

The Macao SAR Government urges:

- Let's all persist;
- Wash hands frequently;
- Wear a mask properly;
- Avoid crowd gathering;
- Keep a social distance;
- Declare health conditions;
- Reduce leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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GUANGDONG PROVINCE REPORTED ITS FIRST COVID-19 CASES IN WHICH THE PATIENTS SHOWED NO SYMPTOMS, OVER THE WEEKEND

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AP PHOTO



South Korea reported 32 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, a continued downward trend in new infections in the country. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement the additional cases increased the country's total to 10,512. It says 7,368 of them have been recovered and released from quarantine and that 13,788 are under tests to determine whether they've contracted the virus.

AP PHOTO



USA Social restrictions aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus could have saved lives if they'd been started earlier, said the nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci (pictured), seeming to draw the ire of President Donald Trump. Trump reposted a tweet that referenced Fauci's comments and that said "Time to #FireFauci." Fauci said yesterday [Macao time] that the economy in parts of the country could have a "rolling reentry" as early as next month.

AP PHOTO



Guam People in Guam are used to a constant U.S. military presence on the strategic Pacific island, but some are nervous as hundreds of sailors from a coronavirus-stricken Navy aircraft carrier flood into hotels for quarantine. Officials insist they have enforced strict safety measures. An outbreak aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt began in late March.

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EVA BUCHO



MAY DAY

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AP PHOTO



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MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

46 MILLION MASKS SOLD TO PUBLIC SINCE LATE JANUARY

LYNZY VALLES

A total of 46 million masks have been sold to the public since the start of the government's scheme in late January.

According to data provided by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre, six million face masks were sold at government-affiliated pharmacies in the eighth round of sales, which ended on Saturday. The city is currently on its ninth round of face mask sales.

Earlier, authorities assured the public that a total of 10 rounds of face mask distribution would take place under the "Guaranteed Mask Supply for Macau Residents Scheme."

On the weekend, authorities said there was no need to rush to purchase masks – particularly in the first two days as there are sufficient supplies of masks.

They advised the public that they can also purchase masks later within the 10-day period to avoid crowds.

The implementation method and points of sale for the ninth round is similar to the previous rounds.

Each resident and non-resident worker is permitted to purchase 10 face masks for 8 patacas at designated pharmacies, health centers and community association premises.

There is a total of 84 accredited pharmacies where local residents can buy face masks.

Those with children aged between 3 and 8 (born between April 13, 2011 and April 21, 2017) are eligible to purchase five children's masks and five adult masks.

Meanwhile, Macau students who are currently undertaking higher education studies, ex-

change programs, or language courses abroad, and have registered with the Higher Education Bureau are allowed to have someone purchase masks on their behalf.

Someone designated by the student can purchase the masks at the Macau Polytechnic Institute.

The government has set up a Macau post office on the premises for residents who wish to ship the masks to the registered student.

During the eighth round, a volunteer team of 500 students from secondary schools had registered to help pack and distribute the masks.

Under the scheme launched by the government on January 23, a total of 20 million masks were initially procured. These masks were initially intended to be allocated to 56 contracted

pharmacies across Macau for purchase.

The government has strived to meet the rising demand for masks during this pandemic period, reminding local residents not to panic or rush to pharmacies to purchase.

Although face masks have gradually become available at supermarkets and non-government affiliated pharmacies, the prices of these items have increased.

Face masks have become the most common product shipped from Macau to the rest of the world in the last two months.

Approximately 65% of all parcels shipped via Express Mail Service contained face masks, accounting for 12,357 parcels in February and March. The number of parcels sent in February and March soared 334% year-on-year.

E-voucher collection period starts today

THE collection period for the first round of the e-voucher scheme starts today. Registered residents are reminded to collect their Macau Pass cards with the loaded funds in accordance with the time, date and location they have registered with the authority. The collection period will end on April 30.

In order to collect their cards, registered residents must present their own ID card at the location that they have chosen to collect their e-voucher. The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) will send a text message to remind them the day before.

Registered residents can also check their registered collection details on the AMCM's website.

If collection is conducted on behalf of a registrant, a signed authorization letter, which can be downloaded from AMCM's website, must be submitted at the collection point along with the ID cards of both the registrant and the collector.

Parents collecting for their children must submit a signed relation declaration, which can also be downloaded from AMCM's website, upon collection as well as their ID cards and their children's ID cards.

Registered residents are reminded that the same e-voucher card will be used for the second round of the scheme, which will be launched in August, so they should keep their cards. AL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'WHEN YOU GO BACK TO IPIM [TO RENEW YOUR BIR] YOUR PLEA FALLS ON DEAF EARS.'

Dear Editor,

The Macau government must be applauded for the recent announcements by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Mr. Lei Wai Nong, about the Economic Relief Fund Grants for eligible Macau residents, both permanent and non-permanent.

The MOP3,000 e-vouchers and the early payment of the Government Weal-

th Partaking Scheme were greatly welcomed by the residents of Macau, and will greatly stimulate the economy.

However, another announcement came hot on the heels of this. A second round of e-vouchers to the value of MOP5,000 will be issued in August, along with other generous employee subsidies as well.

This truly shows the great commitment by the Macau

government to the wellbeing of its residents.

However, spare a thought for the many Macau residents that are like myself and are still waiting on the renewal of their Macau ID cards (BIR) to be issued by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM). My BIR card expired over two years ago, but it is still considered valid by law and I have still been using it along with the decla-

ration issued to me by IPIM.

I tried to apply for the first round of the MOP3,000 e-vouchers, but was rejected because my card had expired. I was also not able to receive my payment from the Wealth Partaking Scheme, in fact, I did not receive my 2019 payment for this either. When I contacted the Financial Services Bureau, I was told that my card had to be updated first and that I should go to IPIM. But

when you go back to IPIM your plea falls on deaf ears.

I know of many cases like mine where residents have been unable to apply for the Economic Relief Grants and the Wealth Partaking Subsidies, due to the fact that their cards, like mine, have expired, even though they are valid Macau residents.

I have completed over eight years of my residence here, and yet still have not received my final Macau ID

card. My friends are in a similar situation.

We are all still working here in Macau and paying taxes, and we are all residents contributing to the local economy. There should be some government provisions made for us so we can apply and receive all the benefits we are entitled to.

Instead, we feel like we have simply been forgotten.

A Concerned Resident

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JOSEPH CHAN VIA UNSPLASH

HK expert microbiologist says summer travel plans will have to wait

ANTHONY LAM

DR. Ho Pak Leung, an expert microbiologist from the University of Hong Kong, has warned Hong Kong residents that they “should not even consider overseas travel during the summer holidays,” even as late as August.

The expert said that overseas travel would not be appropriate. Ho came to this conclusion after considering the strict border control measures implemented by European and American countries, as well as the severe outbreaks occurring there.

Referencing Hubei province, which only reopened its border after a two-months closure, he did not anticipate satisfactory conditions for overseas travel. However, Ho thinks travelling to less risky areas in the mainland may be possible by July.

Dr. Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), was questioned about this at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center’s daily press conference.

The local doctor addressed the fact that many experts have made various projections or speculated on the situation, however, he was not particularly interested in making estimates or predictions.

Nonetheless, he agrees with the fact that the pandemic will not ease soon. “Looking at the global condition now, the pandemic is still very severe,” Lo said. “Many places are still recording a rise in infections.”

Hong Kong microbiologist Ho commented on the situation in Hong Kong, saying that an infection-free period of two incubation cycles, equivalent to 28 days, is the threshold for considering the outbreak under control. This criterion is shared by both mainland China and Macau.

“A large number of researchers have been working on a vaccine for Covid-19,” added Lo at yesterday’s press conference. “If a vaccine that proves effective on the

majority can be manufactured in large quantities, this criterion may be realized.”

Having said that, the doctor is unsure about when the pandemic will come to an end because there are “a lot of influential factors.”

An infection-free period of two incubation cycles, equivalent to 28 days, is the threshold for considering the outbreak under control

“For instance, whether or not the virus will mutate,” he explained. “If it will, will it get stronger or weaker? Will it get more or less contagious?” These are all crucial factors in determining whether the pandemic can be considered under control, according to the doctor.

Another crucial factor is how vigilant people are. “If people relax their guard when the situation improves a little, the situation may worsen again,” Lo warned.

Considering the situation in Macau, the doctor disclosed that

contingencies have been made to handle as many hypothetical scenarios as possible. He stressed that epidemic control is not solely a health problem, but the functioning of the society must also be taken into account.

Previously, posts circulated online claiming that the coronavirus would be eliminated when summer arrives, “as it cannot stand the heat”. The Hong Kong microbiologist dismissed these claims.

Singapore recently recorded

233 new infections in one day, and the average air temperature of the country has been around 30 degrees Celsius. Ho said that considering this, it seems unlikely that the coronavirus will be eliminated by the summer heat.

Separately, asked yesterday why Macau’s only serious case of the Covid-19 deteriorated in condition, the doctor said it was merely by chance. The patient does not fit the profile of a patient predisposed to severe diseases.

“The 50-year-old patient is not old. She has no other health problems,” Lo said, before adding that the patient is now improving.

FOUR QUARANTINE VENUES STILL IN USE

WITH the Imperial Dragon Hotel and the Grand Harbour Hotel discharged from their duty as designated hotels for quarantine, there are four hotels still in use, according to the government. They are the Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, the Golden Crown China Hotel, the Jai Alai Hotel and the Pousada Marina Infante.

The latter was the first hotel to be used for quarantine purposes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Like the other six hotels which had been discharged from duty earlier, the Imperial Dragon and the Grand Harbour will resume normal operation after sanitization is conducted under the supervision of Health Bureau staff.

Survey suggests Macau visits are being postponed until next year

MAINLAND visitors appear to be postponing their Macau travel plans by as much as 12 months, according to a survey conducted by a research unit of Morgan Stanley, as entry restriction measures on both sides of the SAR border show no signs of easing.

The survey asked more than 2,000 mainland respondents from urban locations across the country about their willingness to travel to Macau during the upcoming Labor Day holiday on May 1. The respondents were described as representative of China’s “urban” and “more af-

fluent” demographic.

Conducted by AlphaWise, the results showed that travel plans were being postponed in some cases by 12 months or more. Approximately 43% of respondents would not travel to Macau in the short-term, while 44% had no plans to vi-

sit the city at all. Just 7% would attempt to travel to Macau next month.

The number of visitors to Macau has dramatically fallen since the local government introduced border restrictions in late January to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

As of last month, nei-

ghoring Guangdong Province is enforcing a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all arrivals, including its own residents. Mainland visitors typically account for about two-thirds of Macau’s monthly arrivals, with about half of those hailing from Guangdong Province.

In February, visitor arrivals plunged 95% in year-on-year terms to just 156,000. In the same month, casinos grappled with a 15-day government-ordered shutdown and gross gaming revenue for the city dropped by 87.8% to 3.1 billion patacas. **DB**

HO IAT SENG EXPECTED TO DELIVER POLICY ADDRESS NEXT MONDAY

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng will deliver his 2020 policy address at the Legislative Assembly (AL) on April 20, according to public broadcaster Radio Macau. Citing unidentified sources, the broadcaster's report said that the policy address would take note of what has already been achieved with regards to alleviating the economic impact of Covid-19. It will also detail the government's future recovery plans. The Chief Executive and his five policy secretaries will only attend the AL for one day, instead of the normal two, according to Radio Macau.

MAN PROSECUTED FOR COLLECTING OYSTERS

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has prosecuted a man collecting oysters on the coast of Coloane. Inspectors from the bureau recently found the man at Avenida de Cinco Outubro, Coloane, while he was collecting oysters. In total, 4.2 kilograms of oysters were seized. According to Macau's food safety law, supplying unqualified fishery products is subject to a maximum of five years jail punishment. Administrative violations can also lead to a maximum fine of MOP600,000. The IAM, together with the customs authority, will increase inspections in the coastal areas of Coloane looking for these illegal practices. According to the IAM, the shellfish living in contaminated water may contain heavy metals, toxins and pathogenic microorganisms which may survive high-temperature cooking, and, in turn, are a health risk when consumed.

FIVE DETAINED ON SUSPICION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Judiciary Police and the customs authority have detained five people as suspects in a recently discovered drug trafficking case. The five suspects are from Macau, mainland China and Vietnam. According to the PJ, some of the drug traffickers were transporting drugs to Macau via a boat. They would drop a bag of drugs in a fishing area of Macau and later, other drug traffickers would recover the drugs. Customs officers found two men aboard a boat used in the operation. Later, the PJ spotted a man carrying 10 bags of cocaine and one bag of marijuana, and detained him. The police authority then brought two Vietnamese residents to the police station for further investigation from a building at R. de Nossa Sra. Do Amparo. Officers found drugs, including heroin, at the property. In total, the PJ seized MOP23,000 of suspected drug-related cash, in addition to drugs worth MOP11,000.

GUANGDONG REPORTS ON DISCOVERY OF 400 ASYMPTOMATIC CORONAVIRUS CASES

OVER the weekend, Guangdong Province reported its first batch of Covid-19 cases in which the patients showed no symptoms. A total of 398 individuals who were tested and confirmed to be infected were shown to be asymptomatic.

On April 12, Health Commission of Guangdong Province director Duan Yufei presented an update on the province's Covid-19 situation, as well as statistics related to asymptomatic cases. This marked the first time the province has ever provided the public with numbers on these cases.

As of April 11, Guangdong Province has performed 3.6 million nucleic acid tests to detect Covid-19.

Duan claimed that the Guangdong government had not recorded any cases where asymptomatic individuals had transmitted the infection.

However, Duan's statement runs counter to statements from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center of Macau. The Macau center had previously shown that asymptomatic patients were, in fact, capable of transmitting the virus to others.

On Sunday, another 31 new asymptomatic infections were discovered in the province, in-

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



cluding 29 cases in Guangzhou, one in Shenzhen and another in Foshan.

With an average of 30 asymptomatic cases per day, the province says it is still ready to resume manufacturing and production. Renowned Chinese epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan has supported these statements.

Zhong, who has been a leading voice on Covid-19 in the mainland, said that both Guangdong Province and the city of Guangzhou had taken early precautions

to detect asymptomatic cases. These measures included examining all the relatives of confirmed cases.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, mainland China has recorded 2,088 cases and 1,064 asymptomatic cases. In mainland China, people who test positive for the virus but do not have any symptoms are not classified as confirmed cases. This contrasts with practices in Macau and Hong Kong, as well as South Korea, Japan and Singapore.

Amid the concerns over the

legitimacy of mainland China's Covid-19 statistics, the country is still keen to return to normal life, and production and manufacturing. Zhong also hinted at this in his most recent comments on the mainland's measures. "We can't always enforce restrictive measures, otherwise it will cause a rather heavy impact on both the economy and people's lives. We can't return to the past [no work and no manufacturing] just because of one or several cases," said Zhong. JZ

VIRUS TESTS SAID TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE SECTOR

COVID-19 diagnostic tests may be made available to the private sector, Lo Iek Long, medical director of Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário announced during the press conference on Sunday.

A private company is said to be preparing to launch a nucleic acid detection testing service as a third-party service for other residents.

"I have information that there are private companies that are preparing to provide the nucleic acid testing service," Lo said briefly, noting that these plans are still at an early stage.

The Health Bureau (SSM) will provide appropriate assistance in this regard.

Lo added that health authorities currently have enough testing reagents to run more than 10,000 tests, which is enough for the next two months.

Currently, the SSM uses nucleic acid detection kits to test whether a person has the virus. The SSM is

still purchasing testing kits from Shanghai.

People in quarantine must undergo nasopharyngeal swab tests.

Aside from those who have undergone the mandatory 14-day quarantine, a total of 392 casino shuttle bus drivers also underwent Covid-19 testing in February, as they were considered to have been in direct contact with tourists. All of them tested negative.

Earlier this month, Lo said that it was not "meaningful" for the government to carry out population-wide testing for Covid-19. Lo said that the bureau does not expect infection to spread in the local community.

The medical director also said that previously said that widespread testing for the disease would require huge amounts of manpower and resources.

Currently, the city has 45 confirmed Covid-19 patients, of which 13 have already been discharged from hospital. LV

THREE COVID-19 PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

THREE patients who were diagnosed with Covid-19 during a second wave of infections in the city were recently discharged from the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ) and are now in recovery quarantine at the Public Health Clinical Center.

One of them is a male local resident. In accordance with the Contagious Disease Prevention and Control Law, his medical bills will be borne by the government.

Another is a male Filipino non-resident worker and has been billed MOP18,000. The third recovered patient is a male tourist from Spain and who has been charged MOP44,000. The Health Bureau did not disclose whether the latter two have already settled their bills.

The local resident is the youngest of the three. He was in New York between December 2, 2019 and March 24, 2020. During his stay, he developed a fever on March

14 and 15. Upon arriving in Macau on March 25, he was intercepted at the border and brought to the CHCSJ for testing. He spent 19 days in hospital, the shortest hospital stay for any Macau Covid-19 patient so far.

The 31-year-old Filipino non-resident worker was returning to Macau from his home country on March 16. He was diagnosed and hospitalized without pneumonia symptoms two days later. He was treated for 26 days in hospital and was considered recovered after two Covid-19 tests conducted on April 9 and 11 came back negative.

The Spanish tourist is 47 years old. He arrived in Macau on March 16, flying from Spain and stopping over in Russia and Beijing. His fever was detected at the local airport and he was diagnosed that same day, showing respiratory symptoms. He spent 28 days in hospital. AL

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Sands China continuously strengthens its sustainability commitment through local procurement

RESPONDING to the government's call of turning the Macau SAR to become an eco-friendly city, Sands China Ltd. has always been keen on acquiring green and biodegradable products from local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

As a large-scale international company, one of its top priorities has been to explore new technologies to further reduce its carbon footprint, thus sourcing products from local suppliers in a bid to also support local SMEs.

According to Chan Yuk Ming, director of Supply Chain at Sands China Ltd, the gaming operator has committed itself to achieving sustainable operations in a more responsible manner.

Although this could also be a challenge for the company since there is only a few manufacturers of environment friendly products that are available in the city, the gaming operator strives to achieve sustainability through sourcing from locally-available merchandises.

A local firm Hong Cai (Macau) New Material Technology Co., Ltd. plays a significant role in this operation of the gaming operator.

Sands China is procuring a series of products and services from Hong Cai, which primarily focuses on the sale and promotion of green, low-carbon, biodegradable and environmentally friendly tableware (single use) and bags.

Hong Cai is one of its few suppliers of environmentally friendly materials with independent

production lines, and also seeks to have similar sustainable goals with the company.

Hong Cai has been participating in various exhibitions such as the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition – the platform where Sands China's procurement team took the initiative to contact them.

"We're very happy to have cooperated with them. The cooperation has been nearly one year so far. Both parties have cooperated seamlessly, and with reliable delivery and services we have had a smooth procurement and settlement processes," he added.

The company produces corn starch based material that are made from polylactic acid (PLA), which biodegradable and environmentally friendly products.

If disposed of correctly, these products will break down into carbon dioxide and water within several months.

No toxic gases are generated during the incineration process and carbon emissions are therefore reduced.

According to Chan, Hong Cai has an independent production line and is willing to cooperate with the firm and follow up on its requirements.

"Because the business scope of Sands China is so diverse, each department has different de-

mands for eco-friendly utensils, this is especially true in regards to the specific detail of each product, such as the mold, shape and texture etc., as all these serve to give the users a different experience," Chan explained.

"They were also very willing to accommodate our suggestions and have always tried their best to improve the product to fulfill our

"Because the business scope of Sands China is so diverse, each department has different demands for eco-friendly utensils."

CHAN YUK MING
DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY CHAIN, SCL

demands," he added.

For Sands China, it is significantly important to continually create communication with its SME partners to produce quality products and services in its properties.

Thus, at present, Sands China offers a series of channels for suppliers to establish a cooperative relationship with them.

"They can register their information on Sands China's official website, where they can also find information about our procurement. Sands China also holds events such as invitational matching sessions and open days. The Sands Procurement Academy has also been set up inviting local

suppliers to attend courses, and graduates enjoy priority in procurement opportunities," said Chan recalled.

Meanwhile for Edith Sio, managing director of Hong Cai (Macau) New Material Technology Co., Ltd., its partnership with Sands China has allowed the company to continuously expand its market.

The local firm entered the Macau market in 2014, with a manufacturing base located in mainland China. The firm's products can be kept for two to three years.

Sio admits the challenge in the beginning of its operations, as environmentally friendly products were not popular yet in the city back then, noting that the prices of these products were higher than ordinary plastic tableware.

From the outset of the firm's operations, the annual Macau Food Festival was the largest and most regular order. There have also been restaurants and environmental groups that proactively contacted them to purchase a series of products yet there was still an absence in demand.

"That was, until last year, when we began cooperation with Sands China and since then our business has gradually expanded, said Sio.

"The fact that we are able to cooperate with Sands China is a

"new lease of life" which helped us gain a reputation and since then we have gradually found other gaming enterprises, hotels, hospitals and restaurants are proactively contacting us," the managing director added.

In addition to boosting business operations and sales, the cooperation with gaming enterprises has broadened that SMEs' horizons and perspectives, which brought forth breakthroughs for them.

For Sio, Sands China's procurement team has assisted the company in successfully providing suitable products and services to the gaming operator.

"We were initially unfamiliar with Sands China's receiving department's working hours and couldn't complete the task during the allotted time, but they were willing to extend their working hours and provide assistance," Sio shared.

"Subsequently, Sands China also came to understand the difficulties SMEs are faced with and not only gave support in terms of manufacturing supplies, but also provided sites we could use for goods distribution, thereby reducing transportation costs, she added.

The gaming operator has pledged to continually heed to the SAR government's call to support local products and companies. This continuous move signifies its commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts.



Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, a proponent of the trade union law

GOVERNMENT RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT TRADE UNION LAW

The local government's recent opinion on the city's employer-employee relationship shows it is reluctant to support a trade union law. Its representatives hold that the existing legislation is sufficient for protecting workers' rights.

The Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs and Culture, which studies and discusses labor policies and related issues, recently summarized the results of a study on the trade union law.

The Standing Committee found that local government representatives believed that even without a trade union law in Macau, the rights of the city's workers would be protected by existing laws related to both

employers and employees.

Employee representatives believe that these are not substitutes for a trade union law. Employee representatives have also said that Macau's current Labor Law provides no flexibility to workers, and lacks an effective mechanism for solving employment disputes. When dealing with large corporations, workers are in a vulnerable position.

The employers defended themselves with the claims of the local government. They accused a "small number of people" of manipulating the topic of trade union law and of stirring up conflict in Macau.

A government report, titled "What conditions does a society

need in order to start a trade union discussion?", showed that 97% of local residents "have no knowledge" or "know little" about the trade union law. Among those that were aware of the law, more than half said it was unnecessary for Macau to discuss the topic within the next five years.

Vong Kok Seng, vice president of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, urged society not to push for the legislation of a trade union law.

After the publication of the report, trade union proponents Leong Sun Iok and José Pereira Coutinho once again voiced their support for the establishment of a related law. **JZ**

SHELDON ADELSON RETAINS TITLE OF WEALTHIEST CASINO BOSS

LAS Vegas Sands Chairman and CEO Sheldon Adelson has once again been named the world's wealthiest casino entrepreneur, according to Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2020.

The gaming magnate, who has interests in Macau, Singapore and the U.S., is ranked the world's 28th wealthiest person overall with a net worth of \$26.8 billion (212 billion patacas), according to the 2020 list. Adelson's annual position fell four places from last year when his net worth was estimated at \$35.1 billion.

Other notable listings in the casino business include Galaxy Entertainment Group's Lui Che Woo and family (106th), Caesars Entertainment Corp's Carl Icahn (78th), NagaCorp's Chen Lip Keong (437th) and Shun Tak's Pansy Ho (565th). Former casino executives Steve Wynn and James Packer also made the list, placing in the 648th and 908th spots respectively.

The list was finalized on March 18, and does not fully reflect the rapid changes to the world economy brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Forbes, even "the richest people on Earth are not immune to the coronavirus." The aggregate wealth of the world's billionaires has fallen \$700 billion from last year to \$8 trillion, partly due to what Forbes describes as an implosion in global equity markets.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos retained his top spot for the third consecutive year. The e-commerce giant is now worth \$113 billion, buoyed by a 15% rise in Amazon's shares in the past year.

Bill Gates is the second-wealthiest individual, followed by luxury goods tycoon Bernard Arnault, who nudged out Warren Buffett to take the number three spot.

In terms of geographic distribution, the U.S. remains the country with the most billionaires, followed by China. However, this year there were 178 newcomers on the list hailing from 20 countries. Among them is Zoom Video Communications founder and CEO Eric Yuan, whose business is booming in response to social distancing measures enforced by the world due to Covid-19. **DB**

HONG KONG

China says lawmakers' stall tactics could breach oaths

CHINA'S top agency overseeing Hong Kong said lawmakers blocking action by the local legislature were potentially violating their oaths, in a signal that Beijing was losing patience with the months-long legislative logjam.

The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office urged the city's Legislative Council in a statement released yesterday to end the stalemate and resume normal operations. Opposition lawmakers led by Civic Party member Dennis Kwok have prevented the body's agenda-setting House Committee from electing a chairman since October, barring the panel from conducting business, it said.

"Some opposition lawmakers have resorted to sleazy tactics to paralyze the legislature for political gain at the expense of the public, which is tantamount to 'political mutual destruction,'" the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said. "They could have

violated their oath, which could mean misconduct in public office."

The remarks represent an unusually direct intervention in Hong Kong's local legislative procedures by a central agency in Beijing. The 70-seat Legislative Council is vested with the power to pass laws under a "one country, two systems" framework set up before the former British colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The ability to stall the government legislative initiatives has been one the few levers of political power available to the government's elected oppo-

nents. In recent years, the Chinese government and its appointed local leaders have sought to set limits on the body's power, successfully getting several activists removed for violating their oaths of office.

The Legislative Council has accomplished little since protesters stormed and ransacked the chamber last year as part of a series of demonstrations that began in opposition to a bill that would allow extraditions to China. The full chamber is up for election in September.

The statement was the first from Hong Kong and Macau Af-

The ability to stall the government legislative initiatives has been one the few levers of political power available to the opposition



fairs Office since Xia Baolong - a former close aide to President Xi Jinping - was installed as its director on February 13. The Hong Kong-based Liaison Office issued a similar statement yesterday.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam expressed concern last month that the House Committee gridlock could delay the installation of a new chief judge

next year. All top judicial appointments require the Legislative Council's approval.

The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office urged city residents to recognize the serious consequences that could result from the opposition's actions. "The legislative council must resume normal operations as soon as possible," it said. **BLOOMBERG**

ARITZ PARRA, JOSEPH WILSON
& ELENA BECATOROS, MADRID

AP PHOTO

AS the coronavirus pandemic throws millions out of work and devastates economies worldwide, governments are struggling with the dilemma between keeping people safe from a highly contagious virus and making sure they can still make a living.

Workers in some nonessential industries were returning to their jobs yesterday in Spain, one of the hardest hit countries in the coronavirus pandemic, while in South Korea, officials were warning that hard-earned progress fighting the virus could be eroded by new infections as restrictions ease.

The decisions are more complicated because each nation is on its own coronavirus arc, with places like Britain, Japan and parts of the United States still seeing increasing deaths or infections; France and New York hoping they are stabilizing at a high plateau of deaths; and hard-hit nations like Italy and Spain seeing declines in the rates of new deaths and infections.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said his government must balance its response to the virus crisis that “threatens to destroy lives and at the same time destroy the economic and social fabric of our country.”

Seeking to restart manufacturing, Spain’s government is allowing workers to return to some factory and construction jobs. Retail stores and services remain closed and Spanish office workers are strongly encouraged to continue working from home. A prohibition on people leaving home for anything other than groceries and medicine will remain for at least two weeks under the country’s state of emergency.

“(Spain’s) economy is more vulnerable to the crisis since it relies on services like tourism that are severely harmed by the pandemic. That means it will likely have a deeper recession,” European Central Bank Vice President Luis de Guindos told Spain’s *La Vanguardia* newspaper.

Yet some health experts and politicians argue it is premature to ease the lockdown in a nation that has suffered 17,489 deaths and reported 169,496 infections, second only to the 557,000 infections tallied in the United States. But Spain yesterday reported its lowest daily growth in infections in three weeks.

In Madrid, José Pardinás took one of the masks being handed out by police as he walked to work at a moving company that was re-starting operations after a three-week halt.

“The company hasn’t given us any protective equipment. I’m quite nervous about contracting the virus because my family can’t afford more time without an income,” Pardinás said.



A commuter wearing a face mask to protect against coronavirus at Atocha train station in Madrid

Health or wealth? Nations pressured to loosen virus rules

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan, meanwhile, issued a global plea to the world’s richer countries and international financial institutions to provide debt-relief for poor countries, where forced lockdowns are crippling already wretched economies and causing widespread hunger for the poor.

His government has launched an ambitious \$8 billion program to help the millions who barely rise to poverty level. Khan last week relaxed his country’s lockdown to allow the construction industry, which employs the vast majority of Pakistan’s daily wage earners, to re-open.

In South Korea, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said officials were discussing new public guidelines that would allow for “certain levels of economic and social activity” while also maintaining distance to slow the virus’ spread.

South Korea’s caseload has slowed from early March, when it was reporting around 500 new daily cases, but officials have warned of a broader “quiet spread” at bars and restaurants, which are still open. President Moon Jae-in vowed to focus on saving jobs and protecting the economy amid a sharp increase in the number of people seeking unemployment benefits. He said “confidence is growing” that the country will

beat the coronavirus.

But South Korea’s vice health minister, Kim Gang-lip, said a quick return to normality was “virtually impossible” considering the threat of new transmissions.

“A premature easing (of social distancing) would come at an irrevocable cost, so we should approach the issue very carefully, and invest deep thought into when and how to transition,” Kim said yesterday.

In Sri Lanka, the government announced plans to reopen schools and universities in May.

The Italian government said more than 12,500 people were sanctioned and 150 face criminal charges of violating lockdown measures over the Easter weekend. On the hopeful side, Italy recorded the lowest number of daily virus deaths in three weeks at 431, putting its total at over 19,800.

The pandemic’s new epicenter is now the United States, which has seen more than 22,000 deaths, the world’s highest. About half have been in the New York metro-

politan area, but hospitalizations are slowing in the state and other indicators suggest lockdowns and social distancing are working.

U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said parts of the country could gradually reopen as early as next month.

In Britain, the death toll passed 10,600 and Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the first major world leader to test positive for the virus,

The decisions are more complicated because each nation is on its own coronavirus arc

paid an emotional tribute to the country’s National Health Service following his release from the hospital. He said NHS workers saved his life “no question.”

Johnson, who spent three nights in intensive care, especially thanked two nurses who stood by his bedside for 48 hours “when things could have gone either way.”

Japan, the world’s third-biggest economy, has seen its number of new infections climb rapidly in recent days and now has 7,255 confirmed cases. Japanese companies have been slow to switch to remote work and many people are still

commuting, even after a state of emergency was declared for seven prefectures, including Tokyo.

To encourage people to stay home, the Japanese government released a video showing the president cuddling his dog, reading a book and clicking a remote control at home but the message drew mocking criticism on social media, with people noting that many could not afford to stay home.

Social distancing was on full display for Easter Sunday celebrations around the world, with many Christians marking the day isolated in their homes while pastors preached to empty pews. St. Peter’s Square was barricaded to keep out crowds and one Florida church drew a large turnout for a drive-in service in a parking lot.

Pope Francis called for global solidarity to confront the “epochal challenge” of the pandemic. He urged political leaders to give hope and opportunity to the millions laid off from work.

More than 1.8 million coronavirus infections have been reported and over 114,000 people have died worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. The figures understate the true size and toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing, uneven counting of the dead and deliberate under-counting by some governments. AP

AP PHOTO



Christians celebrate an Easter like no other

CHRIStIANS celebrated Easter Sunday isolated in their homes by the coronavirus while pastors preached the faith's joyous news of Christ's resurrection to empty pews. St. Peter's Square was barricaded to keep out crowds, while one Florida church drew a large turnout for a drive-in service in a parking lot.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, released from the hospital after a week of treatment for COVID-19, paid an emotional tribute to the country's National Health Service, saying its doctors and nurses had saved his life "no question." He especially thanked two nurses who stood by his bedside for 48 hours "when things could have gone either way."

The strangeness of this Easter was evident at the Vatican. St. Peter's Square, where tens of thousands would normally gather to hear Pope Francis, was empty. Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely vacant basilica, calling for global solidarity to confront the "epochal challenge" of the pandemic and urging political leaders to give hope and opportunity to people who've lost jobs.

Worldwide, families who normally would attend church in their Easter best and later enjoy festive group meals stayed home. Police checkpoints in Europe and outside closed

churches elsewhere left the faithful watching services online or on TV.

Some U.S. pastors went ahead with in-person services despite state or local bans on large gatherings.

At the Happy Gospel Church in Bradenton, Florida, about 100 cars carrying 250 people gathered in the parking lot to hear Pastor Bill Bailey's Easter sermon. Some sat in lawn chairs or on tailgates, but families stayed at least 6 feet apart; those in their cars occasionally honked to convey agreement with Bailey's remarks.

In Louisiana, a pastor who is facing misdemeanor charges for holding services despite a ban on gatherings, said people from every state and all but one continent attended his Easter service Sunday morning.

"My hope is not in a vaccine for a virus, but all my hope is in Jesus," Rev. Tony Spell said during the service shown online at Life Tabernacle Church in the city of Central.

Worshippers could be heard clapping, singing and responding "Amen" during the service, though it was not clear how many attended.

President Donald Trump had said he planned to watch an online service led by the Rev. Robert Jeffress of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas, although the White House wouldn't

confirm whether he did. The pastor, a staunch ally of the president, mentioned Trump in his remarks.

"We are going to get through this crisis with your continued strong leadership and the power of God," Jeffress said.

In their own Easter message, Trump and his wife, Melania, paid tribute to the medical professionals, first responders and other essential workers striving to combat the pandemic.

Back on March 24, at a Fox News virtual town hall, Trump had broached the possibility that the U.S. could emerge from widespread lockdowns by this weekend.

"I would love to have the country opened up and just raring to go by Easter," he said.

"Wouldn't it be great to have all of the churches full?" Trump said in a subsequent interview. "You'll have packed churches all over our country."

Instead, most churches were empty, including St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, which is the epicenter of the pandemic in the U.S.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who led a televised Mass, said he was pleased congregants could have a virtual celebration. "We miss you though," he added. "We'd rather you be here physically."

In the morning, members of churches from across New York sang

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" from balconies and windows.

"Even if you didn't hear everyone, God heard everyone," said Kathy Keller, of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, who helped organize the event online.

In Europe, countries used roadblocks, fines and other tactics to keep people from traveling over an Easter weekend with beautiful spring weather.

The Italian government said weekend police patrols resulted in more than 12,500 people being sanctioned and 150 facing criminal charges of violating lockdown measures.

On the hopeful side, officials said Italy recorded the lowest number of new coronavirus dead in three weeks, with 431 people dying in the past day to bring its total to over 19,800.

As hard-hit countries like Italy and Spain see reduced daily virus infections and deaths, economic pressures are mounting to loosen the tight restrictions on daily life.

Southern Europe and the United States, whose death toll of over 22,000 is now the world's highest, have been the recent focal points of the pandemic. But coronavirus hot spots have been shifting, with new concerns rising in Japan, Turkey and Britain, where the death toll passed 10,000. AP

this day in history



1979 NEW PRESIDENT FOR WAR-TORN UGANDA

A man driven into exile by former Uganda dictator Idi Amin has been sworn in as the country's new president.

Yusefu Lule was greeted by cheering crowds when he arrived back in Uganda yesterday from neighbouring Tanzania.

On Saturday Mr Lule took his presidential oath in a ceremony on the steps of the parliament building in Uganda's capital, Kampala.

The new president then called for a moment's silence for the estimated half a million people who had died under General Amin's rule.

Flanked by Tanzanian army commanders whose troops drove Idi Amin from Kampala, Mr Lule appealed to his countrymen not to seek vengeance.

"We must not indulge in the evil acts of the regime we have just removed," he said.

President Lule condemned the former leader as a rebel and ordered commando squads to track him down.

He urged troops still loyal to Idi Amin to surrender saying they would be "protected" if they handed over their weapons.

Last year Idi Amin precipitated his own downfall by sending troops to annex part of Tanzania.

But Tanzania fought back, invaded Uganda and helped unify the various anti-Amin rebel groups.

Last month the dictator was forced to flee and is now believed to be in a remote area of the country with his remaining troops.

President Lule has said free elections will be held within two years - the first in the central African state since 1962.

The formation of the new government is being celebrated by the Ugandan people but it is a blow for Milton Obote, the man deposed by Idi Amin in 1971.

Mr Obote is a close friend of Tanzania's president Nyerere and many expected him to once again become president after Idi Amin's fall.

But Mr Obote's nine-year rule and his socialist reforms were almost as unpopular as Amin's regime.

Anti-Amin forces and exile groups told President Nyerere they would not tolerate Mr Obote being reinstated.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Idi Amin escaped from Uganda to exile in Saudi Arabia. He died in Jeddah in August 2003.

Uganda's leadership went through an unstable period over the next few years.

Two presidents, including the man deposed by Amin, Milton Obote, were ousted by army coups.

However, a period of relative stability began when Yoweri Museveni became president in 1986.

He has overseen a period of dramatic improvement in Uganda's economy but has attracted criticism for not allowing multiparty politics.

President Museveni has also been unable to end two rebel insurgencies in the north and west of the country which have led to the death and displacement of tens of thousands of people.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Commerce is not an ideal thing to be involved in right now, especially if you are interested in selling some of your possessions. Your personal goods will not move as quickly as you think.



Apr. 20-May. 20

Using flattery in order to get what you want in life is a completely legitimate tactic, there is no doubt about it. But if you use it too often, it will lose its value. Today, use flattery only as a last resort.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

The recent developments in your romantic or private life will be right at the top of your mind today, which could negatively affect your ability to focus on the work at hand.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your kookiest ideas are just so crazy that they might work today, so try not to edit yourself. Censoring what you contribute to the group at large might be your idea of protecting your reputation.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Red tape is sticky stuff, so if you are in the midst of dealing with any type of bureaucracy, beware: You could get stuck in the system. Diligence is your best bet, so keep calling the numbers you have.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Having more harmony in your life will help even out the tumultuous energy that's been circling you for a few days. Aim for less tug of war, and you'll have a lot less stress.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

An exciting person comes back into your life today, and they have a special type of invitation for you. It involves an unusual cultural experience, and it's one you should accept if you can.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

There are developing issues in one of your non-romantic relationships, and you need to focus your energies on them before you can go off and play.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't let them claim they are a generous person when they are merely manipulative. Helping other people must be done for its own sake - let them find someone else to use.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It represents the chance for an important opportunity, and should be your top priority right now. Your love life can wait. Today, you've got to take care of your own best interests first.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Learning takes time - you have to hear new things and experience new things over and over again before they sink in. You want to internalize this, down to your core.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Beautiful words will hold extra entertainment value for you today, so do whatever you can to get into conversations with people who have wit and poetic abilities.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

5	6				4
4	2		3		5
	7		2	5	6
1	9	3			
8					3
			8	9	1
7		8	1	2	
	6	2		5	4
4				7	8

EASY+

6	8				4
	9	3	5		
			8	2	
7		9			2
5					3
3			7		1
	5	3			
		5	1	6	
6				7	5

MEDIUM

6		9			4
5			2		
	4	1		8	
4			1	5	
7				3	
3	6				8
	3	2		9	
		8			7
6			5		4

HARD

			1	8	
2					5
6		2			
			4		3
1	8				
7					
	4	5	2		
				7	1
		3			

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	26	cloudy
Harbin	4	20	clear
Tianjin	12	27	clear
Urumqi	11	22	cloudy
Xi'an	10	26	cloudy
Lhasa	2	18	clear
Chengdu	11	24	cloudy
Chongqing	14	26	clear
Kunming	9	23	cloudy
Nanjing	9	20	cloudy
Shanghai	10	21	overcast
Wuhan	11	22	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	21	cloudy
Taipei	14	20	overcast
Guangzhou	15	23	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	2	10	drizzle
Frankfurt	0	11	cloudy
Paris	1	14	clear
London	0	10	overcast
New York	5	18	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- City in Tuscany; 6- ____, I'm Adam; 11- Zip; 14- Backing for an exhibit; 15- Addis __; 16- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 17- Change; 18- Cupressus; 19- Sugar suffix; 20- British nobleman; 22- Stopwatch-holder; 24- Aromatic herb; 28- Milk of magnesia target; 30- Alberta's home; 31- Dry as __; 32- Diary bit; 33- Given to great feeling; 37- Dug in; 38- Part of an ice skate; 39- Comedian Philips; 40- Set to the mean; 43- Halfhearted; 45- Overjoy; 46- New Orleans university; 47- Flair; 50- Capital of the Chaldean empire; 51- Muse of love poetry; 52- Bausch & Lomb brand; 53- Maze! __!; 54- Can't stand; 57- Express alternative; 62- Language ending; 63- Praying figure; 64- High up; 65- Fam. member; 66- Resides; 67- Stagers;

DOWN: 1- Ocean; 2- Proverb ending?; 3- Cornerstone abbr.; 4- Miss-named?; 5- Now; 6- PC shortcut; 7- Genesis shepherd; 8- Pop; 9- Attorney's org.; 10- Cocktail; 11- Model Campbell; 12- Atlas feature; 13- Wary; 21- Actress Alicia; 23- Logical beginning?; 24- Body of salt water; 25- Cost; 26- Register as a participant; 27- Long-jawed fish; 28- Residence; 29- Pigeon coop; 31- Astonish; 33- Upper crust; 34- Sherpa's home; 35- Acid type; 36- Water-repellent cloth; 38- Drab; 41- Crux; 42- Intoxicating liquor; 43- Like penne or ziti; 44- Cathedral city of England; 46- Light brown color, common to pale sunworshippers; 47- Tire (out); 48- "____" by any other name...; 49- Umbilicus; 50- Outdoes; 52- Lacoste of tennis; 55- Jackie's second; 56- The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 58- Corrida cry; 59- Cedar Rapids college; 60- CIO's partner; 61- Mil. officers;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE

The Entertainers Dream
 Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces
HK\$18,800,000 4,080 ft² 2 1/2 3 1/2

FOR RENT

Ocean Garden, Taipa- Sakura Court
\$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² 4 1/2 4 1/2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] *Nam Long* 1 1/2 1 1/2
 785 ft² **\$4,780,000** (ref: 20016009)

[Coloane] *Beautiful apartment* 1 3 1/2 1 1/2
 1,665 ft² **\$7,380,000** (ref: 19070001)

[Taipa] *Taipa Village- two connected* 4 1/2 2 1/2
 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)

[Macau] *Lakeview Tower* 3 1/2 2 1/2
 1,344 ft² **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)

FOR RENT

[Macau] *Vai Fung Triplex, Macau* 2 1/2 2 1/2
 1,065 ft² **\$15,800/mth** (ref: 19121001)

[Taipa] *Buckingham* 2 1/2 1 1/2
 1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)

[Taipa] *Manhattan* 3 1/2 2 1/2
 1,626 ft² **\$20,800/mth** (ref: n/a)

[Coloane] *Ocean Garden* 4 1/2 4 1/2
 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

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Property of the Week



The Entertainers Dream
Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces

HK\$18,800,000 4,080 ft² 2 3



A fabulous and spacious apartment measuring more than 4,000 square feet in a quieter upscale area in Taipa.

Originally designed in a 4 bedroom + plus maid quarters layout, the updated open plan configuration creates different living areas whilst at the same time bringing the space together.

The current layout includes:

- A master bedroom / bathroom suite with a walk-in bathing area and outside terrace
- A large modern kitchen, store room and maid's area with access to a large rear terrace that is shared with the living area
- A living / dining room that features two separate large terraces
- A substantial library / study easily used as a 3rd bedroom
- A guest suite and fitted wardrobe storage spaces
- An outdoor storage area on the wrap-around front terrace.

This apartment is an entertainers dream, it must be viewed to be fully appreciated in its current form or as the new owners blank canvass.

Property Hotlist



Jade Garden, Taipa
- Spacious Family Home

\$18,000,000
3,180 ft²
4 3



One Grantai Apartment, Cotal

\$25,600,000
2,556 ft²
4 2



Ocean Garden, Taipa
- Sakura Court

\$35,000/mth
3,700 ft²
4 4



Buckingham, Taipa

\$15,900/mth
1,100 ft²
2 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Nam Long 1 1 785 ft² **\$4,780,000** (ref: 20016009)
- [Coloane] Beautiful apartment 1 3 1 1,665 ft² **\$7,380,000** (ref: 19070001)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village- two connected 4 2 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 1,344 ft² **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)
- [Macau] Nova City 3 2 1,515 ft² **\$11,500,000** (ref: 1910 6001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] **Vai Fung Triplex, Macau**
2 1 1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth**
(ref: 19121001)
- [Taipa] **Manhattan** 3 2 1,626 ft² **\$20,800/mth** (ref: 20031001)

Recent Movements

Sold Nam Long, Taipa, 1 bed

Rented Hellene Garden, Coloane, 3 beds

Rented Nam Long, Taipa, 2 beds



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TOKYO GAMES

Athletes completing bans get unexpected chance at Olympics

ATHLETES completing doping bans over the next year will be eligible to compete in the postponed Tokyo Olympics, an unintended effect of the coronavirus pandemic that has some crying foul.

Turkish runner Gamze Bulut, for example, will now have plenty of time to qualify for a games she likely would have missed had they gone ahead as scheduled.

"It doesn't seem like a fair punishment," Irish race walker Brendan Boyce told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "They haven't really missed the events they were supposed to miss."

The 2020 Olympics were officially postponed last month for one year, with the opening ceremony now set for July 23, 2021.

Bulut originally won silver in the 1,500 meters at the 2012 London Olympics but was stripped of her medal because of irregularities in her biological passport, which monitors an athlete's blood profile. She was given a four-year ban that began in 2016 and expires on May 29 — giving her an unexpected full year to qualify for Tokyo.

"I'm trying my best to (attend) the Olympics," the 27-year-old runner said. "I hope I can join."

The Athletics Integrity Unit estimates that about 40 of the 200 or so banned track and field athletes who stand to gain from

the Olympic postponement are international-level competitors. The AIU maintains a global list of track athletes banned for doping violations.

More than 11,000 athletes are expected to compete in 33 sports in Tokyo, with about 2,000 of them in track and field.

Boyce, a two-time Olympian who has qualified for Tokyo, said restrictions on the number of competitors could make it harder

for clean athletes to earn places.

"I wouldn't be too happy now if I lost an Olympic spot because of an anomaly like what's going on at the minute," Boyce said.

The Irishman protested on social media but stopped short of filing any formal complaints. British long-distance runner and Tokyo hopeful Lily Partridge agreed.

"I don't believe in second chances with regards to serious doping offenses unless you provide

serious assistance to anti-doping authorities and even then I don't believe you should have the privilege of being able to compete and earn money from the sport," Partridge told the AP.

However, World Anti-Doping Agency President Witold Banka said the unforeseen health crisis doesn't mean authorities can "cherry-pick" when athletes have completed their bans.

"While an athlete cannot choo-

se when he or she would like to be ineligible, an (anti-doping organization) cannot either," Banka said. "This is entirely consistent with principles of natural justice and other areas of the law as it relates to sports or even criminal activity. When an offender has done the time, the sentence is considered to be served."

Sebastian Coe, the Olympic great who is now president of World Athletics, was less definitive in comments shortly after the games were postponed.

"This is something we will need to look at," Coe said. "I know it's something the Athletics Integrity Unit, and I'm sure all the other agencies out there in concert with our sports, will need to think about, and that will just be another issue in an overflowing inbox at the moment."

Athletes who have already qualified for Tokyo have been assured that they'll keep their spots as future qualification decisions unfold. **AP**



AP PHOTO

AD

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS & NOTARIES
SINCE 1996



合夥人 PARTNERS:

- 官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha*
- 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues*
- 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata*
- 趙魯 Zhao Lu**
- 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

- 高文軒 Adelino Correia*
- 羅蕙齡 Zelina Rodrigues*
- 白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
- 馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
- 陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
- 白穎怡 Icília Berenguel
- 洗玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
- 薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas
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To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

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OPINION

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



THE MOST HELPLESS OF THEM ALL

The words “lay off” and “unpaid leave” have been used a huge amount these days, reflecting their occurrence worldwide amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Macau alone, there are several hundred local and non-resident workers who are facing this situation, given that their employers – particularly those in the hotel and catering industries – have been financially affected by the virus.

Recently, the Philippine Consulate General in the SAR announced relief measures for displaced Filipino workers or workers currently on unpaid leave.

Aside from this offer, workers who are unable to return to their home country due to lockdowns are also entitled to receive financial assistance.

On the weekend, many of them flocked to the consulate in the SAR to sign up for their share.

Of course, financial assistance can only help them for a short period of time with rental concerns and daily needs.

Thinking about this situation just emphasizes how vulnerable migrant groups are in the SAR. There are no supports for them from the local government – not that they are required to provide any – be it in health services or welfare benefits, even if only during this crisis.

This is unlike Portugal, where the government has granted foreigners access to the “national health service, welfare benefits, bank accounts, and work and rental contracts” in lieu of the pandemic.

Vulnerable groups could have gone back home before the lockdown began, but it was unexpected that the second wave of the pandemic would be so serious.

Thus, at this point in time these workers are facing the harsh reality of their decision to stay. They are left with no options as they cannot leave the SAR due to travel restrictions, as well as the lack of direct flights from Macau to Manila, which have long been cancelled.

Luckily, there are a few groups in the community organizing food and grocery distribution programs.

While scrolling on social media the other day, I came across a post in a group.

A Filipino bought groceries, including wine, large trays of eggs, packs of instant noodles, fruit and other basic necessities with her cash handout, telling those on unpaid leave to visit a certain location to pick up the items.

In the photo, there were dozens lined up, waiting for their own kind of “subsidy.”

One of the recipients of the grocery package said, “I’m 31 weeks pregnant, and I’m currently lining up,” while another said, “I’ve been terminated [and I] need your help.”

The short sentences sounded so loud that it made me really think about how the community of stranded migrant workers and unpaid workers are experiencing this situation.

Stuck at home, they have no other choice but to acquire basic goods from those who are willing to help them, be it relatives or migrant associations.

Stuck at home, it is almost impossible for them to find new jobs as businesses themselves call for further support from the government, particularly with the announcement of the MOP10 billion relief fund.

Stuck at home, they cannot attend training provided by labor authorities, as they do not meet the number 1 requirement – being a BIR holder.

I think this is the group of people that remain the most vulnerable, especially at this time, when helpless is the word that describes them best.

China yesterday reported 108 new cases of coronavirus infection, 98 of them imported.

Of the new domestic cases, seven were recorded in the province of Heilongjiang bordering on Russia and three in the southern business hub of Guangzhou.

Two more deaths were reported in the former epicenter city of Wuhan, bringing China’s totals since the illness emerged in December to 3,341 deaths among 82,160 official cases.

Most patients in China have recovered and the final travel restrictions in Wuhan were lifted last week. But China has continued

to see new cases in travelers arriving from abroad.

Social distancing, temperature checks and other measures remain in effect while businesses are reopening and people resume work and other activities.

Meanwhile, one mask producer in China says it is rushing to fill orders from overseas while facing stricter quality inspections from Chinese regulators.

Wuhan Zonsen, which makes masks and disinfection wipes, says \$50 million in orders from European countries and the United States will keep them at full production capacity until June.

ONE GOOD THING

VOLUNTEERS FEED HUNGRY ANIMALS AT NEPAL’S REVERED SHRINE

AP PHOTO



BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, KATHMANDU

WHEN COVID-19 came to Nepal, attention turned to an unlikely group of victims: hundreds of monkeys, cows and pigeons.

Normally, the animals are fed by thousands of devotees at the country’s most revered Hindu temple, Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu. But last month Nepal’s government ordered a complete lockdown to stop the spread of the coronavirus. People were forbidden from leaving their homes. Temples closed. And the animals risked starvation.

Now, every morning and evening, a few guards, about a dozen staff and some volunteers come out to ensure

that the animals survive.

“We are trying to make sure that these animals are not starving and they are taken care of,” said Pradeep Dhakal, an official of the Pashupatinath Development Trust, which controls the temple and surrounding areas.

Nepal has nine confirmed cases of the coronavirus and one person has recovered. The lockdown, imposed March 24, banned all flights and ground transport, and closed markets, schools and offices.

It is common for devotees to feed cows, which are sacred and worshipped by the Hindus, and monkeys, which are believed to be descendants of the Hindu god Hanuman. Cows line up the

path leading to the temple and the banks of the Bagmati River, while monkeys roam freely around the forested hill next to the shrine.

Dry corn is spread out on the banks of the river for pigeons while a dough is made for cows from grain. Hundreds of monkeys mostly line up to receive food from volunteers wearing masks and rubber gloves.

Each meal takes about four to six sacks of food.

The monkeys have not attacked the volunteers, said one, Nivesh Dugar. Minutes later, a large monkey snatched the plastic basket full of freshly cut-out dough.

In this difficult time, said Dugar, an environmental engineer, “we are just trying to help the animals survive.” AP

AP PHOTO



USA The \$2.2 trillion package that Congress approved to offer financial help during the coronavirus pandemic has one major exclusion: millions of immigrants who do not have legal status in the U.S. but work here and pay taxes. Roughly 4.3 million mostly unauthorized immigrants who do not have a Social Security number file taxes using what’s known as a taxpayer identification number.

Turkey introduced a new coronavirus lockdown over the weekend that took many by surprise and led to Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu offering his resignation yesterday. The 48-hour curfew across 31 cities marked a major development in Turkey, which had previously adopted a more relaxed approach to fighting the virus than its neighbors in Europe and the Mideast.

Egypt’s chief prosecutor ordered 23 people to remain in detention for 15 days pending an investigation into blocking a road to a cemetery in a Nile Delta village to prevent the burial of a physician who died from the coronavirus. Public Prosecutor Hamada el-Sawy described preventing her burial as a “terrorist act.” The 64-year-old physician died on Friday in a quarantine-designed hospital in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Andreas Solaro/Pool Photo via AP



Home alone. Pope Francis, small white figure at center left, delivers his blessing during Easter Sunday Mass inside an empty St. Peter’s Basilica, at the Vatican this weekend. (See p8)

AP PHOTO



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson expressed his gratitude to the staff of the National Health Service for saving his life when his treatment for the coronavirus could have “gone either way” as the U.K. yesterday became the fourth European country to surpass 10,000 virus-related deaths. He listed a number of the frontline staff members who cared for him during his week-long stay at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London but singled out two nurses he identified as Jenny from Invercargill on New Zealand’s South Island and Luis from Portugal.