

UM's 2nd campus project in Hengqin starts, aiming for 2028 operation

Tony Wong

Construction of the University of Macau's (UM) campus in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin has got off the ground, marked by a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday.

The new campus will be the university's first campus outside the jurisdiction of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and it will be the university's second campus. Geographically, both campuses are located in Hengqin, but the first one is under Macau's jurisdiction on a plot of land leased from the Chinese mainland.

The public university and the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) made the announcement in separate statements yesterday.

The UM's current campus is situated in a one-square-kilometre area of Zhuhai's Hengqin island that is under the MSAR's direct jurisdiction, i.e., Macau's laws and regulations fully apply there.

The UM was completely relocated to its current Hengqin campus in 2014 from its former one, located on a hillock in Taipa.

The MSAR has been exercising jurisdiction over the one-square-kilometre area since July 2013, which has been leased from the mainland. The leasehold, which cost the MSAR 1.2 billion patacas, is slated to expire on December 19, 2049.

The university's upcoming campus, construction of which got off the ground yesterday, will become its first campus outside the jurisdiction of the MSAR, covering a



Guests such as Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (sixth from left), Zhang Guozhi (sixth from right), a vice-governor of Guangdong Province, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (fourth from left), Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U (third from left), Nie Xinping (fourth from right), a deputy director of the executive committee of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, University of Macau (UM) University Council Chair Peter Lam Kam Seng (second from left), and UM Rector Song Yonghua (first from left) symbolically break ground on the university's new campus project in Hengqin yesterday. – Photo: UM

total area of 375,600 square metres (0.3756 square kilometres), with a gross construction area of 831,000 square metres, according to yesterday's UM statement, which also said that the new campus is now scheduled to come into operation in August 2028.

Hengqin is a 106-square-kilometre island in Zhuhai City. The in-depth cooperation

zone, which covers Hengqin island, was inaugurated in September 2021. The top decision-making body is its management committee, which is currently jointly headed by Guangdong Governor Wang Weizhong and MSAR Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

Macau's current land area amounts to 33.3 square kilometres, excluding the UM campus

site leased from the mainland.

Yesterday's UM statement noted that the University of Macau is the first higher education institution in Macau to extend its teaching and research activities to the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

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Merriam-Webster chooses 'polarization' as 2024 Word of the Year

NEW YORK – Merriam-Webster announced yesterday that its 2024 Word of the Year is "polarization," which it said "happens to be one idea that both sides of the political spectrum agree on."

"We define polarization as 'division into two sharply distinct opposites; especially, a state in which the opinions, beliefs, or interests of a group or society no longer range along a continuum but become concentrated at opposing extremes,'" Merriam-Webster, an American company publishing reference books and mostly known for its dictionaries, said in a release.

The word was widely used across the US media landscape in 2024. Fox News

reported that "Vance's debate answer on immigration crisis shows voter polarization," while MSNBC observed that, "The 2024 presidential election has left our country more polarized than ever." The word was also used to describe divides beyond the US election, as when *Forbes* warned that in workplaces, "cultural polarization is becoming a pressing challenge," according to the statement.

Other words that stood out in Merriam-Webster's lookup data in 2024 are: totality, demure, fortnight, pander, resonate, allusion, weird, cognitive, and democracy.

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year for 2023 was "authentic." – *Xinhua*

Syrian rebel leader meets PM 'to coordinate transfer of power'

BEIRUT – Syrian rebel leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani met with outgoing Syrian prime minister Mohammed al-Jalali and discussed the "transfer of power", the rebels said yesterday, a day after toppling president Bashar al-Assad.

Jolani, now using his real name Ahmed al-Sharaa, met Jalali "to coordinate a transfer of power that guarantees the provision of services" to Syria's people, said a statement posted on the rebels' Telegram channels.

A short video of the meeting showed it was also attended by Mohammed Bashir, who heads the rebels' "Salvation Government" in

their northwest Syria bastion.

Islamist rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) had been administering swathes of Idlib province and parts of neighbouring areas until November 27, when along with allied factions it launched a lightning offensive, seizing government-held territory and capturing Damascus on Sunday.

Bashir's name has been circulating as the most likely candidate for prime minister in the transitional post-Assad administration. – (More on pages 10 & 11)

– AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

CPC leadership holds meeting on 2025 economic work, Party conduct, anti-graft work

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee yesterday held a meeting to analyze and study the economic work of 2025 and arrange Party conduct and anti-corruption work.

– Story on p. 7

Philippines arrests suspected depleted uranium traders

The Philippine government said yesterday it has arrested three suspected illegal traders of depleted uranium, seizing about 100 kilograms of radioactive materials in a three-week nationwide sting operation.

– Story on p. 9

Lula hails EU-Mercosur trade deal

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Friday hailed the huge, contentious trade deal reached by the EU with Brazil and three other South American countries as a balanced agreement compatible with global climate objectives.

– Story on p. 12

Walk for a Million raises over 17 million patacas

William Chan

The 41st edition of the Macau Walk for a Million, organised by the Charity Fund from the Readers of *Macao Daily News*, was held on Sunday. The event attracted about 50,000 participants, or about 7.3 percent of the population, and raised more than 17 million patacas, according to a statement from the organiser.

The Chinese-language *Macao Daily News* is the city's top-selling newspaper.

Setting off near the Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre on Avenida Dr Sun Yat-Sen at 10 a.m., the 4-km-long charity walk took participants through Praça do Lago Sai Van and Largo do Pagode da Barra outside A-Ma Temple.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony, which took place at the starting point just before 10 a.m., was officiated by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Macau Liaison Office Deputy Director Huang Liuquan and Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, among other honorary guests.

Commissioner Against Corruption Chan Tsz King, Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) President José Tavares, outgoing Public Prosecutor-General Ip Son Sang, and Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário spoke to reporters before and during the Macau Walk for a Million.

Chan confirmed that the Commissioner Against Corruption (CCAC) had received a complaint regarding last year's cancellation of a project by the government of erecting a Kun Iam statue at Hac Sa Reservoir Natural Park, after which it decided to investigate the case. He pointed out that the investigation has meanwhile been completed, the findings of which



Outgoing Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário speaks to reporters before Sunday's starting ceremony of the 41st Macau Walk for a Million organised by the Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News in Nape. – Photo: MPDG



Commissioner Against Corruption Chan Tsz King speaks to reporters before Sunday's starting ceremony of the 41st Macau Walk for a Million organised by the Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News in Nape. – Photo: MPDG

have been communicated to the relevant authorities. Chan stressed that no administrative illegalities concerning the project were unearthed during the investigation.

Kun Iam, also known as Guanyin, is a female deity associated with compassion and mercy in East Asian Buddhism. She is often referred to as the Goddess of Mercy and is highly revered in various cultures, particularly in China – including Macau, Taiwan and Hong Kong – and Vietnam.

Regarding the high-profile case which erupted in September this year about low-quality replacements of street nameplates, Tavares noted that the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has meanwhile replaced all the affected nameplates, and that it has also imposed administrative penalties on the culprits.

Both Ip and Rosário were asked by reporters about their feelings regarding their forthcoming retirements. Ip, who

will be replaced by Chan as Public Prosecutor-General on December 20, noted that the transfer of duties is proceeding “very well”. He said that after serving as a judicial official for many years, he will continue to be involved in judicial work in the future.

Rosário noted that the most unforgettable thing during his term was the “interaction” with the Legislative Assembly (AL) and the media, underlining that “because I was often scolded, whether it was justified or not, with many irrational and unreasonable insults, facing the Legislative Assembly and the media was the most difficult.”

Rosário added that the residents he encountered on the street either remained silent or showed him support. “So, what I heard on the streets was completely different to the Legislative Assembly and the newspapers. It was like two different worlds, one black and one white,” he said. ■

Health Bureau issues travel advisory amid unknown illness outbreak in Congo

Ginnie Liang

The Health Bureau (SSM) urged residents in a statement on Friday to avoid traveling to Kwango province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and urged anyone who has recently visited the area to be vigilant, as there have been reported cases of an unknown illness recently.

According to the bureau, the outbreak is centred in Kwango province, where 379 cases of the unknown illness have been recorded since late October, resulting in 79 fatalities, primarily among individuals aged 15 and over.

Symptoms reported include fever, headache, cough, difficulty breathing, and anaemia, the statement said, adding that the causes and transmission patterns of the illness are under investigation by the bureau.

The statement urged those returning to Macau who experience flu-like symptoms to seek emergency medical attention promptly and inform their doctor about their travel history and any potential exposures.

The bureau underlined that

it has established emergency response plans for significant infectious diseases and maintains ongoing mechanisms to monitor and respond to potential threats, including health inspections at border checkpoints, surveillance for infectious diseases in medical facilities, and infection control protocols, the statement said.

Furthermore, the bureau has issued guidance to medical personnel and healthcare institutions to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of the illness, the statement said, adding that frontline healthcare workers are advised to report any suspicious cases immediately and to follow appropriate infection control measures.

If travel is necessary, individuals should pay close attention to personal and food hygiene, wear masks in crowded places, and refrain from visiting local hospitals or coming into contact with sick individuals, the statement said, adding that upon returning to Macau, anyone experiencing discomfort should seek medical help promptly and provide a detailed travel history to their doctor. ■



This photo provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) on Friday calls on residents who had travelled in Africa in the past 14 days to report to the bureau.

Locals to pay just 50 patacas for trial gig at Cotai outdoor venue

William Chan

Cultural Development Advisory Committee Acting President-cum-Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man said on Saturday that the trial concert at the newly-built open-air venue on December 28, which is expected to draw an audience of 15,000, will feature “Tickets Exclusive for Macau

Residents” at the heavily discounted price of 50 patacas.

The concert, entitled “Macau Outdoor Performance Venue: Warm-up Party” and organised by a Hong Kong TV station, will be part of a trial run ahead of the facility's full launch. It will feature artistes from Hong Kong, Macau, mainland China and South Korea with a raft of singers

and artistes, including Hins Cheung (張敬軒), Julian Cheung (張智霖), Pakho Chau (周柏豪) and Janice M. Vidal (衛蘭), according to Leong, who gave a speech at a ceremony marking the year-long trial operation, which is slated to start on January 1, of the open-air performance venue on Saturday.

Leong did not reveal the name of the TV station, but TVB anchors and officials were seen at the ceremony.

Leong noted that regular tickets are priced at 480, 780, and 1,080 patacas, while “Tickets Exclusive for Macau Residents”, priced at 50 patacas each, will be sold through pre-registration and a lucky draw.

The opening ceremony was also officiated by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U and Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, among other local officials.

The facility, which broke ground

in August, covers an area of 94,000 square metres with an audience capacity of 50,000, but it can accommodate up to 80,000 if needed.

According to Leong, the venue is equipped with basic facilities suitable for large-scale events, including portable function spaces such as toilets, event team offices, and lounges. At the same time, sufficient space will be reserved for the organisers to set up stages of different shapes, functions, and effects, according to the scale and design of the respective performance, she said.

Leong noted that the budget for the venue's first concert is more than 20 million patacas, not including revenue from ticket sales. She also noted that the Cultural Affairs Bureau is currently accepting proposals for events to be held during the trial operation next year, adding that it has already received letters of intent from a number of non-local impresarios. She did not elaborate. ■



Cultural Development Advisory Committee Acting President-cum-Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man speaks to reporters after Saturday's ceremony marking the forthcoming start of the year-long trial operation of the government-owned open-air performance venue in Cotai which will be leased to impresarios both from Macau and elsewhere.

– Photo: William Chan

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- Director & Chief Editor – Harald Brüning
- Office Manager – Sally Cheong
- Marketing Manager – Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor – Maria Cheung 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
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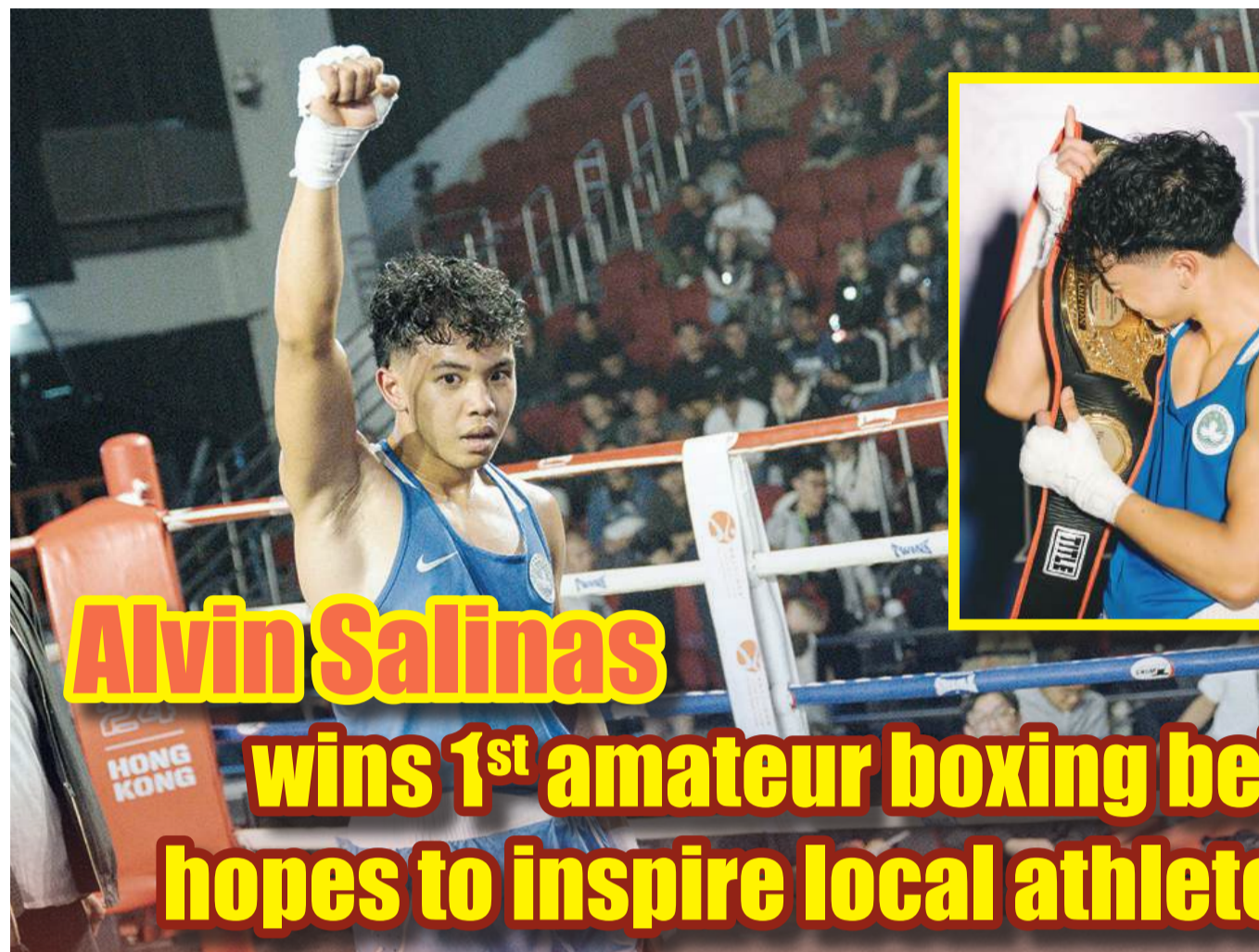
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ABOUT The Young Post

The Macau Post Daily's The Young Post will be published every Monday to present and discuss topical issues that may interest not only the younger but also all the other generations.

BOXING EDITION



Alvin Salinas wins 1st amateur boxing belt, hopes to inspire local athletes

Interview by Rui Pastorin

Years ago, Alvin Salinas never imagined that he would be boxing and winning fights. But on November 30, the 22-year-old local Filipino did just that: he had won his first amateur boxing belt at the Ultimate Extreme Fight (UEF) at the Wan Chai Southorn Stadium in Hong Kong against last year's champion Yang Pang Li (楊鵬里).

To Salinas, the moment felt surreal, even as he spoke with *The Young Post* at the Macau Boxing Association (MBA) gym in the Hap Si Industrial Building on Rua Seis do Bairro da Areia Preta, days after winning the fight, where he earned the 63.5kg Ultimate Extreme Fight (UEF) Golden Belt.

On the day of the fight, Salinas, who took up boxing at 17, said that when he entered the ring that day, he was not that nervous and felt prepared. However, the fight was not going to be easy, he pointed out, adding that he hadn't fought a pressure fighter quite like Yang.

The first of the three-round bout was challenging, with Salinas saying that he found it hard to adapt to his opponent, who kept the pressure on. And by the end of the first round, he said he felt that he had lost. "But I was waiting, waiting, and waiting. Then I really observed him and how he fights. And then I adapted to it".

In the following two rounds, Salinas found his rhythm, being able to maintain control, land hard punches and earn points. By the end, he won the fight 2:1.

On the win, Salinas said that although his belt wouldn't compare to any professional one, it meant a lot to him, having never expected to win anything before, especially when he was younger. "This belt means a lot to me because it really shows that the hard work, blood, sweat and tears really paid off during training", thanking his team, coach Ng Kuok Kun (aka KK and The Macau Kid) and himself for not giving up.

Salinas also went on to greatly credit his time at the Elorde Boxing Gym in the Philippines, where he spent three weeks training with professional boxers. And while there, he would not only train and learn what a professional boxer's life was like, but he was surrounded by people who shared the same passion he has for the sport, all the while picking up things he had never learnt before. He emphasised that the training camp really helped him a lot, adding that had he decided not to go, he would have regretted it.

Moreover, Salinas also reflected on his boxing journey and remarked on the challenges of training in Macau, a place where it can be quite difficult to train as not many people know about the sport, let alone want to train with someone, said Salinas, who said he mostly trained alone. "You have to really get out of your comfort zone. If you really want this, you need to either go out of Macau to train, to fight, to know new people". And while at the camp, the young boxer said it was a time when he felt like he had stepped out of his comfort zone after being in Macau for so long.

Aside from meeting others and training outside of the city, challenging himself to go against fighters better than him was also important. "Fighting someone who is better than me is much more valuable than me winning all the time".

Though he said that there is still a lot to learn and improve on as a fighter, the recent bout gave him more confidence in himself and in his skills as a fighter. "I think this belt really gives me the proof I need, that I am capable of fighting" as well as competing.

He wants keep training and pursue the sport further down the line, having dreams of competing more outside Macau and Asia, as well as to continue learning from others, which is valuable in the difficult sport of boxing. Moreover, he hopes to not just fight internationally, but let everyone know that in the small city of Macau, there are athletes capable of competing in different parts of the world too.

The Macau-born athlete, who speaks Cantonese, also hopes to inspire others, including other Filipinos in the city. "I want to inspire Macau people, especially Macau athletes. We may come from a small city, but I know that we all have heart, that we all have opportunities when we really look for and strive for it. That's why I really want to inspire people in Macau that they can do it [compete and win] as well, not just in boxing, but any kind of sports in Macau".



Alvin Salinas (right) poses with coach Ng Kuok Kun (KK) in Hong Kong on November 30.
- Photos: Caleb Soriano



Local Filipino amateur boxer Alvin Salinas compete and wins at the Ultimate Extreme Fight (UEF) held at the Wan Chai Southorn Stadium in Hong Kong on November 30.

UM's 2nd campus project in Hengqin starts, aiming for 2028 operation

Continued from p.1

The university held its new campus project's groundbreaking ceremony yesterday morning, which was attended by senior guests such as Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Zhang Guozhi, a vice-governor of Guangdong Province, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, who also heads the in-depth cooperation zone's executive committee, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U, Nie Xinping, a deputy director of the in-depth cooperation zone's executive committee, UM University Council Chair Peter Lam Kam Seng, and UM Rector Song Yonghua.

The zone's executive committee, which is run under the administrative committee, is the body tasked with the zone's daily functioning and execution of tasks.

Delivering a speech during yesterday's ceremony, Ho noted that the Overall Development Plan for the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin approved by the State Council late last year "expressly supports" higher education institutions in Macau meeting certain criteria in carrying out teaching and research activities in the in-depth cooperation zone, according to yesterday's GCS statement.

Ho said that thanks to the guidance and support of the central government and the Guangdong government's strong assistance, the preparatory work for the construction of the UM campus in the in-depth cooperation zone has been smoothly carried out. Ho said that the new campus will further promote Macau's integration into the nation's overall development, marking a new milestone in the Macau-Hengqin integrated development and greater cooperation between the two sides.

Ho noted that the original intent and mission of building the UM campus in the in-depth cooperation zone is to contribute to the zone's high-quality development, enhancing its development effectiveness, adding that the new campus also aims to promote Hengqin's four new key industries listed by its two development plans.

The four new key industries listed by the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, published in September 2021, and the Overall Development Plan for the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, published in December last year, are 1) scientific and technological research and high-end manufacturing industries, 2) Macau branded traditional Chinese



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng delivers a speech during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony. — Photo: UM

medicine (TCM), 3) MICE* and commerce as well as culture and tourism, and 4) modern finance.

The Macau government's current 1+4 appropriate economic diversification model aims to consolidate and diversify the development of the city's tourism and leisure industry (the model's "1") while putting special emphasis on promoting the development of four nascent industries, namely a) big health mainly driven by traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), b) modern finance, c) high-tech, and d) MICE and commerce as well as culture and sport.

The outgoing chief executive underlined that the development of the new UM campus in the zone should meet three objectives.

Firstly, Ho said, the new UM campus in the zone should become a paragon leveraging Macau's strengths to serve the nation's development needs.

Ho said that the development of the UM campus in the zone represents an innovative breakthrough in the mechanism and system for the cooperation between Macau and the mainland. Ho said he expects the UM campus in the zone to help further leverage the advantages brought about by the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in Macau, with the aim of contributing to the development of the nation's education.

Secondly, Ho said, the new UM campus in the zone should become a paragon contributing to Macau's development into a hub for attracting international high-end talents, i.e., highly qualified professionals).

Thirdly, Ho said, the new UM campus in the zone should become a paragon for the innovative cooperation and development in Macau's higher education sector. ■

*MICE stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions. It refers to a specialised segment of the tourism industry focused on organising and hosting business-related events.

Orbis quiz results show nearly 60 pct have early signs of eye ageing

Rui Pastorin

Orbis Macau held its regular Eye Care Health Talk and the "UV Rays and the Ageing of the Eyes" information session on Friday, with data collected from the annual online quiz revealing that nearly 60 percent of respondents showed early signs of eye ageing, while 16 percent also faced high ultraviolet (UV) exposure, according to an Orbis Macau statement.

The event was held at the Bank of China (Macau) Ho Lan Yuen branch and marked the end of the two-month long annual advocacy and fundraising campaign Orbis "2024 Action for Sight".

This year's quiz was on "UV Rays and the Ageing of the Eyes", with the statement noting that 582 valid responses were received over seven weeks and were collected and analysed by Ying An Medical Centre. Ophthalmologist Dr Lo Peng Lok explained the results, with the overall data highlighting the "urgent need to strengthen public awareness on eye care and protection".

The results show that 55 percent of respondents across all age groups showed moderate or higher levels of eye ageing, and "particular attention" should be paid to those under 18 due to their young age. The statement said that sensitivity to light, seeing halos around lights or blurriness when looking at bright light, and reduced clarity of vision at night are among common symptoms of eye ageing.

Moreover, 16 percent of respondents showed exposure to UV rays, emitted both naturally and artificially, for over five hours



This photo taken and provided by Orbis Macau on Friday shows Dr Lo Peng Lok presenting the findings of "UV Rays and the Ageing of the Eyes" and sharing eye care tips.

daily, and half the respondents were exposed for seven hours or more, with those working outdoors such as construction workers, drivers, athletes, and photographers being more at risk, with the need for protective measures emphasised, according to Dr Lo.

The statement added that the results show that there is "an inadequate level of awareness on eye care and protection" among people in Macau, with 47.8 percent of respondents never wearing sunglasses during outdoor activities, and for those who do, roughly 40 percent prioritise UV protection as a factor when choosing sunglasses. However, nearly 60 percent focus on aesthetics or the darkness of the lens.

Meanwhile, 30 percent of respondents do not use hats or umbrellas during outdoor activities, the statement said. It also pointed out that indirect UV reflections from grass, soil, among others and water surfaces can harm the eyes, with snow reflecting up to 80 percent of UV rays and sand reflecting 15 percent.

Dr Lo was quoted by the

statement as saying: "Overexposure to UV rays can damage the lens and retina, accelerating eye ageing. I urge residents to use suitable sunglasses or protective eyewear, as well as caps and umbrellas where applicable – during outdoor activities to reduce UV exposure to the eyes". One should also choose sunglasses with UV400 or 100 percent UV Protection labels to effectively block UV rays, he said.

The statement added that 80 percent of respondents do not have regular outdoor exercise habits, which can "effectively prevent and alleviate myopia [shortsightedness]."

An overview of the harmful effects of UV rays to the eyes and how prolonged exposure can accelerate eye ageing and lead to serious eye conditions, along with eye care tips, were also presented on Friday.

The statement also urged people to add an annual eye examination to their health regimen and use suitable eye protection.

More information and donation details are available on www.orbis.org. ■

Sands China, NBA announce multiyear collaboration

Rui Pastorin

A multiyear collaboration starting in 2025 was announced by integrated resort operator Sands China and the National Basketball Association (NBA) on Friday at The Londoner Arena.

The Brooklyn Nets and the Phoenix Suns are the first teams set to play two preseason games at The Venetian Arena on October 10 and 12 next year at The Venetian Arena.

NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum said in his speech on Friday that "the Brooklyn Nets and the Phoenix Suns feature an exciting mix of established and rising stars who will showcase their talent for fans here and visitors from around the world. In addition to the games, we look forward to engaging with fans, aspiring players and the local community through a variety of interactive events, youth development programmes and social impact initiatives."

Moreover, Las Vegas Sands (LVS) President and Chief Operating Officer and Dallas Mavericks Governor Patrick Dumont said: "Bringing NBA to Macau will bring the game closer to so many fans and supporters, whose passion for the league and its players



NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum (5th from left), Las Vegas Sands (LVS) President and Chief Operating Officer and Dallas Mavericks Governor Patrick Dumont (6th from left), and Sands China Ltd. (SCL) President and Chief Executive Officer Grant Chum Kwan Lock (third from left) pose with other guests during the event at The Londoner Arena on Friday. — Photo: Rui Pastorin

has made the sport of basketball so popular around the world".

Sands China Ltd. (SCL) President and Chief Executive Officer Grant Chum Kwan Lock added: "Our partnership with NBA is also a testament to our long-term commitment of making a positive impact in the destination where we operate. Through the community programmes of Sands Cares and NBA Cares, we are inspiring young

athletes in the region, helping the next generation of basketball lovers along the path of reaching dreams of greatness".

A joint Friday statement noted that an NBA Flagship Store is also slated to open at The Londoner Macao in Cotai prior to the games, while a raft of events, including an NBA Fan Day during the week of the games, is among those set to take place throughout the year. ■

4 mainlanders nabbed for wheelchair scam, man loses HK\$90,000

Ginnie Liang

Four mainlanders were arrested on Thursday after pretending to be “middle school staff members” ordering wheelchairs from a local man and scamming him out of HK\$90,000, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said in a special press conference on Friday.

The victim is a local construction engineering company staff, but the victim in a separate case who is also a construction engineering company staff member did not suffer from any loss, Ho said.

The four suspects are from mainland – a 38-year-old jobless man surnamed Zhuang, a 28-year-old pawn shop staff surnamed Liu, a 33-year-old businessman surnamed Cai, and a 34-year-old construction worker surnamed Qiu.

The quartet entered Macau at different times on December 1 and on Thursday, belonging to the same criminal syndicate, according to Ho, who pointed out that they had a “division of labour” with each other, such as collecting fraudulently obtained money, monitoring, acting as lookouts, and handling the defrauded money.

On Thursday, a local construction engineering company staff member received a telephone call from a “staff member” of a local middle school, saying that the school needed “renovations” and requested a quotation, Ho said.

The victim was also asked by one of the scammers to contact a wheelchair supplier in Hong Kong to assist the school in ordering 30



The four hooded mainland fraud suspects are escorted by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers to a PJ vehicle from the PJ headquarters in Zape.

wheelchairs to be given to an elderly home for charitable purposes, and he was promised commission of HK\$6,000 upon completion of the task, Ho said.

Upon ordering the goods, the victim received the screenshot of a HK\$90,000 bank transfer from the suspect, claiming that it was the payment for an order of wheelchairs, Ho said. However, the victim immediately checked the amount through his online bank and discovered that there was no record of any transfer, so he reported the case to the police immediately.

After the police received the report, the victim received a call from a person

claiming to be a wheelchair supplier, asking him to go to the northern district to collect the payment of HK\$90,000 for the goods.

Realising this could be a chance to arrest the scammer, the police arranged for the victim to go there to collect the money, and when Zhuang showed up the police arrested him, Ho said.

Therefore, this victim did not suffer any loss.

After an in-depth investigation, the police found that three other men were involved in the case, and arrested the trio later that day in Zape, Ho said.

However, Judiciary Police officers received another report on Thursday in which



Evidence such as Hong Kong dollars in cash, smartphones is displayed at a PJ press conference room on Friday during a special press conference about the case. – Photos: MGPD

the victim had been scammed in the same way on Wednesday. The victim gave HK\$90,000 to the scammers for the “goods”, Ho said, adding that PJ officers believe that the two cases were conducted by the same group of scammers.

The police continue to track down other possible gang members, tracing the whereabouts of the scammed money and investigating whether there are more victims, according to Ho.

The foursome 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 and organised crime. ■

Winners crowned for 2024 Macau Int’l Kart Grand Prix



This handout photo taken and provided on Sunday by the Sports Bureau (ID) shows the participating drivers and guests posing at the Coloane Karting Track.

Rui Pastorin

The 2024 Macau International Kart Grand Prix concluded on Sunday at the Coloane Karting Track with the crowning of its winners.

Marking the end of the two-week long kart races, according to a statement by the Sports Bureau (ID), Sunday saw the finals of the race categories of IAME Asia Final 2024, the AAMC Karting Championship Round 8, as well as the KZ Class and the Sands Cup.

The Cadet Class of both the Macau International Kart Grand Prix and IAME Asia Final 2024 was won by Italy’s Nuvolini Many, while the Junior Class for both was won by Porsche Anuchatkul from Thailand, according to the statement.

Macau’s Vernice Lao Si Lun, the statement noted, took home the top prize in the X30 Junior Class for AAMC Karting Championship (Round 8), while Spain’s Rubén Moya López

emerged as champion of the Senior Class of the Macau International Kart Grand Prix and the IAME Asia Final 2024.

The statement said that X30 Senior Class for AAMC Karting Championship (Round 8), meanwhile, saw Liao Yan-yik from Hong Kong as its winner. Moreover, Chen Pengyuan from the mainland took home the trophy for the Master Class of the Macau International Kart Grand Prix and IAME Asia Final 2024.

The X30 Veteran Class for AAMC Karting Championship (Round 8) was won by Macau’s O Leong, while fellow local Cheong Man Hei won the KZ Class for the Macau International Kart Grand Prix, according to the statement.

Hong Kong’s Wong Shing-hon, meanwhile, won the KZ Master Class – for Macau International Kart Grand Prix, and finally, the statement said that Wong Chi Him from Macau was named winner of the Sands Cup. ■

PJ warn parents with children studying abroad that demand of deposit proof might be scam

Ginnie Liang

Recently, the Judiciary Police (PJ) have reminded parents with children studying abroad to be careful if the children ask for large sums of money for “substantial deposit proof” to obtain visas for further studies, which could be a “fake police” scam, according to a PJ statement released yesterday.

The statement said that the Judiciary Police have received a number of reports recently from parents who hastily transferred a large amount of money to their children, after which, it turned out, the children immediately transferred the money to scammers.

It was only later that the parents realised their children had fallen victim to a “fake police” phone scam, resulting in significant financial losses, the statement said.

According to police investigations, the scammers initially contacted the students overseas, posing as law enforcement officials from the mainland, who were able to provide the students’ names and the number of their ID cards, accusing them of being involved in criminal activities and demanding a “video interrogation.”

During this process, the scammers requested funds under the guise of a “financial review.” If the students were unable to pay, the scammers instructed them to deceive their parents, claiming they needed the money for a visa application, thereby requesting large amounts from their families, the statement said.

Consequently, the Judiciary Police are urging the public, especially parents with children studying abroad, to be vigilant, the statement said.

Parents who receive requests for large sums of money from their children – particularly if the reasons relate to “studying abroad” or “visa applications” – should verify the situation with the respective educational institutions first, the statement said.

The statement also recommended that parents stay in close contact with their children and share anti-fraud information, emphasising that any requests involving “video interrogations,” “financial reviews,” or “deposit guarantees” are likely scams.

If they have any suspicions about certain financial matters involving their children studying abroad, parents are advised to use the PJ anti-fraud programme to check risk indices or call the police’s anti-fraud enquiry hotline on 8800 7777 or the reporting hotline 993 for assistance. ■



This poster released by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns residents of a “deposit proof” scam involving “fake police calls”.