

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

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 3517

TUESDAY  
21 Apr 2020

T. 24°/29°



Air Quality Good



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00



**MAINLAND TOURISTS WANT BEACH DESTINATIONS IF SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS PROCEED, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY** P10

**2019: MACAU'S WARMEST YEAR IN 67 YEARS** P10

**WYNN RESORTS CEO MATT MADDOX IS CALLING FOR PARTS OF THE NEVADA ECONOMY TO START REOPENING IN EARLY MAY** P11

AP PHOTO



**Hong Kong** reported no new cases yesterday for the first time in nearly seven weeks. Prior to Monday, the city had seen eight consecutive days of single-digit infections, dwindling from a surge in cases in March as residents overseas flocked to return amid the U.S. and Europe outbreaks. Hong Kong's current tally stands at 1,026 cases, including four deaths.

**Singapore's** confirmed cases shot up to nearly 8,000 after 1,426 infections were reported yesterday, a single-day high for the tiny Southeast Asian city-state. Singapore now has the highest number of cases in Southeast Asia at 7,984, a massive surge from just 200 on March 15. Authorities say most of the new cases were again linked to foreign workers.

AP PHOTO



**Thailand** City authorities in Bangkok have extended a ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages to the end of April as efforts continue to contain the spread of COVID-19. A ban was originally imposed for April 10-20, during which Thais would normally celebrate the annual Songkran Lunar New Year festival with drinking-fueled merrymaking at large public gatherings. Official celebrations of the holiday were postponed until a date to be decided.

**Netherlands** A Dutch privacy watchdog says it can't evaluate if seven smartphone coronavirus apps the government tested over the weekend sufficiently protect users' personal data. The Dutch Data Protection Agency said yesterday that terms given to developers were so unclear that it is not possible to work out if apps under consideration will work while safeguarding users' data. The announcement is a setback for the government, which wants to use a contact-tracking app when coronavirus restrictions are gradually eased.

More on backpage

# CHIEF HOPE: HENGQIN COULD BE 'ANOTHER MACAU'

P2,3



## CHIEF MESSAGES

Economic goals need not come at environment's expense

Public to be consulted on new gaming law later this year

Macau to negotiate tourism trade with Guangdong



POLICY ADDRESS

# Macau to negotiate tourism trade with Guangdong

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau government plans to negotiate a resumption in the tourism trade with its counterparts in the provincial government of neighboring Guangdong.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said that the local government will, in due course, request that the Central Government resume issuing tourist visas for residents of mainland China to travel to Macau, as well as an extension of the individual tourist visa scheme to more mainland cities.

"We will also negotiate with Guangdong Province to loosen the policy of issuing tourist visas to residents of this province for travel to Macau," added Ho.

As a key pillar of the economy, the tourism and leisure sector is in need of government intervention, according to the Chief Executive. Indeed, "the prosperity of one sector leads to the prosperity of all others," said Ho.

Macau's top official announced that the government would reinforce the support given to tourism industry operators so that these sectors "can overcome the difficulties caused by the epidemic."

As part of the efforts to revitalize the local tourism sector, the

number and variety of festive events in the SAR will be increased. This will serve the purpose of encouraging visitors to stay overnight in Macau.

Ho noted that as soon as the conditions of the pandemic allow, the government plans to resume tourism promotion "in the main source markets". This will target especially those in the "neighboring regions" of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the mainland, though it will not preclude plans to expand to other visitor markets still under development.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the previously reported restructuring of the Macao Government Tourism Office, which will now be under the supervision of the Economy and Finance Secretariat, is "to better promote the development of interaction between the tourism sector and other sectors."

According to the government, other measures that will be taken to help to revitalize the economy include attracting private investment from abroad. The government noted that it will promote Macau's advantages and business opportunities to prospective international investors, while also continuing to ensure local support is given to small and medium-sized enterprises.

"We will do our utmost to gradually recover the vitality of the local tourism sector and guarantee livelihoods for tour guides, drivers and other workers in the sector," the Chief Executive added.

In the meantime, Macau locals can use this opportunity to immerse themselves in the "local tourism" of the region, according to Ho.

"When the epidemic is stabilized and before the issuance of these tourist visas resumes, we will launch several tourist plans for the population of Macau, namely 'local tourism' and 'travel to Hengqin and neighboring regions,' allowing people in Macau to [learn more about] Macau's world cultural heritage sites and other local sites, including those in Hengqin," said Ho.

XINHUA



POLICY ADDRESS

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE HOPES HENGQIN BECOMES 'ANOTHER MACAU'

ANTHONY LAM

**W**ITH regards to the development of neighboring Hengqin Island, which falls under Zhuhai's jurisdiction, Ho said he hopes "Hengqin will become another Macau."

It has been suggested that Macau could rent the island from Zhuhai giving the SAR the space it needs to develop tourism-based alternatives to gaming. Indeed, Beijing directives have pointed out that Hengqin should support Macau's economic diversification.

In previous decades, Macau has found a solution to its scarcity of land problem by reclaiming land from the sea. Twenty years after the change of sovereignty, the administration is changing its mind on the matter for the first time.

"To reclaim more land in Macau now is too slow and unsuitable," said Ho. "To achieve diversification in such short time, we must look at the big picture."

More than three times larger than Macau, Hengqin island arguably offers the space and

opportunity for diversification.

"I hope Hengqin will become another Macau," Ho expressed with regards to the development of activity on the island. "I hope one day we can introduce our system to Hengqin - even introduce our laws to Hengqin."

"I hope we can make Hengqin a shared place where we can co-develop," added the Chief Executive.

The Covid-19 pandemic has devastated regional cooperation in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), as the three relevant jurisdictions turned inwards and formed their own policies to tackle the health crisis. Recent media reports have suggested that the special Covid-19 measures, as a whole, have also damaged the Macau public's confidence in the concept.

But the Chief Executive, when questioned on the matter yesterday, did not seem convinced by the "loss of confidence" claim.

He acknowledged that during the fight against Covid-19, each government implemented certain special border control measures, decided "on the basis of sa-

feguarding the people's health."

In addition to Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, "Macau has also barred foreigners from entering the city. It is part of our anti-pandemic work. Does it mean that they have lost confidence in us?" Ho questioned in return.

He also offered the example of Europe and questioned whether the continent's handling of the crisis would prompt Macau's young people to abandon their studies there. "Many of our students have gone to Europe for their studies. Given the current condition there, will they not go back to continue their studies [after the pandemic is defeated]?"

"If one can't distinguish between [measures during] pandemic and normal times, it is very problematic," he added. "It is not right to lose confidence in a place for the mere sake of an outbreak."

Nevertheless, the Chief Executive pledged his administration would help to rebuild people's confidence in the regional integration concept.

RENATO MARQUES



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

**+18,000**

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua  
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



POLICY ADDRESS

# Administration reform, fight against Covid-19 top Ho Iat Seng's 2020 list

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE battle against the Covid-19 health crisis and its economic fallout, as well as promotion of public administration reform remained the two major priorities set out by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng in his first policy address delivered yesterday at the Legislative Assembly.

Ho's speech focused on the government's intentions and priorities for the remainder of the year.

He singled out the government's priority to guarantee support for local residents and companies during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the work that will be done to put the economy back on track as soon as the pandemic ends.

The Chief Executive listed a raft of measures aimed at reducing pressure on companies and individuals that was previously announced and presented by the government. The majority of these measures are already in force.

He also reinforced the idea that the government will take this opportunity to expedite a series of public projects involving infrastructure so as to guarantee the work and sustainability of certain sectors. While these projects seek to benefit the construction sector, they will also support the main pillar industries of gaming, tourism, and hospitality.

"Through the measures adopted, including the increase in financial expenses and the reduction and waiving of fees and taxes,



we have been committed to supporting companies and workers to overcome difficulties," said the Chief Executive.

"As the anti-pandemic effects lessened, the government accelerated the approval of over 200 public works, related to the well-being of the population and municipal affairs, thus creating conditions for small and medium-sized construction companies and their workers to return to work as soon as possible."

He added that the government had simultaneously initiated several neighborhood revamp projects, aiming to create opportunities for businesses and

jobs in those areas.

Moreover, in doing so, the government has also sought to make the most use of the current tourism lull, which present an opportunity to work on projects while causing minimal inconvenience to locals and visitors.

According to the Chief Executive, these measures are just the first step in revitalizing Macau's post-pandemic economy.

Ho announced that the government will increase public investment in urban transport facilities, including the construction of the fourth bridge between the Peninsula and Taipa, the design and study of the line that will connect

Taipa Zone E and Zone A of Macau's new landfills by tunnel, and the commencement of the public consultation on the construction project for the East Line of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) network.

Other infrastructure works include the design and construction of the LRT line connected to the new Hengqin Border Post. The public tender for the construction of the main structures for the Seac Pai Van Line will also be launching as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Ho Iat Seng's campaign to reform public administration centers on the objective or promoting good governance with quality and rigor.

"We will continue to increase government efficiency and the quality of public services, to build a healthy government that is modern and highly efficient, and provides favorable conditions for the life of the population and the activity of companies," said the Chief Executive yesterday.

"We intend to increase the efficiency of the public administration, to reinforce in its workers the conscience of serving [their duty] well, as well as ethical and integrity conduct driven by the interests of the population."

Ho Iat Seng also called on the public sector workers to reject overburdening bureaucracy that stifled government efficiency.

The specific government bodies that will be targeted for restructuring will include those active in the areas of economy, tourism, education and government information.

Among the efforts to make the government more efficient, the Chief Executive also said that the government would increase inspections on the use of public funds, recalling that on the day the fifth-term government took office, a specific department was created to handle the planning and supervision of public assets.

Its purpose remains to strengthen the supervision of autonomous funds and publicly-owned companies, ensuring the effective and proper use of public assets.

A specific bill that will regulate publicly-owned companies is also currently being prepared, the Chief Executive announced.

## ECONOMIC GOALS NEED NOT COME AT ENVIRONMENT'S EXPENSE

**I**N his first policy address, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng pledged to leave a clean Macau for the next generation, even as his administration works to revive the sluggish economy. Despite admitting economic development will generate more carbon dioxide emissions, the Chief Executive thinks the two objectives do not necessarily come at each other's expense.

Asked by the Times about his views on striking a balance between the two areas, Ho said that the overall environmental condition of the city "is

not that bad," citing data from the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA).

"The DSPA has been monitoring the city's air quality. The data is accessible on its website," said the Chief Executive. "[The city's condition] is not much worse than other places."

Macau's top official then restated his pledge to expand investment in environmental protection, highlighting the problems with greenery in Macau, including "poorly planted trees," which has "jeopardized our work in environmental protection."

According to Ho, further work will be done to improve the city's livability. "That's why we're working on the coastal greenery area [in NAPE], which will provide better sidewalks," he elaborated. "In addition, the sewage problems in Areia Preta are also affecting residents' health and the environment."

Both the tree planting and sewage issues are part of the new government's plans. Meanwhile, Ho said his administration is also working to refine leisure facilities and green areas in Coloane. **AL**

## PUBLIC TO BE CONSULTED ON CASINO CONCESSIONS LATER THIS YEAR

**T**HE Chief Executive offered little information regarding the matter of the upcoming gaming concessions negotiations yesterday, but stated that the government would launch a public consultation in the second half of the year.

The current casino agreements with Macau's six concessionaires are due to expire in June 2022. Aside from a suspected requirement that the new concessions will come with diversification written into the contracts, very little information has yet been confirmed by the government.

Yesterday, Ho said that

he administration headed by his predecessor, Chui Sai On, had commissioned a mid-term assessment on the city's casino market, operation and development. More work is being done in this area at present, according to the current Chief Executive.

He also revealed that given the importance of the legal framework supervising casino operations, the general public would have a stake.

"Public consultation will be organized as part of the legislation," he assured. "This is a long procedure and will not be concluded this year."

As a consequence, the casino concession question has

been largely omitted from this year's policy address.

In addition, online gambling is still being studied, the Chief Executive said. The practice has become a topic for discussion in the public, as Covid-19 has greatly diminished visitor arrivals in Macau.

Meanwhile, Ho said he has no plan at present to review the gaming revenue tax system, even during the economic downturn brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It has been only three months," said Ho. "Our casino operations are tough enough to hang on." **AL**

## BEIJING DONATES CHINESE MEDICINE TO MACAU TO FIGHT COVID-19

**T**HE Central Government has donated a total of 6,800 boxes of Chinese medicine to the Macau SAR government in a bid to help the city fight Covid-19.

Made through the Liaison Office, the donations include 1,500 boxes of Jinhua Qinggan Keli, 1,000 boxes of Huoxiang Zhengqi Ruanjiaonang, 3,500 boxes of Shufeng Jiedu Jiaonang, and 800 boxes Lianhua Qingwen Jiaonang, making up a total 6,800 boxes of proprietary Chinese medicine (pCm).

pCm generally refers to a proprietary product composed of any Chinese herbal medicine, any materials of herbal, animal or mineral

origin customarily used by the Chinese, formulated into a finished dose form.

The medicines donated to Macau are among the most commonly used Chinese medicines for everyday ailments. They can be acquired from pharmacies without a prescription.

Yan Zhichan, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office, said that the National Health Commission of China has already included Chinese medicine in Covid-19 treatment procedures. The abovementioned four kinds of pCm are recommended in China's Covid-19 treatment plan. **JZ**

## MUST RESEARCHERS MARK NEW BREAKTHROUGH IN ARTHRITIS STUDY

**A** team at the Macau University of Science and Technology has made a breakthrough in arthritis research, according to a statement issued yesterday by the local tertiary education institution.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a worldwide autoimmune disease which is related to the immune-dysfunction of the body, and its disease pathogenesis remains unknown. In recent years, the study of genes and their relations to rheumatoid arthritis have become a key focus of research in the international field.

The research team led by Chair Professor Liu Liang, academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and president of the Macau University of Science and Te-

chnology has recently found that the gene expression level of desuccinylase sirtuin 5 (SIRT5) was significantly reduced in the blood of patients with rheumatoid arthritis compared to healthy volunteers, suggesting the pathogenic role of SIRT5 in rheumatoid arthritis.

To verify this new discovery, the research team conducted a series of comprehensive animal experiments, and found that the tests confirmed a link.

According to MUST, this research breakthrough has opened up a new path for the development of novel target drugs for precision treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

The research was recently published in the journal of "Cellular & Molecular Immunology". **DB**

## GRADUATING UM STUDENTS RETURN TO UNIVERSITY

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) has partially resumed classes, prioritizing the return of graduating students to the classroom yesterday.

All other UM students will continue to take classes online until the end of the semester, the university announced in a statement.

Graduating undergraduate students who have returned to campus will participate in various activities, including experiments, group discussions, and reviews of what they have learned this semester.

The university also announced that final examinations will be postponed to the period between May 20 to June 1.

Those studying for PhDs, master's degrees and postgraduate certificate/diploma programs, and who are in the coursework stage of their

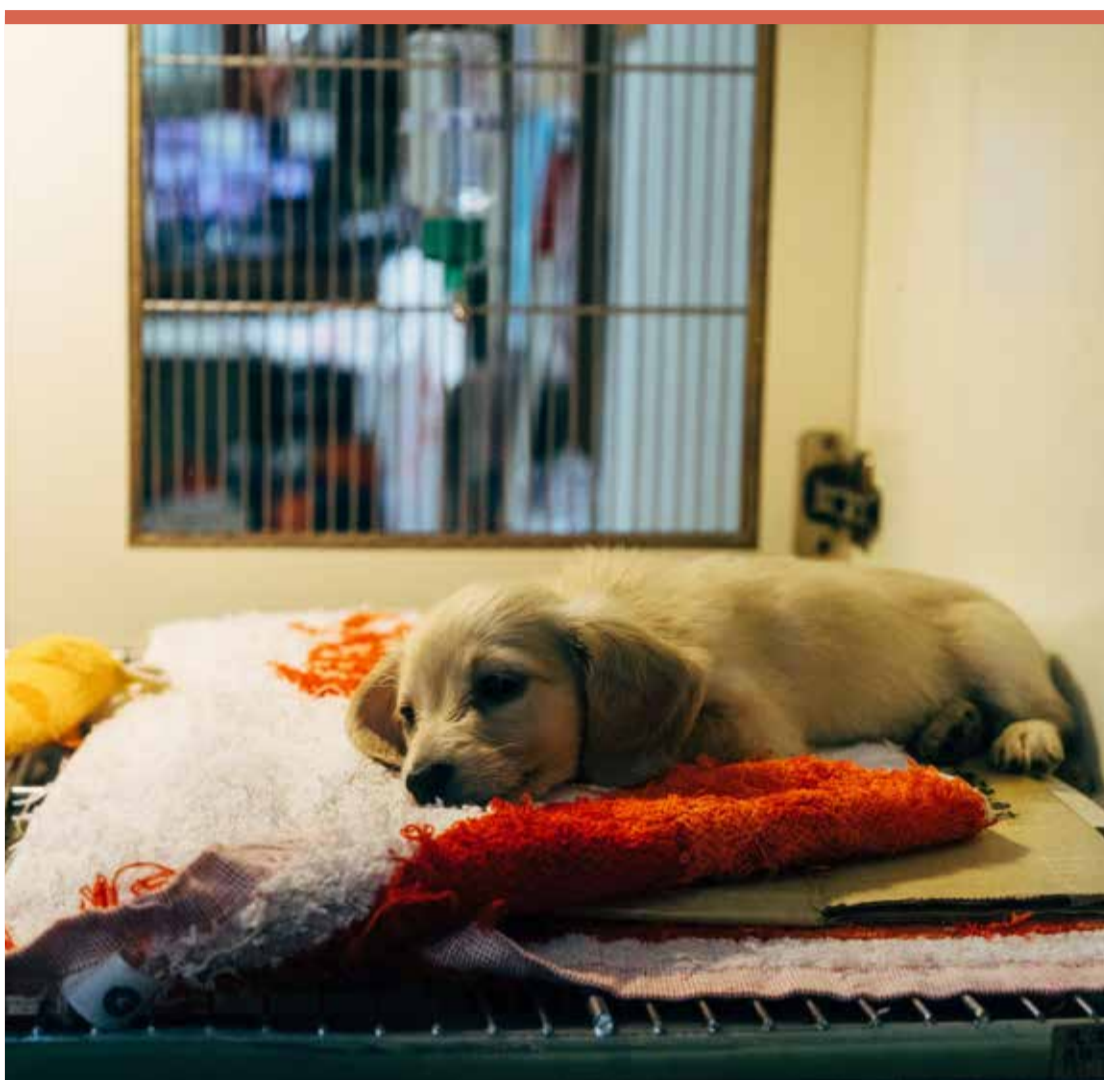
studies, will continue to take online classes until the end of the semester. PhD and master's oral defenses will resume on May 4.

To facilitate the resumption of classes, UM said that it instructed faculty members to teach smaller classes, with no more than 10 students in each class, and with at least 1 meter between students' seats, as specified by the government's guidelines.

Before entering the classroom, students must have their temperature checked, be wearing a mask, disinfect their hands, and present their health declaration.

In addition, UM will partially reopen some facilities on campus, such as the library and the sports complex, starting on the first day of classes. **LV**

MARKUS WINKLER



### ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION LAW

## VET INVESTORS WILL NOT BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MALPRACTICE

JULIE ZHU

**I**NVESTORS in animal medical service firms are exempt from being punished for administrative violations committed by companies under the latest amendment to the animal disease prevention law that is being proposed.

Yesterday, government representatives met with members of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) where they presented the text for the amended law and discussed the amendments. According to the latest version of the text, investors in veterinary and animal service establishments are no longer required to be held accountable for administrative violations committed by companies in which they have an interest.

The law amendment also requires veterinary and animal service establishments to report any spread of animal disease to the local government within 24 hours.

Previously, investors in veterinary and animal service establishments, as well as ve-

terinarians or administrators of such establishments were all obliged to declare any spread of disease to the local government, otherwise they would face a penalty.

The new amendment has removed investors from the relevant articles, as the local government now considers that capital investors are not heavily involved in operations of the veterinarian or animal hospital, besides allocating money.

Another consideration to the law's amendments was that it would take a veterinarian and animal medical service provider more time to declare to the government if investor consensus is required. Furthermore, in such a situation, the law amendments considered that the timely reaction to an animal disease outbreak might be delayed.

Either the veterinarian or the company administrator can declare an animal disease case to the Macau SAR government.

Aside from being exempt from the obligation of decla-

ring cases of animal disease, an investor in a veterinarian or animal medical service establishment will also not be liable for any administrative violations recorded at the facilities once this bill is passed and comes into effect.

This law has produced a consensus between government representatives and lawmakers. The AL committee will hold one last meeting for a final review of the government's work on the law before it goes to the AL plenary meeting.

This specific law, despite being related to animal disease, does not provide a definition for veterinarian, however. According to Ho Ion Sang, Chairman of the Committee, the local government is preparing two laws, one specifically related to veterinary professionals and the other one relating to animal hospitals.

The SAR government believes that with the future veterinarian law and animal hospital law, Macau will have more regulation over animal-related matters.



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2020 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

# FORGING AHEAD TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC, SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYMENT, STABILISING THE ECONOMY, CARING FOR PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, IMPLEMENTING REFORM, AND FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT.

Application of the  
Chief Executive's  
Office



Download now

### 1 Fight the pandemic to maintain stability and boost post-pandemic economic recovery

- The Government is spending over 50 billion patacas in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
  - While continuing with the existing welfare measures, the Government will implement a proactive fiscal policy and implement a series of relief measures in response to the pandemic (for details, please see the major welfare measures for 2020). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Support Fund – which is worth 10 billion patacas under the Macao Foundation – is expanding its assistance to local residents, employees and businesses, in order to help with “safeguarding employment, stabilising the economy and caring for people’s livelihoods”.
- Expedite approval of small and medium-sized livelihood and municipal construction projects;
- Expedite public construction projects to create job opportunities:
  - Commence construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour route;
  - Expedite construction of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system;
  - Implement construction of public housing in the New Urban Zone Area A, while construction of Home-Ownership Scheme housing units in Lots B4, B9 and B10 is set to commence;
  - Proceed with construction of replacement housing, interim housing and related infrastructure in Area Preta Zone P;
  - Begin inviting tenders for the superstructures of the Conde S. Januario Hospital Public Health Specialist Building and the Customs Service Headquarters Building;
  - Commence reconstruction of certain facilities of the Taipa Ferry Terminal which are integrated with the second airport passenger terminal; and
  - Conduct a comprehensive study on the use of land for government offices and the future development of a business hub in Macao.
- Foster recovery of integrated tourism and leisure industry:
  - Launch tourism incentive programmes once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control;
  - The Macao Government Tourism Office will be transferred to the portfolio of Secretary for Economy and Finance, in order to create industry synergy;
  - When appropriate, seek approval from the Central People’s Government for resuming the issuance of travel permits to Macao from mainland China; and negotiate with Guangdong province on relaxing the entry requirements for Guangdong residents visiting Macao;
  - Launch tourism activities, such as “local tours” and “tours to Hengqin and neighbouring areas” for Macao residents, in due course; and
  - Organise more festive events.
- Encourage private investments and intensify solicitation of investments:
  - Intensify solicitation of foreign capital and investment;
  - Support mainland China enterprises that aim to explore international markets, with establishing regional headquarters in Macao; and
  - Expedite approval procedures for private investment projects and construction projects;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs):
  - Adjust credit guarantee schemes and support schemes for SMEs, and launch schemes providing interest subsidies on bank loans for SMEs;
  - Streamline application procedures for professional licences, and optimise vetting procedures for enterprises seeking to employ non-resident workers;
  - Consider establishing an SME risk fund, to support the business sector;
  - Assist SMEs with developing e-commerce, including cross-border e-commerce; and
  - Support businesses with establishing and promoting “Macao-branded” products.

### 2 Press ahead with administration reforms to enhance governance

- In accordance with the “plan and tackle” principle, strengthen the design at the top level of the public administration reform, to rationalise the administrative authorisation structure; establish a feasible accountability system for government officials; enhance the civil servant recruitment system; enhance the effectiveness of civil servant training; and explore implementation of a horizontal transfer system for public department heads and supervisors;
- Optimise structure of public departments, rationalising firstly departments respectively responsible for economic services, tourism, education and government information;
- Strengthen and improve the inter-departmental cooperation mechanism; coordinate and resolve major cross-departmental issues through administration meetings between the Chief Executive and the Secretaries;
- Enhance supervision to publicly funded enterprises and autonomous funds, to ensure safety of public assets and investment returns; and
- Improve the mechanism for implementing the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao; improve the legislative coordination mechanism, strengthen legislative planning, and prioritise formulating and amending laws and regulations related to the economy and people’s livelihoods.

### 3 Relieve livelihood hardships and improve people’s well-being

#### Major welfare measures for fiscal year 2020

##### All Macao residents

###### Non-mandatory individual Central Provident Fund accounts

Start-up fund of 10,000 patacas (for eligible residents)  
An additional fund injection of 7,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

###### Wealth Partaking Scheme

10,000 patacas (permanent residents)  
6,000 patacas (non-permanent residents)  
Disbursed in advance, during April

###### Healthcare voucher

600 patacas per person (permanent residents)

###### Birth allowance

Increase to 5,418 patacas (both parents may apply at the same time)

###### Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

200 patacas per month (each residential unit)

###### Water tariff subsidy

Ongoing (for residential and general non-residential units)

###### Bus fare concessions for members of the public

Ongoing (for the elderly, students, people with disabilities, etc.)

###### Real estate tax (for all real estate)

Deduction of first 3,500 patacas of tax (Macao residents)

###### Waiver of real estate stamp duty

First three million patacas of a residential unit’s value (Macao permanent residents purchasing residential property for the first time)

###### Incentive for the increase of supply in the real estate rental market

Reduction of the property tax rate for leased properties to eight percent; property tax rate for non-leased properties remains at six percent

##### New pandemic relief measures:

###### Consumption Subsidy Scheme

A total of 8,000 patacas per Macao resident, to be disbursed in two instalments

###### Special healthcare voucher

An additional healthcare voucher of 600 patacas for each permanent resident of Macao

###### Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

Waiver of all electricity bills for three months (for Macao residents)

###### Water bill subsidy for residential units

Waiver of all water bills for three months (for residential users)

###### Real estate tax (residential)

Waiver of residential property tax (for Macao residents)

##### The elderly

###### Old age allowance

9,000 patacas per year

###### Pension

Increase to 3,740 patacas per month

###### Employment incentive for the elderly

Increase the basic allowance for personal income tax to 198,000 patacas, for employees over 65 years of age.

##### New measures:

- Plan and establish a multi-service centre for the elderly and a multi-service centre for patients with dementia.
- Establish more day care centres for the elderly.
- Launch the pilot subsidy scheme for caregivers, to support families with special difficulties.
- Study the design of housing for senior citizens, and begin drafting a special law for the project.



## Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2020 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

### Students

#### Non-tertiary education: Textbook allowance

Increased to 3,550 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)  
 Increased to 3,000 patacas per school year (each primary school student)  
 Increased to 2,400 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

#### Tuition fee subsidies, meal allowance and stationery allowance for students from families with financial difficulties

- Tuition fee subsidies
  - 9,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student)
  - 6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student)
  - 4,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten or pupil or primary school student)
- Meal allowance:
  - Increased to 3,950 patacas per school year
- Stationery allowance:
  - Increased to 3,350 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)
  - Increased to 2,600 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

#### Tuition fee subsidies and stationery allowance for Macao students studying in Guangdong

- Tuition fee subsidies:
  - A maximum of 6,000 patacas per school year (each senior and junior secondary school student)
  - A maximum of 8,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

#### ■ Stationery allowance (new):

- 1,700 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)
- 1,450 patacas per school year (each primary school student)
- 1,150 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

#### Stationery allowance for tertiary education

3,300 patacas (Macao residents)

### Disadvantaged families

#### Minimum subsistence index

Increased to 4,350 patacas per one-person household

#### Financial assistance

Continue disbursing 13 months of financial assistance per year (from 4,350 patacas to 20,270 patacas per month, for households of one to eight people)

#### Special subsidy for three categories of disadvantaged families

- Education subsidy: 300 to 750 patacas per month
- Healthcare subsidy: 1,000 to 1,200 patacas per month
- Disability subsidy: 750 to 1,000 patacas per month

#### Special living allowance under the Social Inclusion Scheme

Two disbursements per year, of 2,650 to 10,100 patacas each for the three categories of disadvantaged families of one to eight people (single-parent families and families with disabled members or chronically ill patients) with household income below 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index.

#### Short-term Food Assistance Programme

For a maximum of 10 weeks, for people with household income below 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index.

#### Public housing tenants

A rent waiver of up to 2,000 patacas per month for tenants with monthly income not exceeding the statutory cap.

#### Temporary housing subsidies for eligible families on the waiting list for public housing

1,650 patacas per month per family of one to two people; 2,500 patacas per month per family of three people or above, for a maximum period of one year.

#### Positive Life Programme

On being re-employed, any person under this programme may enjoy an exemption from deducting income from work of up to 6,530 patacas per month, in calculating household income for receiving financial assistance, for a maximum waiver period of 18 months.

#### Community Employment Assistance Scheme

Each participant may receive a subsidy of up to 2,000 patacas per month, depending on their work situation.

### New pandemic relief measures:

#### Financial assistance (additional)

Disburse two extra months of financial assistance to families under the scheme, according to the number of family members.

#### Subsidy for low-income, full-time employee

Remains at up to 5,000 patacas per month, and becomes also available to non-permanent residents.

### People with disabilities

#### Disability gratuity

9,000 patacas per year (ordinary)  
 18,000 patacas per year (special)

#### Subsidy for eligible employees with disabilities

Up to 5,000 patacas per month

#### Employers hiring people with disabilities

A tax deduction of up to 5,000 patacas on profit tax or personal income tax, per employee with disabilities.

#### Employment incentives

The personal income tax allowance for eligible employees with disabilities increases to 198,000 patacas.

### Employed citizens

### New pandemic relief measures:

#### Personal income tax

Increases the fixed tax deduction rate of taxable personal income tax for the year to 30 percent

#### Extra tax rebate

A 70 percent rebate of the personal income tax paid by each tax-paying Macao resident for 2018, subject to a ceiling increased to 20,000 patacas.

#### Employee cash allowance scheme

Disburse a total of 15,000 patacas of allowance to each eligible local employee, in three monthly instalments (5,000 patacas per month)

(Local employees receiving the maximum tax rebate of 20,000 patacas from personal income tax for 2018, and civil servants, are excluded from this scheme.)

#### Paid training (Skills upgrading and employment training scheme)

- Each unemployed local resident enrolled in the occupation-oriented training programme organised by the Government will receive an allowance of 6,656 patacas, and job matching referral service, upon completion of training.
- Each employed local resident enrolled in the skills training programme organised by the Government will receive an allowance of 5,000 patacas.

### Business owners and related persons

- Profit tax allowance remains at 600,000 patacas per year;
- Continue providing waivers of all business taxes, hawkers licence fees, wet market stall rents, inspection and quarantine fees for live food, and stamp duty on life insurance, other insurance, bank service charges and auctions;
- Provide waivers of signboard fees for businesses, and exemption from tourism tax for restaurants;
- Provide waivers of stamp duty on entrance passes and tickets for cultural and arts performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes;
- Enterprises can enjoy a triple reduction in profit tax for the first three million patacas of joint venture R&D expenditure, and a double reduction in profit tax for the additional expenditure, subject to a ceiling of 15 million patacas;
- Provide waivers of profit tax on investment income from local bonds issued by mainland China governments and state-owned enterprises, and exempt the stamp duty for issuing and acquiring the relevant bonds; and
- Provide profit tax waiver to Macao enterprises for income received or generated in Portuguese-speaking countries.

### New pandemic relief measures:

- Offer water and electricity bill subsidies to businesses for a period of three months, with a ceiling of 3,000 patacas per month for water bills and up to 10,000 patacas per month for electricity bills for each company;
- Provide a tax deduction on profit tax, up to a maximum of 300,000 patacas;
- A further 25 percent deduction of property tax levied on hotels and similar establishments, offices, and real estate properties for commercial and industrial purposes on top of the initial deduction of 3,500 patacas;
- A waiver of tourism tax payable by establishments such as hotels and similar establishments, gyms, saunas, massage parlours and karaoke venues, for a period of six months;
- A waiver of facility inspection fees for hotels, restaurants, bars and travel agencies;
- A waiver of fees and stamp duties for licence and administrative licence issuance and renewal, including licences for real estate agents and brokers, annual registration for insurance agents, licences for travel agencies and tour guides, information notes for business premises, temporary licences and licences for commercial management of strata-title buildings;
- A waiver of the licence tax on commercial vehicles;
- A waiver of the regular vehicle inspection charges for commercial vehicles such as public buses, taxis, heavy vehicles, industrial machinery vehicles, light vehicles for professional purposes, light or heavy motorcycles for professional purposes, trailers or semi-trailers, as well as the surcharge for advance inspection;
- A waiver of the fees related to local cruises and parking fees for taxis at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge car park during designated periods;
- A waiver of radio operating expenses for traditional land mobile radio systems and trunk radio systems for non-public organisations;
- A waiver of rents for government-owned properties, for three months;
- Expedite the vetting processes of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Assistance Programme, and the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme and the SME Credit Assurance Scheme, and adjust the repayment measures of various assistance programmes;
- Extend the SME Assistance Programme to SMEs established at least a year ago;
- Launch an interest subsidy scheme on bank loans for SMEs of up to two million patacas, for a maximum of three years, involving a maximum interest rate of four percent;



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2020 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

- Through an enterprise subsidy scheme, offer a one-off subsidy of 15,000 to 200,000 patacas per shop, depending on the number of employees, to a maximum of one million patacas for taxable companies with several outlets (recipients must return a proportion of their subsidies, in the event of unreasonable dismissal of employees within six months of receiving the subsidies);
- Through subsidy schemes for freelancers:
  - Offer a one-off subsidy of 15,000 to 200,000 patacas, depending on the number of employees, for Group 2 Salaries Tax Payers;
  - Offer a one-off subsidy of 10,000 patacas for wet market stall tenants, hawkker licence holders and tricycle licence holders;
  - Offer a one-off subsidy of 10,000 patacas for taxi drivers who rent their taxis;
  - Extend the expiry dates of taxi licenses for six months, and extend the mandatory vehicle examination dates for six months for taxis bearing licences that will not expire;
- Through an interest subsidy scheme on bank loans for freelancers, offer a two-year interest subsidy on bank loans totalling a maximum of 100,000 patacas for Group 2 Salaries Tax Payers, up to a maximum of four percentage points of the interest or no more than 8,000 patacas.

### Measures to enhance the people's well-being

- Expedite construction of public housing, to secure the basic living conditions of local residents:
  - Implement construction of public housing in the New Urban Zone Area A, while construction the Home-Ownership Scheme housing units in Lots B4, B9 and B10 is set to commence;
  - Forge ahead with the public housing projects in Veneslau de Moraes, Tamagnini Barbosa and Mong Ha; and commence design of the first phase of the public housing project on Wai Long Avenue;
  - Develop a reasonable home owning ladder; commence special law drafting work after a public consultation on the definition of housing for the sandwich class; and study the design of housing for senior citizens; and
  - Expedite amendment of the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law.
- Mitigate commuting problems:
  - Address the issue regarding expiry of bus concession contracts, and enhance management of taxi operations;
  - Perfect the mass transit system, with complementary LRT and bus services; and
  - Develop accessible and convenient walkways, to encourage walking and green commuting.
- Enhance public healthcare standards, strengthen cooperation between public hospitals and private healthcare organisations; expedite construction of the Islands District Medical Complex; and commence operation of the Praia do Manduco Health Centre in the latter half of the year;
- Establish a multi-services centre for the elderly and a multi-services centre for patients with dementia;
- Optimise social support and welfare system measures, to perfect the two-tier social security system;
- Launch the pilot subsidy scheme for caregivers;
- Strengthen protection of the rights of women and children, and promote implementation of family-friendly policies;
- Lawfully protect the rights of local employees, and establish harmonious relationships between workers and employers; and
- Enhance the coordination and optimisation of vocational training, and effectively implement "paid training", "welfare-to-work scheme" and "in-service training".

### 4 Optimise talent cultivation policies and strengthen education and youth services

- Set up a high-level vetting committee for talent importation;
- Integrate education departments, to optimise education development;
- Consider expanding the proportion of non-local students admitted to tertiary institutions in Macao, and expedite progress towards autonomy and enhance commercial viability of tertiary institutions;
- Support teaching, scientific research and application of research results of tertiary institutions;
- Forge ahead with the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area tourism education and training base, the Global Centre for Tourism Education and Training, the International Portuguese Training Centre, and a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese;
- Set up a patriotic education base in Macao; and
- Create favourable conditions for learning, employment, entrepreneurship and development of young people.

### 5 Strengthen urban planning for construction of a smart city

- Expedite formulation of the Macao urban development master plan and implement urban renewal work;
- Properly manage the integrated use of land resources;
- Build a "Digital Macao", and strengthen new infrastructure such as the 5G network and data centre; and
- Improve environmentally friendly policies and promote green development.

### 6 Foster cultural diversity and promote cultural exchanges

- Establish a multi-cultural exchange and cooperation base with an emphasis on Chinese culture;
- Enhance cultural exchanges and cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, spanning various areas, levels and channels;
- Strengthen promotion of world heritage in Macao and promote cultural conservation;
- Build and improve sports facilities, and organise various international sports competitions and events; and
- Encourage cultural and art creation, for the development of the cultural and creative industries.

### 7 Strengthen anti-corruption and auditing for a corruption-free and efficient government

- Abide by probity and integrity in the civil service and implement zero-tolerance on corruption;
- Persist in combating and preventing corruption, and enhance integrity education; and
- Enhance auditing work to improve public governance.

### 8 Sustain Macao's stability and security

- Optimise laws and regulations, management mechanism and enforcement mechanism to safeguard national security;
- Enhance quality and law enforcement capabilities of the police force, and deepen regional police cooperation and coordination mechanisms;
- Optimise the contingency response mechanism for public health emergencies;
- Perfect anti-terrorism mechanisms, to prevent infiltration by external forces and any resulting negative impacts;
- Expedite legislation on fire prevention and safety, and dangerous goods regulations; and
- Commence construction of flood prevention measures and drainage along the Outer Harbour and Inner Harbour, based on sound anti-flood simulations and science.

### Integrate into national development and foster economic diversification

- Enhance and implement the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- Complete the transfer of border crossing function at the Macao Lotus Flower checkpoint to the Hengqin checkpoint;
- Strengthen matching of the management and legal systems across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- Develop a high-level design to further emancipate people's mindsets, in a spirit of reform and innovation, for the construction of a zone in Hengqin for comprehensive cooperation between Guangdong and Macao; and develop strategies in synergy with China's "Belt and Road" Initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, as well as nascent industries and business models, to integrate into the national industrial chain.

- Explore the feasibility of developing hi-tech industries;
- Fully leverage Macao's role as a platform for cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Expedite the development of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre;
- Expedite the establishment of a multi-cultural exchange and cooperation base with an emphasis on Chinese culture;
- Develop "Macao-branded" industries; and
- Establish a financial service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Administration and Justice

The administration and justice system shall adhere to the Chief Executive's administrative principles, focusing on public administration reform, establishment of the legal system and municipal services for public convenience.

We will carefully analyse and rationalise the long-standing problems in the public administrative structure and procedures, formulate plans for public administration reform, and follow the "plan and tackle" principle proposed by the Chief Executive, to plan thoroughly, work in an orderly manner and implement fully, in order to meet the requirements to "keep pace with the times to enhance the standard of governance of the MSAR Government", as proposed by President Xi Jinping during his visit to Macao.

We will summarise the past experience of legislative planning and coordination, improve the mechanism for legislative coordination between government departments, concentrate resources to prioritise drafting laws related to the economy and people's livelihoods, and actively strengthen popularising legal knowledge.

We will focus on the construction of public facilities, recreational facilities and open space, strengthen urban greening and forest restoration, improve environmental hygiene, ensure food safety, and stabilise fresh food supplies and prices, to create a healthy and comfortable living environment for Macao people.

#### Public administration

- Plan comprehensive public administration reform;
- Restructure government departments, in phases;
- Actively promote e-governance;
- Promote inter-departmental coordination;
- Review staff management and recruitment; and
- Improve the civil servant training mechanism.

#### Legal work

- Improve legislative planning and coordination;
- Identify which laws to prioritise for legislation;
- Continue rectifying existing laws;
- Enhance law publicity and promotion; and
- Promote interregional and international exchanges.

#### Municipal services

- Safeguard against diseases to build a healthy city;
- Build a green promenade and beautify the community;
- Create outdoor leisure space;
- Enhance greening and improve wet market environments; and
- Strengthen inspection to ensure food safety.



Construction of the Macao South Shore Waterfront Green Promenade will commence in April 2020. This will provide a large waterfront recreation space for Macao residents.

### Economy and Finance

Policy implementation for the economy and finance will aim at: reinforcing confidence, easing livelihood hardships, boosting the economy and ensuring employment. The emphasis will be on policies promoting adequate economic diversification, enhancing competitiveness of SMEs and micro businesses, expediting the establishment of "One Centre, One Platform", and jointly developing and managing the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone.

#### Anti-epidemic measures

- Promptly introduce a series of tax waiver and tax reduction measures to cope with this difficult time together;
- Boost domestic demand through vigorous financial policies, and stimulate consumption and investment; and
- Launch a welfare-to-work scheme, for enhancing employees' skills and capability.

#### Industrial diversification

- Consolidate tourism, economic and commercial resources, to reinforce the foundation for the tourism industry;
- Promote upgrading and transformation of the manufacturing industry, and strengthen brand building for Macao products;
- Develop bond market, wealth management and financial leasing services;
- Attract customers and invite businesses by means of organising conferences and exhibitions, and amplify synergy within the convention and exhibition industry; and
- Encourage prestigious pharmaceutical companies to explore the traditional Chinese medicine market in mainland China.

#### Regional cooperation

- Actively participate in the "Belt and Road" initiative and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; and
- Expand the free port policy and promote establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

#### Sino-Portuguese platform

- Plan for and successfully organise the sixth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; and
- Enrich platform content and facilitate business matching and collaboration between small-and medium-sized enterprises in China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

#### Employment and youth

- Perfect labour laws and regulations;
- Guarantee prioritised employment for Macao residents, adjust the proportion of non-resident workers, and combat illegal employment;
- Launch a new form of promotion regarding occupational safety and health; and
- Support youth employment and entrepreneurship.



Consumption Subsidy Scheme to stimulate local economy

### Public Security

Led by the Chief Executive, the public security forces will join hands for improvement, reform and innovation, to actively maintain public safety. We will continue reforming civil protection, strengthen crisis prevention and management capabilities, establish a smart policing system, optimise police management services in an orderly manner, and further strengthen public safety awareness and social responsibility.

#### Safeguarding national security

- Assist in decision-making regarding national security, optimise the legal system, and improve national security law enforcement mechanisms; and
- Develop diverse publicity, continue promoting national security education, and enhance public awareness of national security.

#### Ensuring sustained stability and public order

- Adopt forward-looking scientific decisions, dedicated to disease prevention and anti-epidemic measures, and crime prevention and control; and
- Deepen regional cooperation in crime fighting, and perfect the laws on dangerous goods control.

#### Enhancing civil protection and security

- Expedite optimisation of the legal system, expand community engagement, and establish a modern civil protection system; and
- Promote application of technology, implement smart management, and enhance the effectiveness of disaster prevention and relief.



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng leads members of the Cyber Security Committee to visit the Cyber Security Incident Alert and Emergency Response Centre, so they can gain an understanding of its facilities and its latest operations.

#### Optimising police force management

- Enhance external and internal supervision, strictly observe police discipline, and always remain alert; and
- Promote reform of the ranking system, increase the diversity of training, and advocate a healthy police culture.

#### Expediting the development of smart policing

- Implement projects related to smart policing, and utilise it to achieve sharing of police data; and
- Strengthen the application of "sky eye", and introduce technological means of improving criminal investigation capability.

#### Innovating police-public cooperation model

- Promote unification between the police and the public, improve collaboration mechanisms, and deepen community policing; and
- Promote police-public interactions, enhance cooperation between the police and journalists, and listen closely to opinions from all sectors.

#### Perfecting border-crossing management

- In supporting border infrastructure development, formulate a new border-crossing model to relieve the pressure of passenger flows at the Border Gate; and
- Improve cooperation mechanisms, ensure border safety, and comprehensively implement measures for public convenience.

#### Improving the effectiveness of correctional and rehabilitation services

- Perfect the personnel system, strengthen prison administration, and strictly enforce discipline of correctional staff; and
- Promote prison projects, strengthen security management, and strive to facilitate social rehabilitation.

#### Fostering youth development

- Promote physical and mental development of young people, and establish more communication channels, for a better understanding of young people's needs regarding security; and
- Help to broaden young people's horizons, imbue them with positive energy, and cultivate their sense of responsibility.



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Social Affairs and Culture

The Government will follow the Chief Executive's administrative principle – “Unity and Efforts, Change and Innovation” – in the area of social affairs and culture. Based on the needs of the public and operation of a service-oriented government, we will spare no effort in overcoming the challenge of the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak, while seizing the opportunities arising from the development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and at the national level. We will strive to launch innovative policies for improving people's livelihoods, and lay a solid foundation for Macao's long-term development and prosperity through education, development of young people and talent cultivation.

#### Anti-epidemic and healthcare measures

- Take a proactive approach in anti-epidemic work;
- Adopt a series of measures to care for people's livelihoods and restore tourism;
- Provide allowances to Macao residents to help them join medical insurance schemes in mainland China;
- Expand the age range coverage of the Dentures for the Elderly Pilot Scheme; and
- Commence operation of the Praia do Manduco Health Centre.

#### Education and talent cultivation

- Merge the Higher Education Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau;
- Announce the outline plan for medium-to-long-term development of tertiary education;
- Plan and establish a base for patriotic education; and
- Implement the fourth phase of the Continuing Education Programme.

#### Social work and social security

- Establish two new elderly day-care centres;
- Plan and establish a multi-services centre for the elderly; and
- Increase the amounts of pensions for elderly and disability allowances.

#### Integrated development of culture, sports and tourism

- Plan and establish a centre for monitoring local world heritage;
- Launch the third phase of procedures for classification of immobile heritage;
- Introduce a reading system specifically for the visually impaired;
- Launch the first Cultural Industry Incentive Scheme;
- Expand the Public Sports Facility Network;
- Organise the fourth Macao Residents Physical Fitness Assessment;
- Reopen the Macao Grand Prix Museum; and
- Complete collection and processing of information for a Macanese gastronomy database.



Establishment of the first student flag-guards team.

### Transport and Public Works

Policy implementation regarding transport and public works will be guided by the principle of serving the public's needs. The Government will devote its greatest efforts to public housing, transport, environmental protection, urban planning, urban renewal and public works.

#### Urban planning

- Conduct a public consultation on Macao's urban development master plan;
- Continue facilitating urban renewal studies;
- Implement land management in accordance with the Land Law; and
- Complete the draft for the Law on Use of Maritime Areas.

#### Public works investment

- Expedite construction of public housing units;
- Commence construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge;
- Expedite reclamation work at the New Urban Area;
- Proceed on schedule with the construction of the LRT system;
- Complete construction of the new Guangdong-Macao border crossing; and
- Expedite preliminary design of sluices at the Inner Harbour.

#### Housing

- Follow up on issues related to the Legal System for Public Housing that is now in force, and regular applications for public housing; and
- Continue supporting the Legislative Assembly with completing its deliberations regarding the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law.

#### Transport

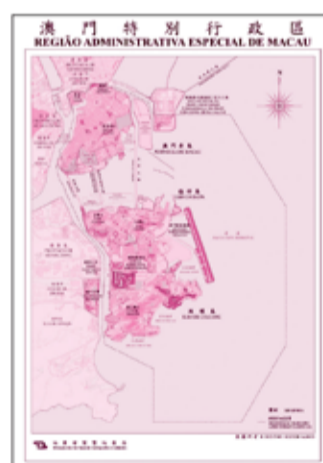
- Commence the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030);
- Complete contract negotiations with the two bus companies;
- Expedite implementation of the Master Development Plan for Macau International Airport;
- Plan and develop a taxi management system; and
- Continue constructing the walking route network, to encourage green commuting.

#### Environmental protection

- Complete implementation of the Macao Environmental Protection Plan (2021-2025);
- Optimise solid waste and sewage treatment facilities, and improve relevant laws and regulations; and
- Enhance monitoring and forecasting of weather and other natural disasters, and capability to generate related alerts, and optimise reporting guidelines.

#### Public supplies management

- Continue searching for suitable places in old districts for installing more power transmission facilities;
- Complete construction of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, and expedite expansion of the capacity of Ka Ho Reservoir; and
- Facilitate legislative procedures regarding the System for Convergence of Telecommunication Networks and Services, and the Radio Communication System.



Formulation of Macao's urban development master plan.

### Commission Against Corruption

In 2020, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will continue implementing the strategy emphasising both combating and preventing corruption, strengthen promotion and education, and adhere to its statutory responsibility to combat corruption and foster integrity.

#### Publicity, Education and Community Relations

- Launch short-, medium- and long-term promotion and education programmes; strengthen integrity education and create a corruption-free environment in society, in accordance with the principle of “Government motivation and public participation”; and
- Step up education and publicity via multimedia platforms and launch various innovative activities.

#### Complaints to the Ombudsman

- Improve and standardise case follow-up procedures;
- Review the system for processing anonymous complaints, and allocate resources to solving real problems;
- Establish a mechanism for cooperation between departments, to promptly ease people's difficulties and handle their complaints; and
- Establish a mechanism for providing coordinated advice prior to investigations, and review the “Jointly Build a Corruption-free Macao” programme, for comprehensively executing CCAC's supervisory duties.

#### Anti-corruption Tasks

- Persist in resolute investigation of corruption in public departments, and adopt the policy of zero tolerance of corruption;
- Continue combating bribery-related crimes in the private sector, to maintain a fair and corruption-free business environment in Macao;
- Strengthen communication and exchanges with mainland China and various countries and regions, to establish a regular or case-specific cooperation relationship in anti-corruption, law enforcement, fugitive hunting, and recovery of ill-gotten gains; and
- Diligently support deliberations of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) led by United Nations experts, and review the deficiencies in Macao's anti-corruption and corruption prevention system.

#### Optimising the CCAC's organisation, operation and staffing

- Recruit more investigators and continue strengthening staff training; and
- Review and conduct studies of the CCAC's organisation, operations, staff recruitment and personnel promotion systems.

### Commission of Audit

The Commission of Audit (CA) will keep a close track of the latest social developments, and step up efforts to review the use of public resources and the performances of government departments, to reveal potential risks and hidden problems and prevent substantial damage and wastage. The CA will make viable recommendations or give suggestions regarding auditing departments, in order to assist the Government with boosting efficiency and optimising administration.

- **Audit** - As the Order of Commissioner of Audit No. 2/2019 will be implemented throughout the government in 2020, the Commission of Audit will assist all departments to understand and adapt to the audit system, ensuring audits can be smoothly carried out;
- **“Auditor Office”** - Assisted by the Computer Technology Centre of the National Audit Office, the Commission of Audit will complete the upgrading and modification of “Auditor Office (Macao version)”, and commence initial testing and staff training;
- **Performance audit and special audit** - The Commission of Audit upholds the Government's administrative principles. Through performance audits and special audits, the commission will also conduct in-depth investigations of any deviations and mistakes of departments involved in different administrative processes, especially to reveal the situation regarding wastage of public resources, and will assist these departments with taking corrective actions and blocking any loopholes in a timely manner;
- **“System for Application of Audit Data”** - The Commission of Audit will commence a feasibility study of the “System for Application of Audit Data”;
- **Promotion of optimal use of public resources** - The Commission of Audit will hold seminars to foster values regarding optimising the use of public resources among newly recruited civil servants and the public, and enhance public awareness of the social benefits and importance of government audits;
- **Auditing team** - The Commission of Audit will continue strengthening internal training to enhance the professional competence of its staff; and
- **Exchanges on auditing work** - The Commission of Audit will actively participate in international audit conferences and exchange activities, continue maintaining external interactions, and participate in appropriate professional seminars on auditing.



### VESSEL RESPONSIBLE FOR BRIDGE DAMAGE FOUND

The Marine and Water Bureau has found the vessel responsible for damaging a bridge in an incident that occurred last month. At midnight on March 9, a cargo vessel deviated from the usual channel while in Macau waters. It strayed into an area and triggered the collision avoidance detection system of the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, sending the vessel an alert. However, the vessel continued heading in the same direction and scraped the guardrail of the bridge before leaving the scene. Earlier this week, the marine authority noticed the cargo ship entering Macau's sea area and immediately sought to begin prosecution proceedings against the administrators onboard.

### PAVILION EXPANSION WILL HAVE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE MORE PANDAS

The Macao Giant Panda Pavilion will be expanded so that more giant pandas can be accommodated there, Chinese-language media reported. The Municipal Affairs Bureau has plans to expand the premises amid the possibility of an increased number of pandas in the future. Currently, the bureau is said to be discussing the expansion with the relevant entities. The panda pavilion is nestled against a hillside in Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane, and takes up approximately 3,000 square meters. The pavilion is comprised of two 330 square meter indoor activity quarters, a 600 square meter outdoor yard for the habitation of the giant pandas, and a 900 square meter indoor exhibit area. The pavilion has four pandas: Kai Kai, Xin Xin, Jian Jian and Kang Kang.

### CONCRETE COLLAPSES FOR SECOND TIME ON OLD BUILDING'S EXTERNAL WALL

The concrete on the external wall of an old building located on Rua das Lorchas has fallen again, making it the second instance of falling concrete recorded from the same building within less than a month. No injuries resulted from the incident. On March 30, the Fire Services Bureau received the first report of concrete falling from the building. On April 18, the bureau received a second call reporting concrete falling again. They then confirmed that the fall was due to the changing weather conditions of the past few weeks. In September 2016, a local woman was injured by concrete falling off the external wall of a building located near the Border Gate.

# CHINA TOURISTS SEEK BEACHES IF SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS PROCEED

DANIEL BEITLER & JULIE ZHU

**S**OME mainland tourists expect their travel plans can proceed as normal starting as early as this July, according to a recent survey conducted by the mainland's Sun Yat-sen University.

The survey found that natural attractions such as beaches were the most sought-after characteristics of travel destinations for mainland tourists in the near-term.

That is not ideal for the two special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong, which are both highly dependent on consumers from the mainland to keep their economies running. While both regions have beaches, the two urban cities are not known for their natural attractions.

With its enormous domestic visitor market, China tourism may recover quickly from the Covid-19 pounding, even as the rest of the world endures lockdown and social distancing measures. According to official data, "inbound trips" to mainland China numbered 145 million in 2019, while "domestic trips" in that same year reached 6 billion.

With much of that travel demand satisfied within the mainland, the survey concluded that other countries or regions largely dependent on mainland tourists "must bear unemployment and economic losses caused by a shrunken tourism market for quite a long period."

Beaches, islands, and places with natural attractions are among the most desired characteristics for near-term destinations, according to the survey. Accordingly, the survey anticipates a large demand for destinations within China that offer natural

BLOOMBERG



In this file photo, Chinese tourists are seen at the beach in Sanya Bay in Hainan Province

attractions.

However, these are destination characteristics in which Macau is regarded as uncompetitive. Instead, Macau is known primarily among mainland tourists for its casinos, while its "East-meets-West" cultural background might be considered its second-most widely known characteristic among some mainland travelers.

Based on the study, leisure cities with world cultural heritage sites, historical towns, and neighboring regions are mainland consumers' second choice. Therefore, given the indicated desires of mainland tourists, Macau may remain popular with mainland

consumers, being their second-most preferred type of travel destination.

Those willing to travel this summer still account for a minority of potential tourists, according to the survey. It found that 36% of mainlanders surveyed were uncertain as to whether they will travel right after the Covid-19 pandemic ends, while another 37% were certain they would not travel immediately after. Among the major reasons was concern over a reoccurrence of Covid-19 while they were traveling.

Even though most mainland tourists will likely head to destinations other than Macau, visitors from the neighboring

Guangdong Province, known to frequent Macau for hours-long visits, may still give the city a much-anticipated tourism boost.

Currently, Guangdong Province requires all arrivals – including its own residents – to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon entry. Macau government officials have signaled they plan to negotiate visitor entry requirements with the province as soon as possible.

Macau ranks among the top five most anticipated tourism destinations for Guangdong residents for after the Covid-19 pandemic, according to another survey conducted by Chinese online tourism company Ctrip.

## 2019: Macau's warmest year in 67 years

**2**019 was the warmest year the city has recorded, since records began in 1952. According to recent data released by the Statistics and Census Service, the annual mean air temperature in the city last year rose by 0.8 degrees Celsius year-on-year to 23.6 degrees.

The highest temperature of the year was 35.7 degrees, recorded in July and August, down by 0.1 degrees compared to the highest temperature in 2018. However, the lowest temperature was recorded at 8.4 degrees in January,

up by 3.8 degrees from a year earlier.

According to reports, the earth's average global surface temperature in 2019 was the second warmest since modern record-keeping began in 1880.

Independent analysts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration note that the average temperature in 2019 was second only to that of 2016, and the planet's long-term warming trend is continuing.

"The past five years have been the warmest of the last 140 years," the

agencies stated.

Last year, Macau had a total of five tropical cyclones, yet only was sufficiently strong to warrant the issuing of a Signal No. 8 warning.

The tropical cyclone warning was hoisted when tropical storm Wipha hit the city with a maximum wind speed of 100.1 km per hour and a maximum 10-minute average wind speed of 67.3 km per hour.

It was during this time the government committed to expending the utmost effort to keep the public and their property

safe, prioritizing the maintenance of a stable supply of water, electricity and telecommunication services.

Civil protection infrastructure faced an overhaul after Typhoon Hato struck in August 2017, killing 10 people and revealing just how unprepared the entire city was for a natural disaster of that magnitude.

This year, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau expects four to six strong tropical cyclones will affect the Macau territory, all passing within an 800-kilometer range of Macau.

The first tropical cyclone to affect Macau may hit the city sometime in June, while the typhoon season is expected to last until October.

Meanwhile, regarding air quality, the number of "poor" air quality days recorded in 2019 by each monitoring station in Macau surpassed the 2018 figure. The roadside monitoring station at Ká Hó and the ambient monitoring station in Taipa both registered 41 days of "poor" air quality, with year-on-year increases of 29 days and 12 days respectively. LV





GAMING | LAS VEGAS

# Wynn Resorts calls for Nevada reopening next month

**W**YNN Resorts Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox is calling for parts of the Nevada economy to start reopening in early May, followed by the Las Vegas Strip in the middle or later part of the month.

"I understand that if we incrementally reopen we might have to pull back if a spike in cases occurs that jeopardizes our health care system capacity," he said in an opinion piece published by the Nevada Independent. "However, the only way to cross this river is one stone at a time, and we need to put our feet in the water before it is too late."

The opinion piece was accompanied by a 23-page proposal detailing steps it's taking to keep its casino, hotel rooms and facilities sanitized and safe, down to details such as giving all guests amenity bags that include hand sanitizer and face masks, as well as a "Covid-19 awareness card."

The casino operator was the first in the state to shut down operations amid the outbreak and is committed to paying its staff for 60 days through May 15, which is costing the company about \$3 million a day or \$180 million for the

two months, he said.

Wynn Resorts operates two properties in the Macau SAR, where the casino business - the main pillar of the local economy - has endured three months of near-zero level tourism. Gross gaming revenue fell nearly 80% in year-on-year terms in March, rounding out the quarter with a 60% decline.

The shutdown to cope with the pandemic has also taken a toll in Las Vegas and the state of Nevada. Both rely heavily on the tourism industry.

The unemployment rate rose by 2.7 percentage points to 6.3% in Nevada - the largest increases in jobless rates in the nation, according to a Labor Department report Friday, as Americans began curbing their social activities and staying home more.

"Our economy is in a free fall," said Maddox, adding that he's on calls almost everyday with the nation's and state's top health experts to plan for the reopening. "Nevada will likely be one of the hardest hit states in the nation and suffer very high unemployment. It is imperative to flatten this curve so we can re-emerge in a safe, sustainable way."

Earlier this month, Las Vegas Sands

CEO Sheldon Adelson penned an op-ed for the New York Post in which he credited Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak and others for "taking decisive actions to protect health and safety."

Adelson, whose pledge to pay workers in the U.S. mirrors that of rival Wynn Resorts, has also called on "fellow business leaders" to work together to protect the employment of Americans.

DB/AGENCIES

## MACAU RECORDS 38% DROP IN GAMING TAX REVENUE

**T**HE Macau SAR government recorded a total of 18.48 billion patacas (\$2.3 billion) in gaming tax revenue during the first quarter of the year, down 37.6% year-on-year.

According to data issued by the Financial Services Bureau, the government collected only 1.25 billion patacas in direct tax. This is significantly lower than the previously announced 2020 budget estimate, which forecasted the collection of at least 8.18 billion patacas per month in gaming tax, or nearly 100 billion patacas in total for the whole year.

The government taxes the gross gaming revenue of Macau casinos at a total rate of 39%, including other levies on the revenue.

However, the outbreak of Covid-19 has caused business in the gaming sector to suffer.

First quarter gaming tax will have been buttressed by the rela-

tively strong posting in January, when the coronavirus epidemic was still developing on the mainland. Revenue that month reached 22.1 billion patacas, down just 11.3% in year-on-year terms.

Macau gross gaming revenue dropped in March for the sixth consecutive month, down nearly 80% from a year earlier. Revenue was 5.26 billion patacas last month as casinos were slammed again by new border restrictions introduced in China, which kept gamblers away.

First quarter gross gaming revenue is down 60% in year-on-year terms at 30.4 billion patacas.

As previously announced by the Secretary for Finance and Economy Lei Wai Nong, the government has cut its 2020 forecast for gross gaming revenue to 130 billion patacas, half the initial projection of 260 billion patacas. LV

新 陽 光 清潔服務有限公司  
NEW SUNSHINE CLEANING SERVICES LTD.

Glass Cleaning  
Carpet Cleaning  
Pest Control

Call : 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

DISEASE CONTROL GUIDE

### PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS

- Wear a face mask and avoid social gathering
- Keep a safe social distance
- Personal Hygiene
- Wash hands frequently and avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue paper or your elbow when sneezing
- After using the toilet, flush it with the lid down
- Clean and disinfect your home and workplace regularly
- Avoid contact with people who have fever or symptoms of respiratory illnesses
- Avoid going to the hospital to visit friends or relatives
- Avoid travelling outside of Macao

Please scan this code to visit our special webpage on epidemics. Please stay tuned for the latest government information on the epidemic.

新聞局  
Gabinete de Comunicação Social



# North Korean defectors, experts question zero virus claim

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

AS a doctor in North Korea during the SARS outbreak and flu pandemic, Choi Jung Hun didn't have much more than a thermometer to decide who should be quarantined.

Barely paid, with no test kits and working with antiquated equipment, if anything, he and his fellow doctors in the northeastern city of Chongjin were often unable to determine who had the disease, even after patients died, said Choi, who fled to South Korea in 2012.

Local health officials weren't asked to confirm cases or submit them to the central government in Pyongyang, Choi said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Experts say North Korea's reluctance to admit major outbreaks of disease, its wrecked medical infrastructure and its extreme sensitivity to any potential threat to Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule means that Pyongyang is likely handling the current coronavirus pandemic in the same manner.

This has led to widespread skepticism over the nation's claim to have zero infections.

"It's a lie," Choi, 45, said. "Year after year, and in every season, diverse infectious diseases repeatedly occur but North Korea says there isn't any outbreak."

Outsiders strongly suspect that coronavirus, which has infected more than 2.4 million people, has already spread to North Korea because it shares a long, porous border with China, its most important trading partner and biggest aid benefactor. China is where the first known coronavirus cases were reported in December.

North Korea, which has quarantined tens of thousands and delayed the school year as precautionary steps, officially sealed its border with China in January, but smuggling across the frontier still likely happens. Activist groups in Seoul said they've been told by con-



Med. Dr. Choi Jung Hun

tacts in North Korea that people had died of the virus. Those claims cannot be independently verified.

While there have been no reliable outside reports of mass infections in North Korea yet, the country's tight control on information allows few foreign experts to assert with an authority that the North's quarantine regime has been successful. As seen in Singapore, the coronavirus can surge again, and North Korea's powerful Politburo said last week it would further bolster anti-epidemic steps.

"I think a considerable number of people could die. But that won't be disclosed to the outside world because the North is not even able to diagnose patients with (the coronavirus)," said Kim Sin-gon, a professor at Korea University College of Medicine in Seoul. He said North Korea is struggling to treat seriously ill patients, and noted U.N. reports that about 40% of its 24 million people are undernourished.

Russia's foreign ministry said in February it donated 1,500 coronavirus test kits to North Korea, and observers say similar kits have also been shipped there from China. Some relief agencies, including UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders, said they sent gloves, masks, goggles and hand hygiene products to North Korea.

North Korea's main newspaper recently called its public health system "the most superior in the world" and said that Kim Jong Un's devotion to improving it is the reason why there are no infections.

North Korea's socialist free medical service

collapsed in the mid-1990s amid economic chaos and a famine that killed an estimated hundreds of thousands. In recent years, Kim Jong Un has built new hospitals and modernized some medical facilities as the economy improved, but most of the medical benefits still largely go to his ruling elite, experts say.

Dozens of refugees interviewed in a recent study said they felt the North's health care system has become poorer under Kim Jong Un, according to Min Ha-ju, a North Korean refugee-turned-researcher. She said the gap between the haves and the havenots in terms of medical service is deepening because a crumbled state rationing system has led to a burgeoning private economy.

Choi, the doctor who worked in North Korea, said his monthly salary was the equivalent of about 2 kilograms of rice and that he received cigarettes from patients in return for telling them what medicine they should buy at markets.

Cho Chung-hui, a former local North Korean official who is now with the Seoul-based NGO Good Farmers, said he gave cash to doctors to cure gastritis and enteritis.

Choi and Cho said measles, chickenpox, cholera, typhoid, paratyphoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis repeatedly swept through North Korea when they were there. Choi said he wore no masks, gloves or protective gear during outbreaks and used equipment manufactured in the 1960-70s.

During the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, Choi said hundreds of people in Chongjin died after suffering flu-like symptoms during eight months of intense quarantine.

"But no (doctors) can dare to diagnose the dead with SARS. There wasn't an order to confirm the cause of their deaths, and we didn't have diagnostic kits," said Choi, now a researcher at a Korea University-affiliated institute. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



A NHS worker or care worker is tested by a soldier for COVID-19 at a drive-through

# Dentists, hair salons, Lockdowns ease but

MIKE CORDER, JAN M. OLSEN & NICK PERRY, COPENHAGEN

**T**ATTOO parlors and hair salons in Denmark. Beaches in Australia. Bookstores in Germany. Nations around the world took advantage yesterday of their flattening coronavirus infection curves to tentatively ease lockdowns, edging toward a new yet unknown state of normal amid a devastating pandemic.

China, where the virus started its relentless march around the globe late last year, has already been re-opening from a strict lockdown for a few weeks. But the nations testing out the waters yesterday were democracies, not a hierarchical Communist system, and the sheer variety of choices each made offers plenty of options for U.S. lawmakers and communities to ponder.

The game plan is to open up but maintain enough social distancing to prevent new flareups of the virus that has infected 2.4 million

people worldwide, killed more than 165,000 and sent the global economy into a tailspin.

"(Easing lockdowns) is not the end of the epidemic in any country. It's just the beginning of the next phase," the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, told G-20 health ministers in an online meeting.

He sternly warned governments not to rush to return to the old normal, saying "it is critical that these measures are a phased process."

## Sydney reopened beaches, but stressed they were only for exercise like swimming, running and surfing, and not for sun bathing

The debate over easing lockdowns is growing ever more heated in the United States, where President Donald Trump and his administration say parts of the nation are ready to begin a gradual return to normalcy.

Yet many governors

counter that woefully inadequate federal actions, like a lack of testing supplies, is hindering their response to the pandemic. They say their hard-won successes over the past weeks of battling the virus will be for naught if they reopen their economies too soon and get hit by a second wave of infections.

"We showed that we can control the beast and when you close down, you can actually slow that infection rate, but this is only halftime," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo told reporters. "We still have to make sure that we keep that beast under control, we keep that infection rate down."

The death toll in the U.S., the worst-hit country by far, was more than 40,000 with over 750,000 confirmed infections, according to a tally by

Johns Hopkins University of government reports. The true figures are likely significantly higher since mild infections can be missed, testing is limited and there are plenty of problems in counting the dead amid a crisis.





testing centre in a car park at Chessington World of Adventures, in Chessington, Greater London

## beaches: not in US

The list of openings was varied and impressive.

Isabel Pennekamp, shopping in the German city of Cologne, was grateful that parts of the country reopened small stores.

"Well, I think it's good, because now people can get out a bit more and normality is a bit more possible again," she said.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said the gradual easing "is a step-by-step process where, after time, we will evaluate what consequences it has had for the infection."

Cars will again begin rolling off some production lines in Germany, Sweden and Slovakia. In Australia, the production of the country's longest-running soap opera, "Neighbours," planned to restart by having separate crews for each key filming site. One city council in Sydney reopened beaches, but stressed they were only for exercise like swimming, running and surfing, and not for sun bathing.

"Living along the coast, I know how important our beaches are to the mental and physical health of so many," said Danny Said, mayor of Randwick.

Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach remained closed.

Hair salons, dentists, physiotherapists and even tattoo parlors were allowed to reopen in Denmark but it was not business as usual. Christel Lerche sprayed customers' chairs with alcohol at

her salon in suburban Copenhagen and provided hand sanitizer and plastic coat hangers — to be cleaned after each use — to clients keen to get their hair trimmed or styled for the first time since restrictions began on March 11. No magazines were left for customers to share, either.

India eased the world's largest lockdown to allow some manufacturing and agricultural activity to resume — if employers can meet social distancing and hygiene standards. The move came as India recorded its biggest single-day spike in infections.

Iran began opening intercity highways and major shopping centers yesterday to stimulate its sanctions-choked economy, despite major questions about the country's official virus infection and death toll figures.

But not every government was ready to take its foot off the brake just yet.

In Italy, tensions have been growing between northern regions, which are pushing to reopen industry despite being hardest hit by the coronavirus, and the south, which fears contagion if the lockdown is eased. Premier Giuseppe Conte is expected to outline what a "Phase 2" can look like this week, with the nationwide lockdown set to be lifted on May 4.

Still, Gucci yesterday restarted some workshops for leather accessories and footwear, agreeing

with unions to provide "maximum security for workers." The luxury fashion industry is a major driver of growth in Italy and deadlines are looming to produce fall collections.

In Britain, where Prime Minister Boris Johnson is still recovering from a bout of COVID-19 that saw him hospitalized in intensive care, a lockdown imposed March 23 is due to last at least until May 7, and ministers have cautioned that measures are unlikely to be significantly loosened in the short term. France also is still under a tight lockdown, although starting yesterday, authorities allowed families, under strict conditions, to visit relatives in nursing homes once again.

In some places, lockdown fatigue was on the rise. Dutch police broke up two illegal gambling events and fined dozens of people for breaching local rules.

Governments are caught between keeping their citizens healthy and making sure they still have a roof over their heads or even enough to eat. Worries about the length of lockdowns have a strong basis: the International Monetary Fund expects the global economy to contract 3% this year. Tens of millions of workers have lost their jobs and millions more fear they'll be next.

In Japan, authorities emphasized that the time was not yet ripe to loosen restrictions by mowing down tens of thousands of tulips in full bloom near Tokyo. The festival celebrating them was canceled but people still were coming to admire the flowers.

"This situation is now about human life," said city official Takahiro Kogo. "It was a heart-wrenching decision, but we had to do it." AP

## Singapore reports a record 1,426 new cases, total near 8,000

SINGAPORE reported a record 1,426 new coronavirus cases on Monday, mostly among foreign workers, pushing its total number of confirmed infections to 7,984.

The tiny city-state now has the highest number of cases in Southeast Asia, a massive increase from just 200 infections on March 15, when its outbreak appeared to be nearly under control. About 3,000 cases have been reported in just the past three days.

Low-wage migrant workers, a vital part of Singapore's workforce, now account for at least 60% of its infections.

More than 200,000 workers from Bangladesh, India and other poorer Asian countries live in tightly packed dormitories. Clusters of infections have expanded rapidly in the dorms after they were overlooked in the government's earlier health measures.

Social distancing is impossible in the dormitories, which house up to 20 men per room with a shared kitchen, toilets and other facilities. Most work in construction, shipping and maintenance jobs.

Over half of the 43 registered dormitories have been declared isolation areas where workers have been quarantined. Several thousand other workers have been moved to other locations to reduce crowding.

The government expects cases to rise further as testing at the dorms continues, but hopes that the country's partial lockdown until May 4, mandatory wearing of masks and strict social distancing will help curb the spread of the virus.

National Development Minister Lawrence Wong said Sunday that many of the workers in the affected dormitories work in construction. He said in a Facebook post that there was evidence that transmission across multiple dormitories could have occurred at work sites or at places where the workers congregate on their days off to shop and socialize.

Wong said the government has ordered construction workers who live outside the dorms to be quarantined at home until May 4.

Labor advocates earlier warned that confinement en masse in dormitories may put the workers at greater risk. Some also say the pace of testing, reportedly less than 3,000 a day, cannot keep up with infections and that many thousands of workers live outside the 43 registered dormitories.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Saturday it will take time to break the chain of transmission in the dorms. He has said the vast majority of cases among migrant workers are mild since most of the men are young. Despite the high number of cases, Singapore has only recorded 11 deaths, among the lowest in the region.

Lee said the government is preparing more health care and isolation facilities to handle a greater number of infections. He also vowed to take care of the workers' welfare.

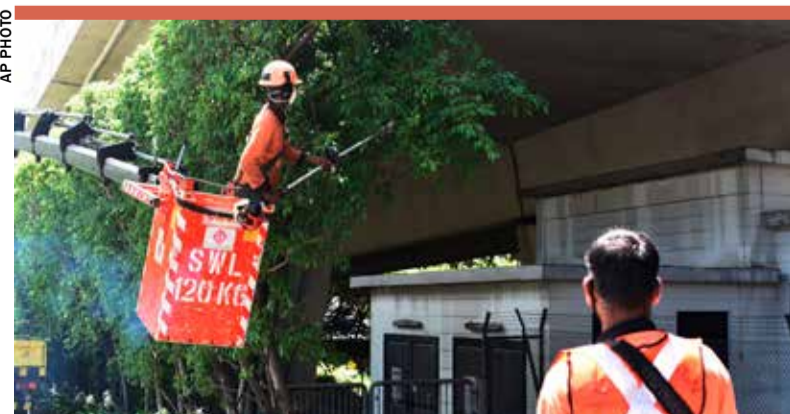
### SPIKE IN INDIA

Also, India registered a spike after the government eased one of the world's strictest lockdowns to allow some manufacturing and agricultural activity to resume.

An additional 1,553 cases were reported over 24 hours in India, raising the national total past 17,000. At least 543 people have died in the country from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, and epidemiologists forecast the peak may not be reached before June.

The shelter-in-place orders imposed in India on March 24 halted all but essential services, sparking an exodus of migrant workers and people who survive on daily wages out of India's cities to villages in rural areas. Authorities picked up travelers in a fleet of buses and quarantined many of them in empty schools and other public buildings for 14 days.

Starting yesterday, limited industry and farming were allowed to resume where employers could meet social distancing and hygiene norms, and migrant workers were allowed to travel within states to factories, farms and other work sites. MDT/AP



A team of migrant workers from India trim the trees along Holland Road in Singapore



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 \*  
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues \*  
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo  
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel  
洗玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas  
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °  
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo  
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳正喬 Joana Chan  
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras

**實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:**

羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong  
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
李莉 Lei Lei

\* 私人公證員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer \* 顧問 Of Counsel

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。

**A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors** Office hours:  
**Macau SAR, China** Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30  
地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓 Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00  
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM



# ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

**We translate +10,000 words a day**



Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR





ANALYSIS

# Losing face: The rise of the mask, and what's lost behind it

TED ANTHONY

ON Saturday afternoons, the Strip District neighborhood of Pittsburgh becomes a jam-packed hub of old-fashioned shopping. People stride along Penn Avenue, hopping from greengrocer to butcher to fishmonger to Italian market, smiling and gesturing and jabbering as they go.

Not this weekend. As strange, spaced-out lines formed outside favorite establishments, the chatting was muted, the sidewalk sidesteps were awkward and tentative, and the facial expressions were, well, not really facial expressions at all. Just like much of the planet during these jumbled coronavirus days.

Smile, they say, and the world smiles with you. Unless you're wearing a mask. Then the world can't see your smile, much less smile back.

The rise of the protective face mask — first in China (where smog and SARS gave rise to its use years ago), then elsewhere in Asia, into Europe and now marching across North America — has abruptly excised half of the face from our moment-to-moment human interactions.

With it has come a removal of crucial visual cues that people have used for millennia to communicate, understand each other

and negotiate space in the public arena — to find common ground.

"Our minds light on the face like butterflies on a flower, for it gives us a priceless flow of information," Daniel McNeill wrote in "The Face," his 1998 book on its significance throughout human history.

A partial inventory of the information that's lost when the mask goes up: Smiles. Frowns. Lip movements. Crinkle lines at the mouth's edge. Cheek twitches that indicate approval or disapproval. Reflexive gestures that collaborate with the eyes to say: Hey, I mean no harm. Or: Hey — back off.

"It's not just covering us up. It's blocking something. It's a barrier to communication. Is she smiling? Sarcastic? Is she happy to see me? I can't figure it out," says Christie Cawley, a Pittsburgh business adviser whose consultancy, tHRive, helps nonprofits with business skills.

"With the masks, when people are making eye contact, you don't know if they're friendly or not," Cawley says. "It's a whole communications channel that we naturally have as humans, and it's kind of dulled — turned off a little bit."

On Sunday night, new regulations from Pennsylvania's governor took effect saying that most businesses still open in the state must bar anyone without a mask

from entering. Other governments — states and nations — have imposed similar restrictions, which sit atop people's already palpable desire to shield their mouths and noses from taking in the insidious virus that causes COVID-19.

However legitimate, that still creates a potentially disorienting situation: Instead of a fellow human coming openly toward you, we're encountering each other with visual cues removed, like astronauts or deep-sea divers or hazmat-removal teams.

"Different levels of smiles lead to perceptions of warmth, competence, trustworthiness, attractiveness, etc.," says Fan Liu, an assistant professor of decision sciences and marketing at Adelphi University whose research focuses on nonverbal communication. "These perceptions and characteristics significantly influence our daily social lives."

Nonverbal cues, she says, play a central role in communication that we don't always realize. "When these cues are cut off, people are more likely to focus on outcome rather than process," Liu says, and some nuances of human interaction may be lost.

No wonder. There's a reason why history's greatest artists didn't make their names painting shins or elbows or thumbs.

The face is the gateway to who we are, the front door to our hu-

manity and individuality. We mouth off. We have face time (and FaceTime). We pay lip service and give each other lip. We grin and bear it. Are all these going by the wayside ... at least for now?

There's a reason, too, why masks suggest something surreptitious and nefarious. Covering pieces of the face is often presented as shorthand for mistrust or menace across modern culture, from historical literature ("The Man in the Iron Mask") to comic books ("Batman"), from TV ("The Lone Ranger") to movies ("The Mask") to music ("The Stranger").

Such potent cultural cues can be activated, however subconsciously, when we cover our faces — even for the most legitimate (and protective) of reasons. A mask, in short, can be alienating no matter who is behind it — and particularly when there's a power imbalance in the conversation.

Leah Lizarondo, co-founder and CEO of Pittsburgh's 412 Food Rescue, says her team's ability to show empathy has been impeded by its new contactless, mask-forward methods of dropping off food. She recalls meal distributions at Pittsburgh school-bus stops over the past month — done with masks and, she laments, less humanity because of it.

"There's something extremely surreal about dealing with so-

meone when you can't really smile. It's exactly the opposite of what you want this exchange to be. You don't want it to be a transactional exchange. You want it to be a relationship," Lizarondo says. "We're trying so much to create analogues to that empathy. I'm not sure we're there yet."

Which raises the question: If this endures for weeks and months, what would those analogues be? If half of the facial radio signal is obscured by face-mask static, how do the messages punch through? Will new methods of socially distanced nonverbal communication emerge?

"The important point is not to rely on any one visual cue. Furrowed eyebrows could mean that a person's angry, someone's confused, someone doesn't have glasses on and they're squinting," says Mary Inman, a psychology professor at Hope College in Michigan.

"So we need to take time and ask people for clarification," says Inman, who studies people's perceptions of discrimination. "It'll slow down communications a little bit, which could be a good thing. ... If we go to (wearing) full masks continually, then we will be needing to slow down and clarify."

You can bet on one thing: Until that happens, things may be awkward. For now, though, we still have the eyes. Have you heard? They're windows to the soul. But, alas, only to a point.

"The face is the focal point. Now we've lost the focal point of that kind of communication. It is going to add a layer of distance between us," says Dan Everett, a linguist and sociology professor at Bentley College in Massachusetts. "It's sort of like we're dogs without tails now." AP



CANADA

# 16 killed in shooting rampage, deadliest in country history



Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers surround a suspect at a gas station in Enfield, Nova Scotia

ROB GILLIES, TORONTO

A gunman disguised as a police officer shot people in their homes and set fires in a rampage across the Canadian province of Nova Scotia that killed 16 people, the deadliest such attack in the country's history. Officials said yesterday [Macau time] the suspected shooter was also dead.

A police officer was among those killed. Several bodies were found inside and outside one home in the small, rural town of Portapique, about 60 miles north of Halifax — what police called the first scene. Bodies were also found at other locations. The assault began late Saturday, and authorities believe the shooter may have targeted his first victims but then began attacking randomly.

Overnight, police began advising residents of the town — already on lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic — to lock their doors and stay in their basements. Several homes in the area were set on fire as well.

Police identified the man believed to be the shooter as Gabriel Wortman, 51, who was thought to live part-time in Portapique. Authorities said he wore a police uniform at one point and made his car look like a Royal Canadian Mounted Police cruiser.

Police first announced that they had arrested Wort-

man at a gas station in Enfield, outside Halifax, but later said he had died. It was not clear how, and they did not explain further.

"This is one of the most senseless acts of violence in our province's history," said Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil.

RCMP spokesman Daniel Brien confirmed that 16 people had been killed in addition to the suspect. The dead officer was identified as Constable Heidi Stevenson, a mother of two and a 23-year veteran of the force. Another officer was also injured.

Mass shootings are relatively rare in Canada. The country overhauled its gun-control laws after gunman Marc Lepine killed 14 women and himself at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique college in 1989. Before this weekend's rampage, that had been the country's worst.

It is now illegal to possess an unregistered handgun or any kind of rapid-fire weapon in Canada. The country also requires training, a personal risk assessment, two references, spousal notification and criminal record checks to purchase a weapon.

"As a country, in moments like these, we come together to support one another. Together we will mourn with the families of the victims, and help them get through this difficult time," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said

in a written news release.

While they believe the attack did not begin as random, police did not say what the initial motive was. RCMP Chief Superintendent Chris Leather said many of the victims did not know the shooter.

"That fact that this individual had a uniform and a police car at his disposal certainly speaks to it not being a random act," Leather said. He added that police believe he acted alone.

Leather said they would investigate whether the attack had anything to do with the coronavirus pandemic but no link has been found thus far.

At one point, there was an exchange of gunfire between the suspect and police, he said.

Early yesterday [Macau time], there were half a dozen police vehicles at the scene of the gas station where the suspect died. Yellow police tape surrounded the gas pumps, and a large silver-colored SUV was being investigated.

Cpl. Lisa Croteau, a spokeswoman with the provincial force, said police received a call about "a person with firearms" late Saturday night, and the investigation "evolved into an active shooting investigation."

Christine Mills, a resident of the area, said it had been a frightening night for the small town, with armed officers patrolling the streets. In the morning, helicopters

flew overhead searching for the suspect. "It's nerve-wracking because you don't know if somebody has lost their mind and is going to beat in your front door," she said.

Tom Taggart, a lawmaker who represents the Portapique area in the Municipality of Colchester, said the quiet community has been shaken.

"This is just an absolutely wonderful, peaceful quiet community and the idea that this could happen in our community is unbelievable," Taggart said by phone from his home in nearby Bass River.

A Gabriel Wortman is listed as a dentist — a person who makes dentures — in the city of Dartmouth, near Halifax, according to the Denturist Society of Nova Scotia website. A suspect photo issued by the RCMP appears to be of the same person seen in video footage being interviewed about dentures by CTV Atlantic in 2014.

Mills also said that Wortman was known locally as someone who divided his time between a residence in Halifax and a residence in Portapique.

Taggart said he didn't know Wortman well, but spoke to him a few times when he telephoned about municipal issues.

Taggart described knowing Wortman's "lovely big home" on Portapique Beach Road. AP

## this day in history



### 1955 FLEET STREET PAPERS BACK AFTER STRIKE

National newspapers have been published for the first time in nearly a month following the end of the maintenance workers' strike.

The stoppage was called off following an agreement on Tuesday night between electricians' and engineers' unions and the Newspaper Proprietors' Association.

The 700 maintenance men, who take care of the newspaper printing machinery, had been striking for a wage increase of just over £2 a week.

The unions have not accepted the employers' latest offer but have agreed to return to work pending further negotiations, which are due to start within eight weeks.

The strike has kept newspapers based in the industry's traditional home of Fleet Street in central London off the presses for 26 days and cost the industry £3m.

One of the few national papers to be unaffected by the strike was the Guardian which is printed in Manchester.

The absence of the Fleet Street papers has affected about 23,000 people in related industries.

The lack of newspaper sports pages led to a drop in business for bookmakers.

Some said they were doing only 5% of their normal trade because gamblers could not get information on dog and horse races.

However, some sectors have benefited from the absence of national newspapers.

The head of W H Smith's station book stalls, C J Williams, said there had been a run on paperback novels and magazines.

He said: "Never was there such a rapid sale for magazines. For the cheap editions of books we had to scour London."

American papers such as the New York Times have also been flown in to stop the gap.

Public libraries have also seen an increase in loans - libraries in Hampstead in west London reported a jump of 10% in borrowing over the past month.

Big news events the Fleet Street papers have missed included Sir Winston Churchill's resignation, the Budget and the announcement of a general election.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The widespread effects and huge cost of the strike demonstrated the power the unions held over the newspaper industry.

It would not be broken for another 30 years when Rupert Murdoch - owner of the Sun and the Times - moved his papers from Fleet Street to a new hi-tech plant in Wapping.

New technology introduced at Wapping resulted in 4,000 print and maintenance workers losing their jobs. In spite of months of vociferous picketing of the Wapping plant by unions Rupert Murdoch was able to produce and distribute his papers at a vastly reduced cost. Mr Murdoch's success encouraged other newspapers to adopt new technology and leave Fleet Street for cheaper premises and lower labour costs in east London.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Use this day as a sort of rest stop on the road to your goals, and take a break. Share a virtual lunch with friends talk about something other than what you've been working on for so long.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Today is likely to be very fairly quiet, which can enable you to feel a lot more grounded and positive than you've felt in a while. Nothing much is going to get to you.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 This could be a fun day, full of twists and turns that pump up your energy and help you make fast work of anything. It's a great day for finishing up a project, and an even better day for celebrating once you're done!

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 The universe is giving you a power surge today, which could cause some problems. While this isn't necessarily something to be worried about, you should definitely be careful not to step on anyone's toes.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Just skip them and move on to the friends and co-workers who can afford to chat for as long as you want. But if you need something from the busy folks, you'd better cut to the chase and keep it short and sweet.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Shocking news could serve as a wake-up call for you today, but in a totally positive way. Someone has beaten the odds, which only goes to show you that you can, too!

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 You have to work through your feelings, and sometimes it's not a fun experience. The good news is that you could come to some answers today that make you feel better.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 No matter how things were left between you, they'll be happy to hear from you and flattered that you want their insight. Play detective and track this useful person down. You'll be glad you did.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Reading might be the perfect way to while away the hours and keep your mind occupied with things that don't really matter in daily life. That way, you can stop fretting over big things that really do matter.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Today is a great day to try something that you've always wanted to try but have been too scared to tackle! Your fears are vanishing now, and your bold personality wants to come out to play.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 All you need to do is to let this person know you're concerned and give them time to work things out on their own. More than anything else, they need your patience and support right now.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Are you being too easy on yourself right now? It's not wise to set your goals too low. Sure, it makes it easier to reach them, but doesn't the victory feel a bit hollow?

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	4	15	clear
Harbin	-2	4	sleet
Tianjin	6	15	clear
Urumqi	13	23	clear
Xi'an	10	18	overcast
Lhasa	2	17	drizzle
Chengdu	13	18	overcast
Chongqing	16	18	drizzle
Kunming	13	28	clear
Nanjing	11	19	cloudy
Shanghai	13	17	overcast
Wuhan	12	18	drizzle
Hangzhou	13	19	drizzle
Taipei	20	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	23	30	thundershower
Hong Kong	24	29	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	10	clear
Frankfurt	5	16	clear
Paris	8	18	clear
London	5	14	clear
New York	3	11	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Springs; 6- Slender metal fastener; 9- Slightly intoxicated; 14- Befuddled; 15- From \_\_\_ Z; 16- Singly; 17- Wig; 19- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 20- Some NFL linemen; 21- "James and the Giant Peach" author; 22- Shoe ties; 23- Victor's cry; 25- Duck with soft down; 26- Sound system; 29- Fast fliers; 31- Attic; 32- Vault over a passage; 36- Muscle quality; 37- Ivy Leaguer; 38- Citrus drinks; 40- Section; 43- Marked down; 45- Swirl; 46- Vagrants; 47- Outdoes; 50- Let's just leave \_\_\_ that; 51- Vestige; 52- 43,560 square feet; 54- White linen vestment, usually worn by priests; 57- Western; 58- Ensure; 61- Sheeplike; 62- Part of i.e.; 63- Uncanny; 64- In shape; 65- Vane dir.; 66- Way to cook;

**DOWN:** 1- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 2- Coup d' \_\_\_; 3- Sale sign; 4- In accordance with; 5- Sucker; 6- Song of joy; 7- Hankering; 8- Christmas song; 9- Edging into six-footer country; 10- Greek epic poem; 11- \_\_\_ de Leon; 12- Twisted expression?; 13- Longings; 18- Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"; 23- Like some vbs.; 24- Elfin; 25- Catchall abbr.; 26- Pepper, e.g.; 27- New Mexico art colony; 28- Sea eagle; 29- Saline; 30- Hindu honorific; 33- Attended; 34- Madam, I'm \_\_\_; 35- Quick sharp bark; 37- Stop; 39- Paris possessive; 41- Like some mail; 42- Begley and Wynn; 43- Sleek swimmer; 44- Heston's org.; 47- "Hooray!"; 48- Kind of kitchen; 49- View; 50- Fuming; 51- Binge; 52- Aeons; 53- Curse; 54- Gillette brand; 55- Hula hoops?; 56- Sugar source; 59- \_\_\_ Lingus; 60- Classical beginning;



**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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Nova City 3 bedroom, Ready to move in!</b>  <b>HK\$11,400,000</b> 1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Manhattan Apartment, Taipa</b>  <b>\$20,800/mth</b> 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Wa Bao</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2              1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$7,995,000</b> (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Taipa Village- two connected</i> 4 1/2 2 1/2              1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$8,380,000</b> (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Unique Loft</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2              2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$9,990,000</b> (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Coloane] <i>Large 3/4 bedroom</i> 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2              2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$12,980,000</b> (ref: 19096000)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Macau] <i>Vai Fung Triplex, Macau</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2              1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$15,800/mth</b> (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Buckingham</i> 2 1/2 1 1/2              1,100 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$15,900/mth</b> (ref: 20031002)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Manhattan</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2              1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$20,800/mth</b> (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] <i>Ocean Garden</i> 4 1/2 4 1/2              3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$35,000/mth</b> (ref: 18040674)</p>
---	---	---	---

**jml** 卓雅物業  
 property since 1994  
**(853) 2835 2699**  
 hello@jmlproperty.com  
 www.jmlproperty.com  
 f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty



# ONE RESTAURANT'S STORY SHOWS HOW RECESSION SPREADS

KATIA DMITRIEVA

**L**ARRY La never even turned the lights off for almost two decades. Now he's had to shut the whole restaurant down.

Meiwah was a local favorite in the Maryland suburb of Chevy Chase, just a few miles north of the White House and Congress, where U.S. leaders are battling to cushion the economic blow from the coronavirus. It served Chinese food to a crowd that often included political big-shots, like ex-President Bill Clinton.

In the past month, La has had to shut his doors because of the epidemic, lay off a staff of three dozen, negotiate to defer his rent, and figure out if the government's small-business rescue plan could help him.

But the closure also set off a supply-chain reaction that stretched far beyond the U.S. capital. Multiplied by thousands, it helps show how a pandemic has triggered the worst recession for almost a century, as initial blows to people and businesses ripple out to others.

## THE RESTAURATEUR

"I was born and grew up in a war zone," La — who's of Chinese descent — says of his childhood in Vietnam. He was surrounded by dangers, but at least they were the kind you could see and avoid. Unlike the coronavirus. "This is a totally different war zone."

La and his family fled, first to a Malaysian refugee camp — and eventually to Erwin, Tennessee, a town of 6,000 near the border with North Carolina. He was 20. "I was the only one who looked different, talked different." He moved to Washington after a brother-in-law heard there was a restaurant job there, and eventually opened his own place.

"The restaurant business, if you think about it, is really very complex," says La. It could also be fun and glamorous. Photos on the Meiwah website show him with the Rolling Stones. He says Clinton used to order crispy beef, then pa-



red back to chicken and broccoli, and for the past five years or so has stuck to tofu and vegetable sushi.

"Our neon lights have never been off for 18 years," says La. "In my life in the restaurant business, for 31 years, it's the first time that we have to close down for anything."

He reckons Meiwah can withstand another two or three months of closure. "I have a lot of confidence in this country. I think we'll survive. But this is a very unpredictable time that we're in now. So it's nothing for sure."

## THE DISTRIBUTOR

Charlie Chan, the general manager of SBC Food Corporation, got a call from Meiwah on a Monday in March canceling an order. It was just another blow for SBC, whose business — distributing vegetables, rice and other produce — has shrunk about 80% in the past month.

"It just keeps getting worse," says Chan, who counts La as a longtime

family friend and customer. His warehouse in northeast Washington usually supplies dozens of Chinese restaurants in the area, a business established by his parents 40 years ago.

"It's a ripple effect," he says. "If the restaurants aren't selling anything, then they're not purchasing as much from us. And then we're not purchasing as much from the farms or other distributors."

"We've had to throw away a lot of meat, a lot of produce. Because it just got stuck." How much? "Dumpster-loads."

"We're trying to cut costs," says Chan. They're running three trucks instead of the usual 10 — making 10 deliveries a day instead of 50 — with a staff of five, down from a dozen. "It's pretty much just the family now."

## THE GROWER

Fortune Growers, based in Elgin, Illinois, usually produces 3 million pounds (1.4 million kilos) of broc-

coli a week. Last week it was only 1 million. Demand from restaurants, usually the bulk of sales, has disappeared — though retailers like Walmart and Kroger are buying more.

When Mark Sato at Fortune got the call from Chan canceling SBC's order, it forced him into the kind of quick rethink that's been a feature of recent weeks. "Margins are slim and so you have to make sure you're maximizing everything," he says. "We had a fill for this truck. Then at the last minute we had to cancel SBC's order, cancel the truck that we had, and reconfigure."

When the virus first hit hard in the U.S. in late March, says Sato, orders to restaurants fell off a cliff and Fortune halted all packaging for a week. In Mexico, where the broccoli is grown and packed, hundreds of workers were told to stay home — and acres of vegetables were left in the fields to rot.

Since then, says Sato, they've scaled back planting by about 10%

— but nobody can be sure that's the right figure. "We put things in the ground that we plan on harvesting three months out," he says. "At that point, what is the likelihood — since it's so variable — of us being back online with everything? What is the likelihood of us still being sheltered in place? Or being closed down? No one has an answer."

## THE TRUCKER

Fortune's broccoli is carried across America by truckers like Yosmell Lemus, who's been on the road since October, which is when he last saw his wife and three kids in Las Vegas. He owns a refrigerated truck or "reefer" for perishable goods, which would usually command higher rates, but not at the moment.

"It's pretty cheap in the market right now, we don't make much, it doesn't even cover the fuel," he says. Lemus is on the way from Dallas to McAllen on the Mexican border, where he'll pick up another load — just his second in a week. His truck is empty for the 500-mile journey, which would be unthinkable in normal times, when he'd put out a call and pick up some cargo en route. So the gas money is coming out of his own pocket.

"Transportation, it goes with the market," he says. But, "you have to pay the same mortgage, the same bills." And those are all down to him now. Lemus and his wife decided she should quit her job as a housekeeper at the Aria Hotel in Las Vegas, because of the risk of getting infected.

He worries about that in his own work too. He wears a mask and gloves every time he leaves the truck. Loading or unloading can take six hours now, because of new protocols at the firms where he delivers and collects. Then when he gets back in the truck, which has a sleeping berth, a microwave oven and a fridge full of beans and rice, he uses alcohol wipes to clean every surface.

"The truck drivers, we're right now on the front line," he says. "You try to keep safe all the time, but you don't know when you're going to get sick. And the compensation that we have — for the work we're doing right now — we need to get paid better." **BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### MGM promotes online photo exhibition on national security to employees

In support of this year's National Security Awareness Education Day, casino operator MGM China has recommended the "National Security Education Exhibition" - 360° Virtual Reality Exhibition, co-organized by the Macau SAR government and the Liaison Office, to its employees.

According to the company, MGM has been committed to

promoting national education to its employees through various events and channels, with the aim of helping them to develop a sense of national pride and identity.

Through the online platform, participants will be able to understand the concept of national security, as well as Macau's implementation of measures for maintaining national security.

eLearning has become increasingly important for MGM this year. In addition to promoting national education, MGM eAcademy offers more than 6,500 courses to employees.

In February, MGM partnered with a local young entrepreneur to introduce an instructor-led virtual classroom that allows employees to learn and interact with others.

### YF Life opens all-new customer service center in Macau

YF Life Insurance International Ltd. (YF Life) is relocating its Macau Branch Office to the Finance and IT Center of Macau on Avenida Doutor Mario Soares. At the same time a brand-new customer service center is being opened in the same location to provide customers with more comprehensive, efficient and professional insurance services.

According to a statement issued by the company, the

new customer service center is ideally situated in a Grade A office tower in the central business district of Macau, conveniently close to a major transportation hub.

There customers can enjoy a range of services, including policy enquiries and changes, underwriting services, payment services and general enquiries. In addition, separate meeting rooms are available for customers to enjoy

the services in a tranquil and comfortable environment.

"We always put our customers at the center of everything we do," said Manly Cheng, President of YF Life (Macau). "Today marks a new milestone for our business expansion in Macau as we open our new customer service center to provide clients with an even more enhanced customer experience in insurance."



**W**E might not be totally free these days, but there's a lot out there that is.

Companies like Pure Barre and Peloton are offering free access to fitness classes. Amazon is giving away book classics like "The Call of the Wild" and "Emma," and MasterClass has experts offering their wisdom for nothing.

The coronavirus's shutdown has wreaked havoc on so many lives and also disrupted many company plans. But some are offering their goods for free or dropping their paywalls for a limited time.

It may not make the best financial decision, but marketing experts say it's good public relations and a nice way to hook future customers as long as it doesn't seem like companies are taking advantage of the virus.

"You have to be careful," said Penny Sansevieri, the CEO of Author Marketing Experts. "You don't want someone on social media to all of a sudden say, 'Well, you're just trying to take advantage of the fact that people are stuck at home.'"

Free shows and films from the entertainment world are a warm blanket for the home-bound. HBO is making free streams of "The Sopranos," "Veep," "Succession," "Six Feet Under" and "The Wire" on HBO Now.

Apple TV Plus is allowing free access to some of its original programs, including "Servant" from M. Night Shyamalan. The distributor FilmRise has the campy 1960s series "Batman" with Adam West — "Bam! Pow!" — and Showtime has extended its free trial period to 30 days. PBS is streaming "Nature" episodes and its "Great Performances," from Shakespeare to "Kinky Boots," and YouTube is making many of its original series available to anyone without a subscription.

A nice corporate gesture during dark times can do wonders. Sansevieri points to Hallmark, which had a rough few months with con-

# Books, dance lessons, 'Sopranos' – freebies abound online



"Veep," "The Sopranos," and "Succession" are among several HBO series available for free streaming on HBO Now

troversies over actress Lori Loughlin and its handling of a gay-themed wedding commercial.

But in the face of the virus, Hallmark mailed out 2 million free greeting cards to anyone who asked — real cards, not e-cards — "to help put more care in the world."

Sansevieri said the gesture had a lot of "feel-good attached to it," adding: "Was it a way for Hallmark to wipe away all the other bad stuff? Probably. But it was very smartly done."

"Tuesdays with Morrie" author Mitch Albom is going past a mere gesture. He's writing a new serialized story "Human Touch," set in Michigan during these coronavirus days, with free chapters available every Friday and suggested donations to his charity SAY Detroit.

"I got the idea of how life would be reflected through this virus on one street corner where there were four homes," he said. "I hope it makes some kind of difference and I hope it provides diversion

for people, too." Fans as far away as Iran have thanked him for the effort.

The free gesture works best when it aligns with the company's core mission. The educational platform MasterClass has launched weekly free live streaming seminars with such luminaries as "The Da Vinci Code" author Dan Brown and designer Kelly Wearstler.

"It's not a circumstance we would have wished for but to have an opportunity to do the thing we love at a time when people really need us is very special," said David Schriber, MasterClass' chief marketing officer.

Companies hoping to get us off the couch also have deals: Nike has made online workouts free, Planet Fitness is streaming live workouts on Facebook and Gold's Gym is offering free access to its app. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has online classes for the brave — or you can just soak in one of their ballets, all free.

Live theatrical venues like the Metropolitan Opera plans a streaming gala later this month, Cirque du Soleil has put out free 60-minute compilation specials every week and Andrew Lloyd Webber has new streaming broadcasts of his musicals each Friday for 48 hours on a dedicated YouTube channel.

"It's a crazy idea to think this Friday, globally, everyone could be going to the theater together for free. Isn't that amazing?" said Ramin Karimloo who starred as the title character in Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," filmed in 2011. "I'm not saying it's life-saving but this helps. Even those health care workers who come home, maybe they want to forget what they just went through for 12 hours."

Sansevieri suspects that corporate offers for things requiring us to sweat — gyms, workouts — will retain less new customers than those companies offering pure entertainment.

But the gamble could pay off with new customers staying loyal.

"If you become a fan of X, Y or Z show, that will definitely stick with you. So certain things will change us behaviorally," she said.

Some media companies have built good will by seemingly riding to the rescue of anyone with kids, like Audible making free dozens of narrated books, from "Harry Potter" to "Peter Rabbit." Older kids can enjoy Lionsgate films free on its YouTube channel — "The Hunger Games," "La La Land," and "Dirty Dancing."

Apple TV Plus has also made some of its kids' offering free, including the series "Snoopy in Space" featuring everyone's favorite fictional beagle. Peanuts Worldwide is offering free online educational materials to boost the show's learning.

"We're a feel-good property and I think that's why we feel it's really important to make people feel a little bit of comfort during this really awkward time," said Melissa Menta, senior vice president at Peanuts Worldwide. **AP**

## Inner Engineering online - yoga and meditation course for free

**B**EST-SELLING author, visionary, and leading authority on yoga and meditation, Sadhguru is offering his online Inner Engineering program free of charge to healthcare providers during the coronavirus pandemic, "in gratitude and appreciation for their selfless service," says a press release sent to the Times.

Sadhguru has reached over 100 million people worldwide through his yoga and meditation programs and has a YouTube viewership of over a billion who have experienced his tools for well-being. Isha Foun-

datation reports that more than 9 million volunteers follow Isha practices regularly. The foundation's flagship program, Inner Engineering has been provided online for over 10 years.

"This unprecedented time of worldwide crisis when much of society is forced indoors can now also be an opportunity for personal transformation through improved physical health, enhanced mental stability, and heightened spiritual well-being," the organizers say.

The Inner Engineering program introduces

"Sadhguru's wisdom and insights and provides instruction for a daily yoga and meditation practice." The daily practice presented here goes beyond physical activity and stretching — it aligns the body, mind, emotions, and energy for overall well-being — and can be incorporated into every aspect of one's life with no lifestyle changes.

Surveys of regular practitioners have shown that daily practice can have meaningful positive effects on "reducing anxiety, depression, hypertension, asthma, headaches, neck and back pain,

diabetes and insomnia," the note states.

"At this time of acute anxiety and stress, Sadhguru's online Inner Engineering program is a welcome and timely respite with beneficial implications for long after this crisis has passed."

The Inner Engineering program consists of seven online sessions, each being 90 minutes in length.

Sadhguru is the foun-



der of the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences based in McMinnville, Tennessee.

The institute is dedicated to raising human consciousness and fostering global harmony through individual transformation. Founded in 1998, Isha Foundation is

an international non-profit, non-religious public service organization "dedicated to the cultivation of human potential."

To register for Inner Engineering, visit <https://www.innerengineering.com/offerings-for-healthcare-providers>. **MDT**



OPINION

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



FUN MANDARIN 2:  
RÒU, TĀNG, BĀO

Today marks the second day of fun mandarin series. Fun mandarin series serves only for entertainment purposes.

肉Ròu: red and soft tissues in human or animal bodies, flesh, meat, muscle; captive of a kidnap; the edible part of a fruit; when fruit is not brittle nor crisp; slow-moving, slow-tempered; very intimate and affectionate way of calling someone, mostly used to call children; in ancient times, meant the side of a circle. 肉 groups flesh of any living creature. However, historical translators decided to match this Chinese character with the English word meat. Whenever a Chinese native speaker learns English in a place hardly influenced by English or western culture, which is not the case of Macau or Hong Kong, that Chinese speaker will naturally refer to any flesh coming from a living animal as meat, which includes chicken, fish, salmon, lamb, turkey, to name just a few. The way of grouping, sorting, and differentiate subjects reflects a different reasoning method and logic of my ancestors.

鱼yú (fish) 肉 means fish. 鸡jī (chicken) 肉 means chicken. 牛niú 肉 means beef. 鸭yā (duck) 肉 means duck. 羊yáng (lamb) 肉 means lamb. 蟹xiè (crab) 肉 means crab. There are many more examples.

Similar to 肉, a Chinese character which is translated as 'soup' is also controversial.

汤tāng: hot water, a liquid used for cooking, cooked food which contains a large dose of broth; spring; liquid Chinese medicine; a surname. 汤 is commonly known as 'soup' among mandarin speakers, who assign to 汤 the verb 'to drink'. Hence, mandarin speakers drink the soup, which suggests that the substance being drank is liquid, like water. 汤 is the course of food served on the dining table of my people for purposes similar to those of soup, something people eat. 羹gēng, in mandarin, is the kind of food mostly boiled into a mushy status, with mandarins speakers eating 羹. In this case, 羹 is actually the most accurate and precise Chinese word for depicting 'soup', for example, congee.

The third controversial or verbal-war-inducing word is 包bāo.

包bāo: using paper, clothing or other thin material to wrap something; that which is wrapped; bag; including; fully responsible and fully covered; guarantee; chartered; surrounding; a kind of food made with flour containing fillings; surname.

叉chā 烧shāo 包 is one of the most famous Cantonese food among mandarin speakers, one which probably everybody living in Macau knows about. But what else is there about 包?

包bāo, fundamentally translated and known as 'bread' by mandarin speakers, has an interesting twist to it. When a mandarin speaker says the English word 'bread', that person is most likely referring to food items inside a bakery, including, for instance, toasts or croissants. In Chinese, 包bāo is more relevant to a shape, not the ingredients. Very often, we hear a Chinese speaker say "I like that bread" when, in fact, that person is talking about a chocolate filled croissant. In this case, 'bread' refers to the shape. 核桃 (walnut) 包 means walnut cake. 芝士 (cream cheese) 包 means cream cheese cake. On the other hand, 'cake' refers to those colorful cakes we see typically stored and displayed inside a glass fridge.

FAUCI SAYS REOPENING TOO QUICKLY WILL BACKFIRE

THE BUZZ

The top infectious-disease expert in the United States has a message for protesters who are ignoring their governors' stay-at-home orders and calling for him to be fired over his guidelines.

Dr. Anthony Fauci says the message is "this is something that is hurting from the standpoint of economics, from the standpoint of things that have nothing to do with the virus."

He added on ABC's "Good Morning America" that "unless we

get the virus under control, the real recovery economically is not gonna happen. So what you do if you jump the gun and go into a situation where you have a big spike, you're gonna set yourself back."

Fauci says as painful as it is to follow guidelines of gradually phasing into a reopening "it's gonna backfire. That's the problem."

ONE GOOD THING

CHINA-EUROPE FREIGHT TRAINS PICK UP STEAM AMID PANDEMIC

FU MIN & ZHAO WENCAI

SOUNDING a long whistle, a train carrying 50 containers of goods including electronic devices and clothes as well as anti-virus supplies left Xiamen in eastern China for Hamburg, Germany.

Initiated in 2011, the China-Europe rail service is considered a significant part of the Belt and Road Initiative to boost trade between China and countries along the routes. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the service remained a reliable transportation channel.

"We missed the scheduled date to deliver goods by sea due to COVID-19. Thanks to the stable operation of China-Europe cargo trains, our goods arrived in Europe on time," said Wang Weidi, manager of the logistics department of TPV Display Technology (Xiamen) Co., Ltd.

The company had exported a total of 483 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of electronic products through the cargo train service in the first quarter this year, up 19.6 percent year on year, according to Wang.

In the first three months of 2020, a total of 67 China-Europe cargo trains had departed Xiamen in Fujian Province, transporting 6,106 TEUs of goods, up 160 percent year on year, according to the China Railway Nanchang Group Co. Ltd.

Zhong Lei, business ma-



A China-Europe freight train carrying anti-coronavirus supplies

nager of the Xiamen International Railway Service Co., Ltd., said the company had increased the weekly number of China-Europe freight trains in operation from four to seven to meet the customers' needs since March.

Nationwide, the China-Europe freight trains made a total of 1,941 trips and transported 174,000 TEUs of freight in the first quarter of this year, up 15 percent and 18 percent year on year, respectively, data from the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. showed.

The spread of COVID-19 has incurred global traffic restrictions. Under the circumstances that transportation is restricted at harbors and airports, China-Europe freight trains have carried anti-epidemic supplies such as masks, protective suits and ventilators to European countries.

From the first train carrying epidemic control supplies departing on March

21 to the end of March, China-Europe freight trains sent 333,800 pieces of supplies totalling 494 tonnes to Europe. Most of the trips were bound to Italy, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and the Netherlands.

In early April, the Ministry of Commerce issued a circular encouraging better use of China-Europe freight trains to promote trade and consumption.

Ding Changfa, an economist of the Xiamen University, said China-Europe freight trains rumble across many countries as they have limited influence from the pandemic thanks to their segmented transport model and contactless services.

He believes that China-Europe freight trains will have great potential in the post-epidemic economic recovery, both driven by the global demands and China's accelerated domestic work resumption. XINHUA



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (pictured) announced that New Zealand's lockdown will last another week. For nearly four weeks, nonessential workers have been able to leave their homes only to buy groceries or to exercise. Starting next week, construction and manufacturing can resume, and some schools will reopen, although home-learning will be encouraged.



Spain has surpassed the 200,000 mark of coronavirus infections while recording yesterday the lowest number of new deaths in four weeks. Health ministry data shows that 399 more people have succumbed to the COVID-19 disease created by the virus in the past 24 hours, bringing the country's total death toll to 20,852. Spain had counted more than 400 daily deaths since March 22.



UK Queen Elizabeth II's husband has made a rare public statement praising those tackling the new coronavirus pandemic and keeping essential services running. Prince Philip, who turns 99 in June, said he wanted to recognize the "vital and urgent" work of medical and science professionals. He also gave thanks to key workers including people working in food production, garbage collection, and postal and delivery services.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Vincent Yu



Losing face. A man wearing face mask walks past a fashion shop at a downtown street in Hong Kong. (See p15)