year-old Elias, a Macau resident from India, highlighted the racing event's importance and reach across the globe, with him having friends and family in Canada and Portugal who watch the races on TV. "So, all over the world, people are interested in this event. So, it's a great event for Macau and for the world also".

The weather was just something to be dealt with, Elias said, and he went on to say that it is always unpredictable, though he was thankful that the final race took place in "wonderful" weather.

He also highlighted that the racing event has been part of Macau for a long time, seeing great international racers like Michael Schumacher on the famed Guia Circuit. And for its newest addition, the Formula Regional races, he has "great expectations

on bringing young drivers to start their racing careers".

A local man, surnamed Lao, who took his little boy to watch MGP races for the second year, said that although the weather was unfavourable and it rained continuously from morning to noon, it fortunately did not affect the Macau GT Cup races, which he specially went for. Little Lao even said that the races triggered his interest in getting into karting.

Liu, who travelled from the mainland to Macau to watch the races for the first time, said he was a bit disappointed with the cancellation of the races in the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix – 56th Edition, but thankfully the Macau GT Cup races remained on schedule and he found the races exciting. Speaking to the *Post* after the sun had made a welcome appearance yesterday afternoon, Liu said he was puzzled by the absence of any shelter in the spectator stand, suggesting that the organising committee should consider setting up a covered spectator area to prevent the public from "heavy rain like today".

A female spectator from Hong Kong, surnamed Leung, lamented the "terrible" weather at the Grand Prix, noting that she arrived early to find the spectator stands lacking proper rain covers. Soaked from head to toe without an umbrella and disappointed after paying an extra 350 patacas for seats she thought would have a canopy, she still found the race exciting overall. She also mentioned that while transportation was generally convenient, unclear bus routes led to some confusion when certain stops were suspended.

In contrast, a male spectator from Foshan, surnamed Zhang, shrugged off the discomfort, suggesting that having a canopy would have made it even hotter. He felt the weather didn't significantly impact the viewing experience, except for the heavy morning rain. Zhang enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere of the Grand Prix, particularly praising the thrilling performances of the top international drivers. ■