



2024 airport passengers rise 48 pct



▲ This photo taken in November last year shows aircraft parked at the local airport.
 ◀ Scores of passengers queue at the local airport's security check to the boarding area in November last year. – Photos: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The Macau International Airport recorded a total of 7.64 million passengers in 2024, an increase of 48 percent from 2023, airport operator CAM announced in a statement yesterday.

The statement underlined that last year's number of passengers was the highest over recent years.

The statement also said that the local airport recorded over 59,000 aircraft movements in 2024, a growth of 41 percent from 2023.

The number of airport passengers has been gradually recovering since early 2023 after the COVID-19 pandemic affected Macau for three

years between early 2020 and late 2022, which severely impacted the city's economy in general, its gaming and tourism sectors in particular.

In pre-pandemic 2019, the airport reached its highest number of passengers at 9.6 million. During the three-year pandemic, according to the CAM website, the number of airport passengers only stood at around 1.17 million, 1.14 million and 599,000 respectively in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In 2023, the first post-pandemic year, the airport recorded 5.15 million passengers, returning to 54 percent of the level recorded in pre-pandemic 2019.

Last year's number of 7.64 million returned to 79.5 percent of the 2019 level.

The airport's designed maximum capacity had been six million passengers per year since it started operating in November 1995, before its passenger terminal building was expanded in 2018 when the maximum capacity was raised to 7.8 million passengers per year. The terminal building underwent another expansion in 2020 and it was completed in 2022, raising the handling capacity to the current 10 million.

The airport's large-scale expansion project got off the ground late last year, which will raise its annual passenger-handling capacity

to 13 million when it is scheduled to be completed in 2030, after which extra space will be available for further development if necessary, which will ultimately raise the airport's annual passenger-handling capacity to up to 15 million.

According to the CAM website, the airport recorded 6.6 million passengers in 2016, breaking its then annual passenger-handling capacity of six million.

Afterwards, the number of airport passengers continued to rise to 7.16 million in 2017, 8.26 million in 2018, before reaching its standing record of 9.6 million in 2019. ■

Trudeau says will quit as PM & party chief, citing 'internal battles'



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 53, speaks during a news conference at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa, Canada, yesterday, announcing his resignation, saying he will leave office as soon as the ruling Liberal Party chooses a new leader. – AFP

Michel Comte

OTTAWA – Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation yesterday, saying he will leave office as soon as the ruling Liberal Party chooses a new leader after months of slumping polls and internal division.

"I intend to resign as party leader, as prime minister, after the party selects its next leader," Trudeau, who has been in power since 2015, told reporters in Ottawa following a protracted political crisis that saw top Liberal allies urge him to quit.

It was not immediately clear how long Trudeau will remain in office as a caretaker premier.

He said the Liberal leadership race will be "a robust, nationwide competitive process."

That means Trudeau will continue to lead Canada when incoming US president Donald Trump takes office this month and

will be tasked with leading the country's initial response to the new US administration, including a possible trade war.

Trump has vowed to impose 25 percent tariffs on all Canadian imports, which could prove devastating to the Canadian economy, and Trudeau has pledged to retaliate.

Before taking over the Liberal Party in 2013, Trudeau, now 53, was not a leading political figure.

His most prominent political attribute at the time was arguably the fact that his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, had been one of Canada's most famous prime ministers.

But Trudeau's youthful energy and fluency on issues that increasingly mattered to Canadians, including climate change, helped him oust an entrenched Conservative prime minister, Stephen Harper, in 2015 elections.

After more than nine years in power,

Trudeau's support within the Liberal Party began teetering last year.

It plunged to new depths following the surprise resignation in December of his former finance minister and deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland.

In a scathing resignation letter, Freeland accused Trudeau of focusing on political gimmicks to appease voters, including a costly Christmas tax holiday, instead of steadying Canada's finances ahead of Trump's promised tariffs.

Trudeau's Liberals are trailing badly in the polls to the opposition Conservatives.

He conceded yesterday that he was not the best candidate to lead the Liberals into an election that must be held this year.

"This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election." – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi stresses winning tough, protracted battle against corruption

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, yesterday called for resolutely winning the tough, protracted and all-around battle against corruption.

– Story on p. 7

UK child-sex scandal at heart of Musk attacks

US mogul Elon Musk's attacks on UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer concern the rape and sexual exploitation of thousands of girls and young women over several decades in towns across England.

– Story on p. 11

Mozambican protest leader says will return from exile

The Mozambique opposition leader who has led more than two months of deadly protests against disputed election results from outside the country announced on Sunday he would return ahead of the inauguration of the new president.

– Story on p. 12

Lawmaker urges enterprises to take up social responsibility over mouse infestation

Yuki Lei

Recently, some local supermarkets and a restaurant have been found to be infested with mice, and there are also allegations that the number of street mice has increased significantly as well, concerning which lawmaker-cum-civil engineer Leong Hong Sai has underlined the importance for enterprises to take up social responsibility regarding hygiene on their premises.

After the discovery of a mouse infestation at Royal Supermarket, a local supermarket chain with more than 30 outlets, the three outlets involved were ordered by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) on Friday to suspend business to “rectify” the situation. The chain then issued a written apology, saying that all the affected branches would undergo deep cleaning and thorough disinfection simultaneously, pledging that it would also further optimise its management procedures and hygiene to avoid such incidents from recurring again. Two days later, a Chinese restaurant, known as “Sun Seong Heong” in Cantonese, was also found to be infested with mice and, consequently, has been ordered by the bureau to suspend its business for deep cleaning and thorough disinfection.

Scores of residents have commented on the matter on social media, questioning the bureau



Lawmaker-cum-civil engineer Leong Hong Sai speaks to the media on the sidelines of an event on Sunday in Iao Hon Market Park. — Photo: Yuki Lei

about the adequacy of its anti-rodent measures: “This’s just the tip of the iceberg, the root cause is the seriousness of the mouse problem in Macau, mice can be seen everywhere;” “In fact, it’s the Municipal Affairs Bureau that has failed to do a good job on the mouse problem in Macau and has burdened the public with mouse infestation... mice are everywhere on the streets and slopes even after the bureau’s anti-rodent extermination campaign on private premises. Most of the mice found on private premises come from public places!” Another netizen said: “Macau has too many mice.” However, at the same time, some of the commentators said that



This video grab circulating online shows a mouse ripping open a packet of rice vermicelli on a fresh food shelf at a Royal Supermarket outlet recently.

the bureau’s order to suspend the business of the restaurant concerned was an “overkill”.

According to the IAM Environment Information Webpage, the bureau’s rodent prevention and control work includes baiting in 25 local districts twice a year or more for five weeks, counting the number of mice killed and identifying places with serious rodent infestation in order to further improve its mouse extermination campaign as well as analysing and studying the effectiveness of its disinfection drive. The webpage noted that there are about 1,400 fixed bait spots in Macau.

Apparently, the bureau has never

provided additional information on the estimated number of mice in Macau. However, according to online information, it was estimated in 1995 that there were one to two million mice in Macau that year, while the total number of mice destroyed by the authorities in Hong Kong between August 2023 and July 2024 amounted to about 106,100.

Speaking to local reporters on the sidelines of an event in Iao Hon Market Park on Sunday, Leong listed as the main reasons for the prevalence of mice the accumulation of garbage and the indiscriminate disposal of food waste, which makes it easy for the

rodents to forage for food, thus encouraging their reproduction.

When asked about the widely perceived inadequacy of the bureau’s anti-rodent measures, Leong, however, acknowledged the bureau’s efforts: “The bureau was very prompt in ordering the relevant establishments to suspend their business for rectification,” but he also expressed concern about the insufficient frequency of hygiene inspections at food and retail outlets and their rodent prevention measures, urging the bureau to increase the deployment of its inspectors, while suggesting that the relevant penalties be raised in order to achieve the desired results of a “rodent-free” city by ensuring that rodents can’t escape, can’t hide and can’t find food.

In his opinion, given the government’s relatively sound financial situation this year, the government should allocate more resources to environmental hygiene and food safety and, at the same time, apart from enhancing public awareness of the need for rodent prevention and control measures, the government should also conduct regular training and hold seminars in collaboration with the relevant business sectors to, among other things, carry out regular inspections and proper maintenance of its various pest-control facilities. ■

IAM to prune 2 sick candlenut trees

Ginnie Liang

Two candlenut trees affected by brown root rot disease in Guia Hill Municipal Park will undergo height-control pruning by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) from today in order to continue to monitor their health conditions, the bureau said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the two sick trees were found to be infected with brown root rot disease recently. Therefore, the bureau invited dendrologists from the Guangzhou Institute of Forestry and Landscape Architecture to conduct inspections of both trees and provide advice on their maintenance, while also continuing to take remedial measures such as pest and disease control, fertiliser application, and medication.

However, the growing conditions of the two sick trees have still not improved, even under the continuous monitoring effort by the bureau’s arborists, the statement said.

Taking into account the health condition of the old trees and their location, in order to avoid possible safety risks, the bureau said it will continue to carry out height-control pruning of both trees to reduce the weight of their canopies, and also protect the trees against the harm caused by termites and other pests.

Members of the public are urged not to enter the fenced-off area while the trees are being pruned, while also taking preventive measures to reduce the possibility of accidents.

Aleurites moluccanus, or candlenut, is a flowering tree in the spurge family. It grows up to 30 metres tall.

The bureau promised in the statement that it will continue to monitor the situation of old trees throughout the city.

Anyone who finds abnormalities in any trees can contact the bureau by calling 2833 7676 or via “IAM Connect”, according to the statement. ■



This undated handout picture provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows IAM arborists working in front of one of the two sick candlenut trees.

Police nab illegal currency exchange dealer for fake employment



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the three suspects being escorted by PSP officers to a police station.

Ada Lei

A woman from the mainland and a local couple have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a fake employment case, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Kong said that the mainland woman surnamed Wang is in her fifties, while the local man is surnamed Tang and his wife is surnamed Tin. Both Tang and Tin are in their sixties. In 2023, Tin got to know Wang at a casino. Wang, hoping to frequently come to Macau and gamble, convinced Tin to ask Tang to hire her as their domestic helper.

Wang was arrested by the

Judiciary Police (PJ) for illegal currency exchange activities on Friday and subsequently transferred to the Public Security Police, who then discovered Wang’s fake employment.

The couple were arrested later. The investigation revealed that Wang gave HK\$60,000 to Tin, who then persuaded Tang to hire her. Tang told the police that he received HK\$40,000 from his wife.

The three suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), all facing charges of involvement in arranging fake employment, according to Kong. Wang is also facing illegal currency exchange charges. ■

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Macau Weather

FINE, BECOMING CLOUDY. FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, BECOMING EASTERLIES. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 45% AND 85%.



14°C~21°C

Source: SMG

Strong winter monsoon set to hit Macau, mercury to drop to 10°C over weekend: SMG

Yuki Lei

The latest forecast from the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) indicates that a strong winter monsoon is expected to lower the local temperature to 10 degrees Celsius or even below this weekend, urging members of the public to pay close attention to the latest weather forecast so that they are ready for the possibly drastic temperature drop.

According to a statement by the bureau yesterday, as the air pressure in central China is gradually rising, the winter monsoon is expected to move southwards later this week, bringing a significant drop in temperature to southern China from Friday onwards, with winds increasing significantly, up to force 6, northerly with gusts.

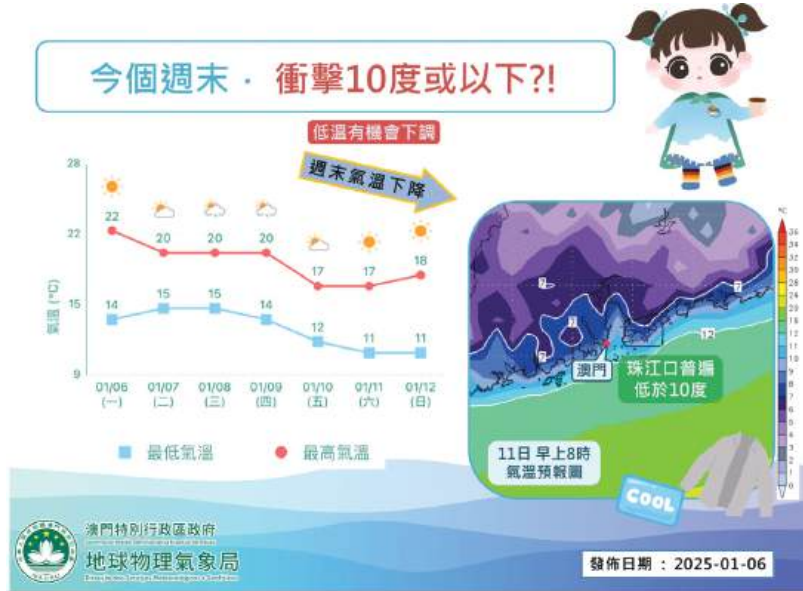
The observatory further pointed

out in the statement that the cold front would bring chilly weather to the coastal areas of Guangdong Province with the temperature of 10 degrees or below expected to appear in most of the areas of the Pearl River estuary.

Meanwhile, the bureau also pointed out that influenced by an easterly jet stream, cloudiness was expected to increase between today and Thursday, along with a few light showers.

According to the statement, Macau has not been affected by wintry conditions since December, with, as of yesterday, only three days of very little rain.

According to the bureau's forecast for today, the weather will be fine apart from cloudy periods, with the temperature expected to range between 14 degrees and 21 degrees. ■



This chart provided by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) shows its temperature forecast between yesterday and Sunday.

MGM presents 'Art-Zoo Splashes of Joy' family experience in Barra

Rui Pastorin

A giant inflatable playground titled "Art-Zoo Splashes of Joy" World of Wonders has been set up at the Barra Kitchen until February 17.

Created by Singaporean artist Jackson Tan* and measuring at 27 metres with a width of 6 metres, the free-admission playground and installation is themed marine environmental protection, according to a recent statement by integrated resort operator MGM, and comprises the "Sunlit Zone", "Twilight Zone" and "Midnight Zone", all inspired by ocean creatures.

Tan created Art-Zoo in 2016, with its landscape and characters inspired by his childhood memories of visiting and drawing animals at Singapore Zoo and the animal themed playgrounds, according to Wikipedia, adding that the travelling inflatable art park was launched in 2017.

MGM China Holdings Limited President and Executive Director Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng was quoted by the statement as saying: "This new installation perfectly immerses into Barra's creative atmosphere while serving as an advanced entertainment destination for families".

Tan was quoted as saying that Barra district is "a unique space that is brimming with profound history and modern vitality. Besides, Barra's maritime heritage also has



This undated handout photo recently provided by MGM shows the "Art-Zoo Splashes of Joy" World of Wonders set up at Barra Kitchen in the Inner Harbour's Barra district.

strong connections with Art-Zoo's theme of ocean".

"Barra" means "harbour entrance" in Portuguese.

Also featured is the inflatable Bruno Bear, which is dressed as a diver, at Barra Pond, as well as an inflatable submarine at the Barra District – Dock Area that shows videos about having an environmentally-friendly attitude, according to the statement.

Moreover, the statement said that workshops for adults and children are being provided at weekends and public holidays until next month at Barra Kitchen, enabling participants to create

small flowerpots and reusable bags, among others. Environmentally friendly small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have also set up shops in the area.

The playground is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at weekends and public holidays during the period. Each play session lasts 45 minutes.

More details and appointment registration for the workshops and playground sessions can be found on <https://www.mgm.mo/en/cotai/entertainment/art-zoo> ■

*His Chinese name is 陈俊杰 (Chen Junjie)

AACM ensures flight safety after jet from Vietnam has smoke incident

Ginnie Liang

In the wake of a recent jet accident in South Korea that raised global alarm about aviation safety, the Macau Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) reaffirmed yesterday its commitment to maintaining high safety standards for Macau's air-transport sector, after VietJet Air, a Vietnamese airline, on route to Macau returned to Cam Ranh International Airport in Vietnam due to smoke coming from the tail section of the cabin during its flight on Friday.

The incident involving VietJet Air occurred while the aircraft was in Vietnamese airspace, and the airline promptly dispatched another plane to fly passengers to Macau, resulting in a revised departure time of 8:01 p.m. on Friday, with the flight safely landing at Macau International Airport at 10:57 p.m. later that day.

In a statement to local media, Macau's civil aviation regulator emphasised that safety in air transportation remains a top priority for the industry, pointing out that it conducts regular and unannounced safety inspections and audits of operators and base airlines at the local airport.

The AACM underlined that it utilises a "Mandatory

Accident Reporting System" and a "Confidential Aviation Safety Reporting System" to continuously collect and analyse safety data, while regular safety management meetings are held with industry stakeholders to gain deeper insights into operational safety.

In addition, the authority has implemented a range of safety measures specifically for non-local airlines operating in Macau, as well as assessments of the airport's surrounding environment, runway safety, and bird-strike risks, the statement said.

Since its operational start in 2015, the airport has installed remote sonic bird deterrents

and increased the frequency of wildlife patrols on runways, the statement said, adding that height restrictions for buildings near the airport have also been enforced, with some structures equipped with obstacle warning lights to enhance safety alerts.

In addition, as the annual Chinese New Year (CNY) travel season approaches, the AACM has begun processing applications for charter and additional flights for the 2025 Spring Festival, with seven additional routes newly approved by the authority, totalling 34 additional flights, the statement noted.

The Year of the Snake begins on January 29. ■



This undated publicity photo downloaded from the official website of VietJet Air last night shows one of its planes.

Man burgles ex-boss's shop

William Chan

A local man and his accomplice have been arrested for allegedly breaking into his ex-employer's trading firm and stealing HK\$48,000 in cash, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said at a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the local duo as a 29-year-old man surnamed Kam, who told the police that he's jobless, and a 33-year-old man

surnamed Chin, who works in a recycling shop.

According to Cheong, the duo hired a locksmith, misleading him by claiming that they were the owners of the trading firm in the northern district, which is owned by Kam's former employer.

In the early hours of Saturday, the locksmith opened the door and left, allowing Chin to enter the premises and steal HK\$48,000 from the cash register while Kam waited outside.

Afterwards, the pair went to a Cotai casino, where they split the stolen money in the toilets. The owner discovered the burglary later that day and reported the case to the police.

Thanks to CCTV footage, the police identified and arrested the duo last week. Police found HK\$6,000 in Kam's possession. They also contacted the locksmith, who served as a witness in the case.

Under questioning, the duo refused to cooperate.

Kam and Chin have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing aggravated theft charges, Cheong said. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. - Photo: William Chan



2 artists exhibit watercolours at 10 Fantasia Gallery

Rui Pastorin

Local artists Ian Leong Ka Ian and Jessie Che Hang Peng are jointly showcasing their watercolours in an exhibition entitled “Follow your heart” in room B071 of the 10 Fantasia gallery on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷).

On until February 28, the artists are showcasing their creativity through recent paintings of flowers, places like Mercado da Horta da Mitra, Christmas-themed cards, among others. The works are presented either in frames of various sizes or on small cards.

According to a Chinese-language statement displayed at the gallery, the two artists are connected through watercolours. They hope that by exhibiting their works, they can enable visitors to the exhibition to feel “the tranquillity and beauty of the moment”, the statement said.

The artists also hope to convey the message that everyone is unique, noting that although one might have different thoughts and styles, if people have common goals and concepts, they can work together to create “dazzling works” and let diversity become the “greatest power”.

The paintings on display are for sale. According to the exhibition statement, exhibitiongoers can also choose to take a postcard as long as they make a donation, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Fuhong Society of Macau.

Exhibitiongoers may view the works from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday during the period, while the gallery is closed on Mondays. More information can be found on the 10 Fantasia Facebook page or website.



Photos: Rui Pastorin



Student hurt after 'falling' from school building: police

Yuki Lei

Concerning the case of someone "falling" from a building on Rua Nova à Guia (東望洋新街), the Public Security Police (PSP) confirmed last night with the *Post* that the victim is a 16-year-old female student.

According to a PSP spokeswoman, the Public Security Police responded to the case at 3:30 p.m. at Santa Rosa de Lima Secondary School, where the girl "fell" from the building and was rushed to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for emergency treatment. The spokeswoman told the *Post* by phone that the victim who had sustained a swollen left eye and bleeding from her nose and mouth,

remained conscious when she was admitted to the hospital.

Concerning a rumour on social media platforms that some parents had pointed out in a chat group that another student from the same school had committed suicide by cutting her wrists also yesterday, the Public Security Police said they had not received any such report.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has urged residents to take care of their own, their family members and friends' mental health. If help is needed, people can call Caritas' life hotline on 2852 5222 (for Chinese) and 2852 5777 (for English-speaking community) or IAS hotline on 2826 1126. ■

Man dies after falling backwards on escalator in HK

HONG KONG – A 36-year-old man in Hong Kong died on Sunday after reportedly fainting and falling backwards while on an escalator in Sha Tin.

Officers said the victim's mother reported the incident at Sha Kok Estate on Sunday afternoon.

The man was reportedly on

the up escalator connecting a wet market and a shopping mall.

And as he fell backwards, he hit a 65-year-old woman who suffered a minor injury.

The man was rushed to Prince of Wales Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

– RTHK, MPD

Sewer cleaning of Plot P temporary housing project one source of stench: govt

Tony Wong

The government said yesterday that the ongoing cleaning of sewer pipes under the site of the newly completed temporary housing project on Plot P in Areia Preta district has been identified as one of the sources of the ongoing stench affecting the neighbourhood near the peninsula's northern waterfront.

The government has meanwhile ordered the cleaning contractor to implement special measures to remedy the situation.

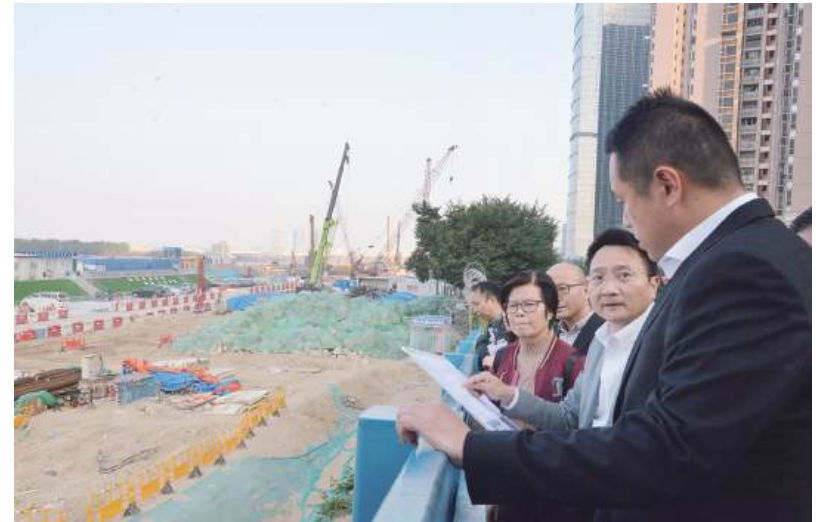
Yesterday's government announcement also underlined that the waterfront stench, which has affected the area for months, is not directly caused by the ongoing Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line project off the coast, pointing out that the LRT East Line project also includes various special measures to mitigate the stench, as well as the installation of new facilities to more effectively intercept wastewater discharged into the coastal waters, a project slated to get off the ground this year.

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) elaborated on the issue in a joint statement issued yesterday evening.

A section of the underwater LRT East Line project is being carried out off the peninsula's northern coast east of the Barrier Gate checkpoint, i.e., off the waterfront Avenida Norte do Hipódromo (馬場北大馬路) and Avenida da Ponte da Amizade (友誼橋大馬路). The project, which got off the ground in 2023, includes the land reclamation of the mudflats (aka tidal flats) off the coast.

Yesterday's statement underlined that the relevant public entities have been closely working together to implement all necessary measures with the aim of reducing the reek affecting the neighbourhood near the coastal Avenida Norte do Hipódromo as well as near the government's high-rise rental residential building for senior citizens on Plot P.

Plot P is a large plot near the peninsula's northern coast, where the rental residential building for seniors is located and where the government's temporary housing project was completed at the end



Public Works Bureau (DSOP) Director Lam Wai Hou (centre) briefs community association representatives yesterday about the stench issue, next to the site of the ongoing Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line project at the peninsula's northern coast. – Photo: DSOP/DSPA

of last year. The newly completed temporary housing estate comprising eight towers is earmarked for property owners affected by urban renewal projects to rent temporarily during the redevelopment of their former homes.

The statement said that in response to the stench besetting the area, DSPA and DSOP officials as well as those from the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and the government-owned Macau Urban Renewal Limited have jointly been carrying out on-site investigations, after which they have now identified one of the sources of the foul odour, according to which, the statement said, the ongoing cleaning work of sewer pipes under the site of the newly completed temporary housing project on Plot P has caused the stench emanating from the pipes.

The statement underlined that the government has ordered the cleaning contractor to implement effective measures to tackle the issue, such as by taking improved sealing measures during the cleaning process and installing activated carbon filters at the exhaust outlets.

The statement also said that the sewer cleaning work is expected to be completed by the end of this week.

Moreover, the statement said that while the current waterfront stench is not directly caused by the ongoing LRT East Line project off the peninsula's northern coast, the government has told its contractor to

implement various special measures to mitigate the stench caused by wastewater still being discharged into the coastal waters.

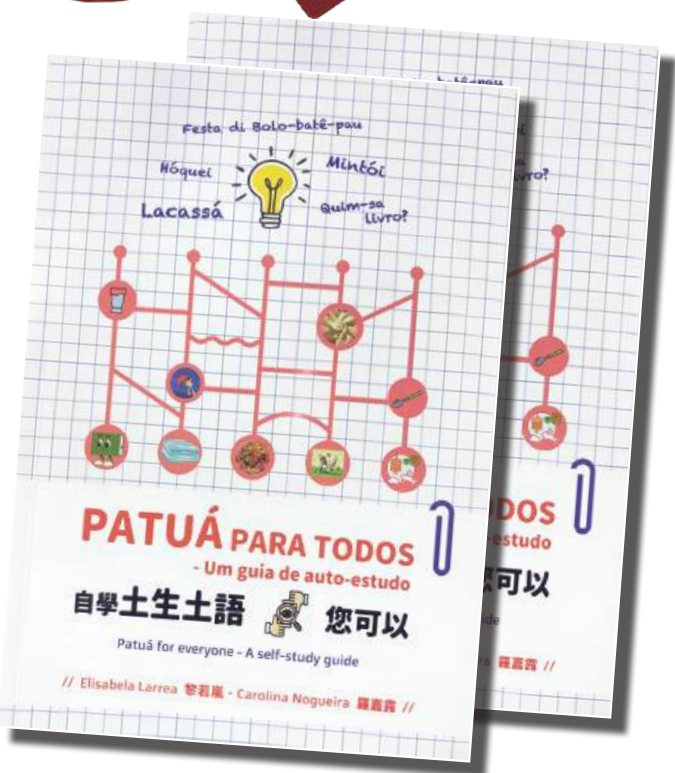
The statement also pointed out that the Environmental Protection Bureau completed a sewage interception project off the coast in 2019 collecting wastewater at three rainwater drain outlets there and diverting the collected wastewater to the nearby Macau Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The statement said that concerning wastewater still being discharged untreated into the coastal waters from two other rainwater drain outlets there, the ongoing LRT East Line project will also include the installation of sewage interception facilities, which in the future will intercept wastewater discharged from the two outlets.

Yesterday's statement reaffirmed that the new sewage project, which will include the installation of box culverts and sewage pumping facilities, to be carried out in the LRT East Line project's mudflat-reclamation area, is still being designed, adding that the design is scheduled to be completed this year after which the project can start.

The statement also said that officials from the relevant public entities, including DSPA and DSOP officials, yesterday briefed community association representatives on site about the sources of the reek and the government's measures to tackle the issue. ■

THE MACAU POST DAILY RECOMMENDS



MGTO busts 17 bogus tour guides in 2024

William Chan

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday that, in collaboration with the Public Security Police (PSP), it caught 17 suspected unlicensed tour guides last year.

Macau recorded 34.93 million visitor arrivals in 2024, the statement pointed out.

According to the statement, in total, 1,615 inspections were conducted at various entry and exit points, tourist attractions, and shopping areas, which included random checks of tour groups and monitoring of tourism professionals.

Last year, MGTO received 35 complaints and reports concerning illegal tour guide activities, the statement said.

All Macau tour guides must wear a valid tour guide badge while working, so that inspectors can easily identify them. Offenders illegally engaging in tour guide work in Macau face a fine ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 patacas. ■



This undated photo provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) shows Public Security Police (PSP) officers and MGTO officials conducting a joint inspection outside the Barrier Gate checkpoint.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.36 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.36 percent to close at 19,688.29 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index edged down 0.33 percent to end at 7,135.48 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 0.18 percent to 4,395.08 points. – Xinhua