



Jockey Club's over 100 'working cats' to stay in Macau for adoption

Yuki Lei

The Macau Jockey Club (MJC) closed down on April 1 last year and is set to return its vast site in Taipa to the government at the beginning of next month – and the MJC and ANIMA Macau co-hosted a cat adoption event at the MJC site in Taipa to find new homes for the company's "working cats" there, during which ANIMA President Zoe Tang Tinna told the *Post* that the public's response has been very positive, with a total of 22 cats adopted yesterday.

Last month, volunteers organised a four-day adoption event for 10 of the felines at the Macau Jockey Club, as the MJC is required to return the site to the government by the beginning of next month. It was revealed on Thursday through a social media post that the MJC would completely close down its presence at the site at the end of this month, with over 100 mousers* still on the site and that the MJC planned to rehome all of them in the mainland.

The Facebook post sparked significant public debate online, with many netizens using various channels to voice their opinions and seek assistance, including contacting lawmakers and TVB's information programme "Scoop", in the hope of



A potential adopter takes a photo of one of the Macau Jockey Club's "working cats" awaiting adoption during yesterday's adoption campaign. – Photo: Yuki Lei

stopping the MJC from transporting the cats to the mainland. Among those responding was former Hong Kong celebrity Mary Jean Reimer, now a solicitor, who offered to temporarily take in all 100 unadopted cats from the MJC.

Reimer, also known as Yung

Jing Jing (翁靜晶), is a Hong Kong solicitor and actress. She has American-Chinese-Vietnamese ancestry.

On Friday morning, the Macau Jockey Club issued its first press release on the issue, stating that it had actively fulfilled its social responsibility to properly

handle the cats at the racecourse, including providing long-term rehousing and care for the cats in Zhuhai. Concurrently, Macau's Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) also released a statement indicating that it had been following up on the transfer and rehousing of all

the animals at the Macau Jockey Club's venues since April last year, noting that it had carried out health quarantine measures for the cats, including microchip implantation, rabies vaccinations and clinical examinations, as well as arranging the necessary health certificates for "exporting" the cats to assist with customs clearance.

In the statement, the bureau also said that it was pleased to see that the Macau Jockey Club had de-sexed all the cats and made proper arrangements for them.

Cats stopped from leaving Macau

The matter then further heated up, but at about 5 p.m. on Friday the *Post* received a call from ANIMA saying that, after coordination with the Macau Jockey Club and the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the controversial transfer of the cats to the mainland had been suspended. Instead, the cats would be taken in by several animal protection groups in Macau. Additionally, an adoption day would be arranged for the public on Sunday, i.e., yesterday, and that all cats unable to find an adopter would be cared for at a location provided by Reimer.

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Yemen's Huthis say targeted US aircraft carrier in Red Sea

SANAA – Yemen's Huthi rebels said they launched an attack on a United States aircraft carrier in the Red Sea yesterday, hours after Washington hit the Iran-backed rebels with deadly strikes.

"In response to this [US] aggression, the armed forces conducted a military operation... targeting the US aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman and its accompanying warships", the group said in a statement, adding it had launched 18 missiles and a drone. (More on p.11) –AFP



French deputy asks for return of Statue of Liberty

PARIS – France should take back the Statue of Liberty because the US no longer represents the values that led France to offer the statue, a French Euro-deputy said yesterday.

"Give us back the Statue of Liberty", centre-left politician Raphael Glucksmann said at a convention of his Place Publique centre-left movement.

"We're going to say to the Americans who have chosen to side with the tyrants, to the Americans who fired researchers for demanding scientific freedom: 'Give us back the Statue of Liberty,'" he told cheering supporters.

"We gave it to you as a gift, but apparently you despise it. So it will be just fine here at home," he added.

The Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York City's harbour on October 28, 1886 for the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence as a gift from the French people to America. It was designed by Frenchman Auguste Bartholdi.

Paris does have a far smaller copy of the statue on a small island on the Seine in Paris.

Glucksmann, a staunch defender of Ukraine, has strongly criticised President Donald Trump's radical change of US policy on the war.

He also took aim at Trump's cuts to US research institutions, which has already prompted a French government initiative to attract some of them to work in France

"The second thing we're going to say to

the Americans is: 'if you want to fire your best researchers, if you want to fire all the people who, through their freedom and their sense of innovation, their taste for doubt and research, have made your country the world's leading power, then we're going to welcome them,'" continued Glucksmann.

Since Trump returned to the White House in January, his government has cut federal research funding and sought to dismiss hundreds of federal workers working on health and climate research.

Glucksmann also criticised far-right leaders in France, accusing them of being a "fan club" for Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, who is spearheading the president's efforts to cut spending. –AFP

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China unveils plan on special initiatives to boost consumption

The central authorities yesterday made public a plan on special initiatives to increase consumption, as the world's second-largest economy moves to make domestic demand the main engine and anchor of economic growth. – Story on p. 7

Blaze kills 59 in N Macedonian nightclub

A fire tore through a nightclub in North Macedonia yesterday, killing 59 people, apparently after on-stage fireworks set the venue ablaze, authorities said, announcing arrest warrants for four people. – Story on p. 11

Portugal calls snap election after PM resigns

Portugal's president has announced a snap legislative vote for May 18 – the third national election in barely three years – after Prime Minister Luis Montenegro resigned over a conflict of interest dispute. – Story on p. 12

Aircon blaze erupts at Hoi Fu, about 60 self-evacuate

Yuki Lei

A fire broke out in Hoi Fu Garden Building yesterday morning, resulting in two dwellers suffering from smoke inhalation and being taken to hospital – and the Fire Services Bureau (CB) noted that the fire was likely caused by a short circuit in an air conditioner’s electrical wiring of one the upper-floor flats of the high-rise.

The two female victims, aged 66 and 32, were in stable condition after suffering from smoke inhalation, according to a CB statement. About 60 residents self-evacuated to the

building’s podium and ground floor.

At 6:42 a.m., the Fire Services Bureau received a report of a fire at Hoi Fu Garden Building on Rotunda de São João Bosco. Firefighters discovered a smoky blaze in a flat on the 29th floor, which required the use of a fire hose to extinguish it.

According to the bureau, the affected flat’s utility and laundry rooms were completely destroyed. The bureau said it believed that a short circuit in one of the flat’s A/C units caused the fire.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) subsequently said in a

statement that arrangements have been made to accommodate the affected flat’s residents in the Ilha Verde emergency shelter, considering their needs. No other residents of the building requested temporary shelter.

Also yesterday morning, another fire broke out at Block 6 of Iat Lai Garden housing estate in Toi San district, with no injuries. The blaze was believed to have been caused by a fire in the balcony grille of a flat on the 7th floor.

The fire was put out by the building’s management. ■



This photo provided by a member of the public to public broadcaster TDM shows the fire in Hoi Fu Garden Building yesterday morning.

Police nab ‘loan con artists’ for cheating woman out of 4,000 patacas

Yuki Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested on Wednesday two “loan con artists” who, while “soliciting money from passers-by on the street” by claiming that they had lost all their money in local casinos and could not afford to buy meals, cheated a local woman out of 4,000 patacas.

According to a regular police press conference on Friday, the two fraudsters from the mainland are a man and a woman in their forties, surnamed Zhang and Zhao respectively.

On Wednesday, the Public Security Police received a report from a victim who recounted that she had met the two suspects by chance on Rua de Nam Keng in Taipa the previous day. A PSP spokesperson quoted the victim as noting that during their interaction, the duo told her that their bank account had been frozen and asked her to lend them 4,000 patacas, promising to repay her the next day once the account

was unfrozen. Moved by their story, the victim exchanged contact information with them and went to the bank to withdraw the money for them. However, the spokesperson added, when she contacted them the next day to request repayment, they came up with repeated excuses, leading her to suspect she had been scammed and to seek police assistance.

The PSP spokesperson noted that, thanks to their citywide CCTV camera system, officers identified the two suspects and arrested them at Alameda Dr. Carlos D’Assumpção in Nape.

Under questioning, the duo admitted that due to gambling losses, they had defrauded passers-by by appealing to their sympathy. The police seized a total of nearly 20,000 patacas in cash from the two suspects.

The two suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a fraud charge. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) on Friday shows the two suspected “loan con artists” being escorted to a police station.

Jockey Club’s over 100 ‘working cats’ to stay in Macau for adoption

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At about the same time, the Macau Jockey Club announced in a press release that it had reached a consensus with ANIMA to co-organise the adoption activities. The MJC further revealed that it had contacted several local animal protection organisations to discuss further options and had conducted adoption activities to find suitable homes for the mousers. However, it added, some adoption cases proved ultimately unsuccessful due to health or behavioural problems, as some of the cats found it difficult to adapt to a home environment. The MJC also emphasised that since announcing the closure of its horse-racing operations, it had been providing necessary medical care, including trapping, desexing, microchipping and vaccinating the cats under the guidance of the Municipal Affairs Bureau to ensure that all of its felines would be able to live in a healthy and safe environment, with detailed reports submitted to the bureau on a monthly basis.

22 cats adopted yesterday

The adoption campaign started at 10 a.m. yesterday and ran until 6:30 p.m. Prospective adopters were required to bring valid identity documents and proof of address, along with photographs of their flat’s windows showing installed window screens. After completing the registration procedures on-site, they could take the cats home.

A local woman, surnamed Che, was the first to adopt one of the cats during yesterday’s campaign. She said that it was not the first time for her to have a cat: “Originally, I had two cats at home, but one of them passed away due to old age, leaving me with an eight-year-old cat that was feeling quite lonely. When I learnt that the MJC was facilitating cat adoptions, I decided to come and look for another cat, hoping to be lucky enough to find one so I could once again have two cats at home”.

As the *Post* witnessed inside



Members of the public wait to see the cats up for adoption yesterday at the Macau Jockey Club in Taipa. – Photo: Yuki Lei

the Macau Jockey Club, the adoption place was still bustling at 1 p.m., with many parents bringing their children to look for their favourite cats. The waiting area was crowded, and potential adopters walked around the dozens of cages, eagerly waiting to choose their preferred cats.

Speaking to the *Post* on the sidelines of the campaign, ANIMA President Zoe Tang said that the cats that had already been adopted include both adult cats and kittens, some of them younger than one year, the youngest aged about four to five months. The 22 cats up for adoption yesterday were all relatively docile and suitable for adoption, she added, while some were not suitable for adoption at the moment. She underlined: “But not permanently, but it will take time for them to get used to the new environment”. Zoe Tang added that she would not exclude the possibility of releasing some of them for adoption in due course.

According to Tang, during yesterday’s adoption campaign, volunteers first explained each cat’s condition to potential adopters, including its health and vaccination status. After adoption,

the adoptee will be placed under quarantine observation before its registration will be officially transferred from the MJC to the adopter, so as to give the cat a few weeks to adapt to its new home.

There were over 100 mousers at the MJC site, Tang said, adding that through the coordination of various animal protection organisations, five groups have made arrangements to take in a total of 60 cats, with 20 of them currently under the care of ANIMA.

A similar incident occurred back in 2018, when 533 greyhounds used as racing dogs were originally planned to be transferred to the mainland following the government’s resumption of the now-defunct Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome site. Both the dog- and horse-racing operations were run by companies headed by gaming executive and lawmaker Angela Leong On Kei. ■

**Cats that catch mice. Traditionally, a “mouser” refers to a cat, especially one that is skilled at hunting and catching mice. This term is often used to describe barn cats or working cats kept to control rodent populations. – DeepSeek*

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The future of computing: Recent advancements

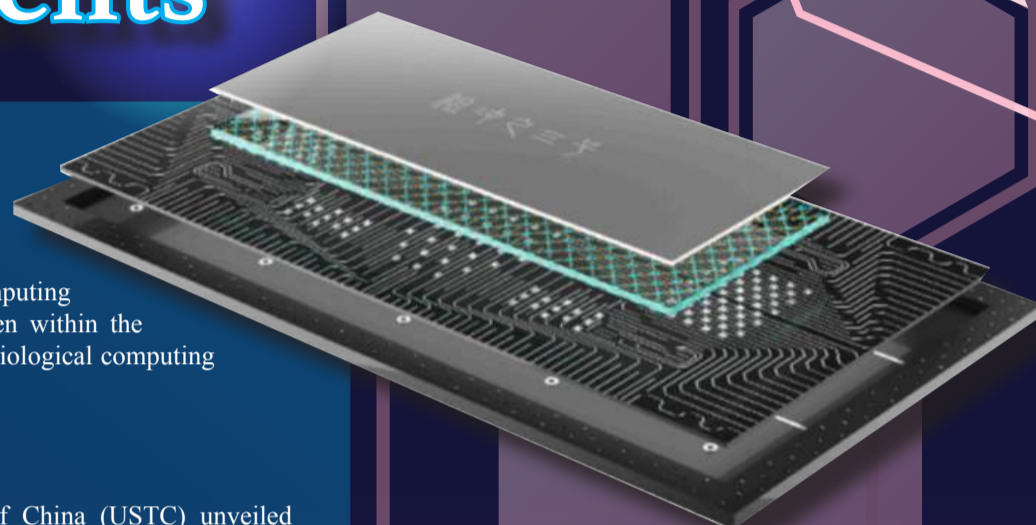
Hoi Sio Hong, Form 4, Chan Sui Ki Perpetual Help College

In retrospect, it is astonishing to think that computers, which once occupied entire rooms, can now fit into the palm of one's hand. These devices have evolved at a pace no one could have anticipated. Today, researchers are pioneering cutting-edge computing technologies to tackle challenges that conventional computers cannot resolve, even within the lifetime of the universe. This article explores recent breakthroughs in quantum and biological computing and their implications.

USTC's new quantum processor: Zuchongzhi-3

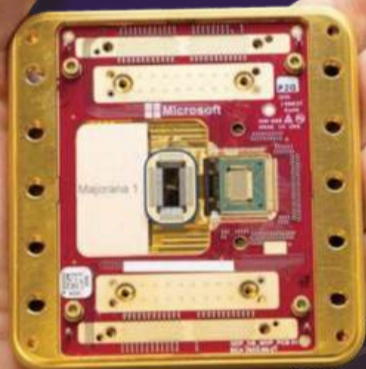
On March 3, researchers from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) unveiled Zuchongzhi-3, a superconducting quantum processor boasting 105 qubits (quantum bits) and 182 couplers. Qubits, the quantum equivalent of classical bits, leverage quantum superposition and entanglement to perform calculations exponentially faster than traditional computers. Couplers, meanwhile, enable precise interactions between qubits – a critical feature for maintaining coherence in quantum systems.

The USTC team claims Zuchongzhi-3 operates 1,015 times faster than today's most powerful supercomputers and outperforms Google's latest quantum achievements by a factor of one million. While these claims await independent verification, the prototype marks a significant stride towards practical quantum advantage in fields like cryptography, drug discovery, and climate modelling.



This image downloaded from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) website last night shows USTC's Zuchongzhi-3.

This undated photo downloaded from the Microsoft website last night shows Microsoft's Majorana 1.



Microsoft's quantum chip: Majorana 1

On February 19, Microsoft announced Majorana 1, its first topological quantum processor featuring eight topological qubits. Unlike conventional qubits, which are highly sensitive to environmental noise, topological qubits rely on Majorana fermions – elusive particles that act as their own antiparticles. These particles, when stabilised in specialised materials, could theoretically create error-resistant qubits, a holy grail for scalable quantum computing.

However, the announcement drew scepticism. Topological qubits remain largely theoretical, and Microsoft's prior research on Majorana fermions faced scrutiny after two high-profile retractions in *Nature* scientific journal in 2023. Critics argue the company must transparently validate its results to restore credibility. Despite these challenges, Majorana 1 underscores the industry's push to overcome quantum computing's Achilles' heel: error rates.

World's first "biological computer": Cortical's CL1

On March 2, Australian startup Cortical Labs launched CL1, the world's first deployable biological computer. CL1 uses human neurons grown in vitro to power neural networks, merging biology with silicon-based infrastructure. Unlike static silicon chips, this hybrid system evolves dynamically, enabling continuous learning akin to organic brains. Remarkably, it consumes far less energy than conventional AI hardware, offering a sustainable alternative for machine learning.

In 2022, Cortical demonstrated the potential of biological computing by teaching 800,000 lab-grown neurons to play the video game Pong. Beyond gaming, this technology could revolutionise neuroscience by modelling brain disorders like epilepsy and dementia. Yet, ethical concerns loom – such as defining the moral status of synthetic biological systems and ensuring consent for human-cell sourcing.

Conclusion

The rise of quantum processors like Zuchongzhi-3 and Majorana 1 highlights the race to unlock unimaginable computational power, while Cortical's biological computer redefines efficiency through adaptive neural networks. Yet challenges – quantum instability, unproven theories, and ethical dilemmas – demand rigorous collaboration and transparency. The future lies not in one technology, but in merging quantum, biological, and classical systems to transcend today's limits.



This undated photo downloaded from British online newspaper The Independent last night shows Cortical's CL1.

30 pct of senior citizens report significant loneliness: survey

Yuki Lei

The findings of a survey show that 30 percent of the elderly respondents experience a significant degree of loneliness whilst about 19 percent of prospective retirees are in need of attention in terms of mental health, in response to which the Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) Macau Social Services Centre, which conducted the survey, urged the government to continue enhancing the planning for a barrier-free and senior-friendly environment, while raising public awareness of the concept of an elderly-friendly city.

Sheng Kung Hui, the Cantonese name for the Anglican Church, released the findings of two surveys on Friday, comprising the "Review and Prospect Study on Age-Friendly City" and the "Retirement Readiness and Retirement Happiness Index of Macau Residents 2024". The first survey references the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Eight Dimensions of Age-Friendly Cities, having collected nearly 1,500 valid samples over the past four years, including in-depth interviews with five local experts, consultants, councillors, and elderly service providers this year to gather their perspectives on Macau's elderly-friendly initiatives. The second survey, conducted between May

and September last year, involved a questionnaire targeting local residents aged 45 and above, focusing on their financial planning and physical and psychological well-being in relation to their retirement, ultimately yielding a valid sample size of 786 respondents. A press conference was held on Friday at the centre.

The findings highlighted respondents' and interviewees' views on social participation, respect, and social inclusion, noting increased community awareness of care and friendliness towards the elderly, with growing importance placed on the integration between the elderly and the young generation. According to the findings, 70 percent of the respondents agreed that there are special counters for the elderly in general services, while 82 percent acknowledged a caring attitude by young people by offering them seats on public transport.

According to the findings, the respondents and interviewees also expressed a positive outlook on community and health services, particularly regarding the local government's ongoing investment in optimising healthcare, including initiatives such as home care services, free medical care for



Representatives of the Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) Macau Social Services Centre release the findings of their survey during Friday's press conference on the SKH premises. — Photo courtesy of TDM

the elderly, day respite care, and outreach medical services to residential care homes.

However, the findings also indicate that 30 percent of the elderly respondents reported experiencing a high degree of loneliness. In terms of information exchange, both respondents and interviewees affirmed the efforts of the government and social service organisations in enhancing the smartphone penetration rate and digital skills of the elderly, with

the findings indicating that the percentage of respondents using smartphones has increased from around 50 percent in 2020 to 91.2 percent in 2023.

As far as physical health is concerned, the findings reveal that about 32 percent of prospective retirees lack exercise, and 70 percent view "medical or insurance" costs as one of their major future expenditures. Regarding mental health, the average score on the Mental Health Self-Assessment

Scale for prospective retirees stood at 23.12, with about 19 percent requiring attention for their mental health. Additionally, around 31 percent of prospective retirees said they believe their lives will become more boring after retirement. As evidenced by the report, 25.7 percent of the prospective retirees interviewed would consider Zhuhai as a retirement destination, while 21.7 percent would look at other mainland cities, highlighting that demand for cross-border medical services should not be overlooked.

The findings also highlighted a comparison of surveys on retirement and financial preparedness conducted among prospective retirees in 2022 and 2024, with the average value of the Retirement Preparedness Index for local prospective retirees standing at 5.45 out of 10, which is slightly lower than the 5.53 reported for mainland residents in 2024. The prospective retirees in Macau recognise the importance and their responsibility for retirement finances, the findings added, scoring 7.62 for financial planning awareness and 7.05 for awareness of responsibility. However, the findings indicate that they are still insufficiently taking practical actions to prepare for retirement. ■

MPU holds global carbon neutrality trends symposium

Rui Pastorin

The Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) said in a statement on Thursday that its Centre for Gaming and Tourism Studies (CJT) recently held a symposium entitled "Global Carbon Neutrality Trends and ESG Compliance in the International Gaming Industry", during which keynote speakers discussed sustainable development within the global climate governance framework.

According to the statement, invited speakers included Macao Finance Technology and Education Development Association Vice President Cicy Shi (施韻) and Special Research Fellow Justin Hu (胡濟源). Representatives from Macau's six integrated resorts, gaming equipment suppliers, the Macau Emission Exchange, the

public university's faculty and its students were also in attendance.

Both speakers discussed insights on "the relationship between global carbon reduction trends in the tourism and leisure industry, as well as strategies for fostering a green transformation in Macau's tourism and leisure sector", the statement said. Among the topics tackled were the historical context of global carbon neutrality and the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues facing Macau's publicly listed gaming enterprises.

The statement said that CJT Director Wang Changbin noted that the seminar facilitated dialogue between academia and industry, providing valuable insights for the green transition of Macau's tourism and leisure sector. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) on Thursday shows an unidentified speaker addressing the audience during the recent "Global Carbon Neutrality Trends and ESG Compliance in the International Gaming Industry".

Kenyan Langat and Sigei win Sands int'l 10k



Kenyan athlete Betty Sigei crosses the finish line to win the women's race of the 2025 Sands China Macao International 10K yesterday.



Kenyan athlete Vincent Kibet Langat (#2) crosses the finish line ahead of Ethiopia's Teresa Nyakola Gela yesterday. — Photos: Sports Bureau

Rui Pastorin

Kenyan Vincent Kibet Langat and Betty Sigei won yesterday's 2025 Sands China Macao International 10K, with each athlete setting a new local record for the men's and women's categories respectively.

The races kicked off from Lago Sai Van (西灣湖) and ended at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Taipa, with this year's route also featuring the Cotai Strip for the first time.

According to a statement from the Sports Bureau (ID) yesterday, overall champion in the men's category Langat finished the race with a new local record of 28:07.09. Finishing a close second was Ethiopia's Teresa Nyakola Gela, followed by Kenya's Harrison

Wanjiru in third place. Meanwhile, Sigei, who had also won last year's Sands 10K, completed the race with a new local record of 31:23, ahead of compatriots Cintia Chepngeno and Daisilah Jerono, the statement said.

Moreover, local runners Wang Kun and Hoi Long respectively won the Macau men's and women's category with a time of 31:27 and 38:42 respectively, with Wang's time being a new Macau record.

A TDM report yesterday noted that Sports Bureau President Luis Gomes said in an interview he hopes that the race's international influence would increase and draw in more long-distance running enthusiasts from the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Gomes also indicated future plans for more sports resources to be allocated

to boost public participation in sporting events.

A separate Friday statement by the bureau quoted Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai as saying that the race drew in nearly 10,000 participants from 39 countries and regions. The TDM report said that nearly 2,000 of the runners were from overseas.

Yesterday also saw the awarding of this year's winners of the "Sands 10K Presents: The FUNkiest Costume Award", themed "Ocean Run".

Runners who finished within the time limit can check their results on www.macao10k.com or the Macao 10K app, and download the certificate at www.marathon-photos.com from April 1. ■

Supply of reclaimed water set to reduce households' water bills: water chief

Tony Wong

Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) Director Susana Wong Soi Man said yesterday that after the scheduled start of the supply of reclaimed water, to be used for the flushing of toilets and watering plants, to Coloane's sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing neighbourhood and the University of Macau (UM) campus early next year, their water bills are expected to drop because the unit price of reclaimed water will be lower than that of tap water.

Wong made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of her bureau's annual event aiming to raise residents' awareness of saving water, which was held in Flora Garden and the adjacent Guia Hill yesterday afternoon.

According to Wikipedia, water reclamation, aka wastewater reuse or water recycling, is the process of converting municipal wastewater (sewage) into water that can be reused for a variety of purposes, such as the flushing of toilets, watering plants, road cleaning, car washing, and firefighting. Such water is also known as reclaimed water.

The use of reclaimed water aims to save tap water consumption.

According to the DSAMA website, reclaimed water in Macau will be used for two purposes first, namely the flushing of toilets and watering plants, while reclaimed water will only be extended to more purposes after "the city's respective technology gets more developed and the necessary conditions are met".

The Seac Pai Van public housing estate and the UM campus will be the first two areas in Macau where reclaimed water will be supplied to in the future.

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

Construction of Macau's first treatment plant for wastewater reuse, located in Coloane, got off the ground in October last year. After its completion and operational start, Macau will be able to start generating reclaimed water.

The city's first reclaimed-water plant will be located next to the Coloane Wastewater Treatment Plant near Concórdia Industrial Park.

The reclaimed-water plant is being constructed in two phases.

8,000 households to benefit

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Wong stressed that with the aim of conserving water resources, her bureau has been working on launching the use of



Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) Director Susana Wong Soi Man delivers a speech at the start of yesterday's event in Flora Garden aiming to raise residents' awareness of saving water. — Photo: Tony Wong

reclaimed water for non-potable purposes including the flushing of toilets and watering plants.

Wong underlined that the government expects the construction of the first phase of the reclaimed-water plant in Coloane to be completed early next year when the plant will be able to start supplying reclaimed water to the Seac Pai Van public housing neighbourhood, benefitting about 8,000 households, and the UM campus, where reclaimed-water pipes have been installed.

The DSAMA website says that reclaimed water will only be supplied to newly developed districts where reclaimed-water pipes have been or will be installed, because the city's older neighbourhoods "lack the necessary space and conditions" for the installation of such pipes.

Wong pointed out yesterday that once Macau's generation and supply of reclaimed water commences, households in the Seac Pai Van public housing buildings cannot opt to continue using tap water for the flushing of toilets because pipes used for carrying reclaimed water were already installed in the buildings and are connected to toilets in bathrooms.

Wong said that while the unit price of reclaimed water is still yet to be announced, it will "certainly" be lower than that of tap water, because of which, she said, the university and the Seac Pai Van public housing households are expected to have lower water bills after reclaimed water is supplied to there.

After the second phase of the reclaimed-water plant in Coloane is completed in the future, according to the DSAMA website, it will start supplying reclaimed water to properties in Cotai. While the plant's first-phase construction is now scheduled to be completed early next year, the government currently does not have an exact timetable as to when the second-

phase construction is completed.

In addition to the one in Coloane, according to the DSAMA website, the government will build another reclaimed-water plant, on a plot on the man-made island where the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) is located. After the completion of the plant's construction, for which the government currently also does not have a schedule, it will start supplying reclaimed water to properties on the HZMB man-made island, in the Zone A and Zone B land reclamation areas, and on Plot P in the peninsula's Area Preta district.

2.2 billion people globally without access to safe water

Meanwhile, delivering a speech at the beginning of yesterday's water-saving event, Wong noted that 2.2 billion people in the world, or nearly 28 percent of the global population, do not have access to safe drinking water.

In contrast, Wong said, people in Macau can enjoy "unlimited" clean drinking water whenever they simply turn on a tap, adding that such convenience causes Macau residents in general to mistakenly assume that water resources are unlimited, thereby forgetting their preciousness.

Wong noted that Macau can enjoy sufficient tap water thanks to the mainland authorities' special measures.

This year is the ninth time that the bureau has held the one-day event. Previously, the event was held on the peninsula's Guia Hill every year, before it was held in the recreational and sitting-out area on the north-western Taipa waterfront outside the sprawling Ocean Gardens residential estate last year for the first time. This time, the event returned to Guia Hill yesterday, but also covering the adjacent Flora Garden for the first time. ■

Govt vows to level uneven road surfaces affected by Inner Harbour's flood-prevention project

Tony Wong

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said yesterday that it is urging the respective construction contractors to repair, in a timely manner, the uneven road surface, which is affecting motorists, motorbike riders in particular, on a section of the Inner Harbour district's Rua das Lorchas (火船頭街) near Praça de Ponte e Horta (known in Cantonese as Si Ta Hau – 司打口) resulting from the ongoing project to install underground box culverts and new rainwater drains and sewer pipes there.

The flood-prevention project, which started in 2023, is being carried out in three phases, different sections at different times, in the southern area of the Inner Harbour district. After the completion of the project's first and second phases, it is now in its final phase, which, according to the DSOP website, is scheduled to be fully completed in June this year.

Throughout the project's duration, thoroughfares in the Inner Harbour district's southern area

such as Rua das Lorchas and Rua do Almirante Sérgio (河邊新街) have remained open to vehicular traffic, but with various traffic restrictions throughout the period.

The ongoing third phase is primarily being carried out in Rua das Lorchas.

Yesterday's DSOP statement noted that the third phase is now coming to its completion, adding that the current roadworks are primarily being carried out in the section near Praça de Ponte e Horta.

The statement underlined that as vehicular traffic is heavy along the road sections affected by the flood-prevention project's third phase, road surfaces are more easily being worn out while the project is being carried out, causing them to become uneven.

The statement said that the bureau has been aware of complaints by some residents about the uneven road surfaces, adding that it is urging the respective contractors to take special measures to level the uneven road surfaces. ■



This handout photo released by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) yesterday shows workers levelling uneven road surfaces outside Praça de Ponte e Horta yesterday.

Gaming concessionaires generate 85.5 pct of Macau govt receipts in January

Staff Reporter

Macau's six gaming concessionaires generated 85.5 percent of the local government's total receipts in January, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) has announced.

According to a statement by the bureau earlier this week, the government's income from the concessionaires stood at 7.189 billion patacas in January, down by 2.0 percent year on year. The government's income from gaming concession payments – gross gaming revenue (GGR) taxes plus additional levies – amounted to 85.5 percent of the government's total receipts of 8.40 billion patacas in January.

In January 2024, gaming concession payments to the government totalled 7.339 billion

patacas, or 69.94 percent of the government's total receipts of 10.493 billion patacas.

Macau's six gaming concessionaires (Sands, Galaxy, SJM, Melco, Wynn, MGM) pay 35 percent of their GGR as direct tax to the government, plus five percent of their GGR as levies earmarked for a range of public causes such as education and public projects. The six gaming operators run a total of 30 casinos.

The government's total receipts of 8.40 billion patacas in January fell by 19.95 percent compared with the 10.49 billion patacas a year earlier.

In January, the government's total expenditure stood at 4.715 billion patacas, down by 7.0 percent year on year, resulting in a surplus of 3.684 billion patacas. ■