



GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURES IAM AS NEW LEADERSHIP PLEDGES EVERY PUBLIC DEMAND WILL BE FOLLOWED UP PROMPTLY

P4

MACAU TARGETS AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AS OFFICIALS SEEK HIGHER-SPENDING VISITORS

P2

PROPOSED MGM RESORTS TAKEOVER SPARKS QUESTIONS ABOUT MACAU OPERATIONS AND JAPAN'S INTEGRATED RESORT AMBITIONS

P6

AP PHOTO



South Koreans voted yesterday in local elections widely viewed as a referendum on President Lee Jae Myung's first year in office. The Democratic Party entered as favorite amid conservative disarray after Yoon Suk Yeol's removal, with the closely watched Seoul mayoral race carrying national significance.

AP PHOTO



Thailand Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was freed early from probation yesterday after receiving a royal pardon. The decision ends obligations linked to his corruption conviction, reviving debate over his future political influence despite family claims that the veteran leader may step back from politics.

AP PHOTO



Indonesian investigators searched the National Nutrition Agency yesterday, a day after President Prabowo Subianto dismissed its chief. The agency oversees a costly free-meals program criticized over food-poisoning incidents and logistics concerns, though officials insist public services and nutrition support will continue uninterrupted.

AP PHOTO



India A fire tore through a hotel and restaurant building in New Delhi yesterday, killing at least 21 people and injuring several others. More than 40 people were rescued. Authorities are investigating the cause as concerns persist over fire-safety compliance in India.

More on backpage



THE NEXT FLEET

Tender opens for 700 taxis

P2

RICIELA DIPUTADO



BIRTHRATE SQUEEZE

SHRINKING ENROLLMENT BEGINS TO AFFECT TEACHING JOBS

P3

HOTEL RULES EVOLVE TO ALLOW SHARED ROOMS

New accommodation law allows shared rooms and sleeping spaces as Macau's hotel supply approaches 45,000 rooms

P5

TOURISM

LAWMAKER WANTS TO EXPAND VISITOR SOURCES FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Chan Hao Weng called on the government to make greater efforts to expand visitor sources from Australia and New Zealand during an inquiry at the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday evening.

Responding to the call, Lo Chi Fai, head of the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, noted that while there are currently no direct air routes between Macau and those destinations, the government is promoting Macau to potential visitors through partnerships.

Lo highlighted various measures implemented by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) to encourage visitors arriving in Hong Kong to visit Macau, including free transportation and other incentives.

The official also noted that “in collaboration with several major online travel platforms, tourism promotions for Macau are being carried out, offering discounts on hotel reservations to target groups in long-



haul international markets, including Australia.”

Lo added that MGTO is stepping up efforts to promote more English-language content about Macau, which would better support marketing

efforts in those markets.

“In the future, the Macau SAR Government will continue to create favorable conditions to attract international visitors, including those from Australia and New Zealand. Through a

variety of services and support measures, visitor flows to local neighborhoods will be further expanded, and consumption in these neighborhoods will be stimulated,” Lo said.

In his inquiry, Chan said that

“Australia and New Zealand offer great potential, and we have numerous natural advantages for cooperating,” noting that the two countries represent a combined market of 32 million people. He also cited their geographic proximity to Macau compared with more distant markets such as Europe and the United States.

Chan said residents of the two countries have strong purchasing power and could serve as an alternative source of long-haul visitors, as a direct flight would take about nine to 10 hours to reach Macau – roughly half the travel time from Europe.

According to official statistics from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), 73,421 Australians and 13,964 New Zealanders visited Macau in 2025, representing year-over-year increases of 19.9% and 26.4%, respectively.

The statistics refer to entries by Australian and New Zealand passport holders and do not take into account their points of origin before arriving in Macau.

TRANSPORT

Tender opens for 700 taxis under 14 eight-year operating licenses

YUKI LEI

FOLLOWING the announcement by Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam that 700 taxis would be put up for tender in the short term, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday the launch of a public tender for 14 eight-year taxi operating licenses.

“Legislation for ride-hailing taxis is underway, and a tender for 700 corporate-licensed taxis will be launched shortly,” Tam told the Legislative Assembly (AL) on Tuesday, noting that Macau currently has only about



1,400 taxis in operation.

A notice published in yesterday's edition of the

Official Gazette outlined the tender process for 14 eight-year taxi operating

licenses, stipulating that interested corporate bidders must submit their

proposals by the July 8 deadline, with a public bid-opening session scheduled for July 9 at the Transport Bureau's conference room to announce the results or subsequent procedures.

Pursuant to the executive order, each successful bidder may apply for licenses for up to 50 taxis that satisfy legal requirements, representing a total of 700 regular taxis, with the license remaining valid for a period of eight years from the date of issuance.

Successful bidders are required to operate light vehicles with a seating capacity of six or more passengers, powered by hybrid or environmentally friendly energy sources. All operational vehicles must be equipped to accept electronic payments, and each license must provide no fewer than

two vehicles – totaling 28 vehicles – designated for the transport of persons with reduced mobility.

The public tender further stipulates that bidding companies must be registered in Macau, and their corporate purpose must be limited exclusively to taxi passenger transport services. Each company may submit a bid for only one license, and companies are prohibited from holding – whether individually or collectively with affiliated entities – more than 300 taxi licenses in total.

As noted, bidders must pay a deposit of MOP3.5 million to participate in the tender, which has a minimum bid price of MOP2.5 million, plus additional stamp duty for both the operating license and individual taxi licenses.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+27,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Lynzy Valles
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alban Martins, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Nadia Shaw, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques (Senior Reporter), Ricaela Diputado, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí, Yuki Lei DESIGNER_Melissandre Denize | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, 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 & 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

AL PLNEARY

Lawmakers raise concerns over birthrate's impact on education workforce

RENATO MARQUES

SEVERAL lawmakers have expressed concerns about how Macau's low birthrate is already affecting the labor market, particularly schools and teaching staff.

In an inquiry initiated by lawmakers Song Pek Kei and Chan Lai Kei, the lawmakers noted that the low birthrate, particularly over the past 10 years, is already affecting the education sector and causing serious concerns among teachers and schools.

The lawmakers argued that the government's plan to reconvert and merge schools as a solution is overly complex and unsuitable for most small-scale institutions, which lack sufficient financial resources to undergo such a transformation.

In response, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture O Lam announced a series of subsidies from the Education Fund to help schools and teachers cope with the impact of the restructuring of the local education sector.

"We will introduce four support measures for the 2026-2027 school year," O Lam said. "The Macau SAR government supports schools in hiring teaching staff and improving teaching conditions by allocating the base amount and the additional amount of the Free Schooling Subsidy, as well as funding to optimize student-teacher ratios



Kong Chi Meng



O Lam



Song Pek Kei

under the Education Fund," she said.

"In response to recent changes in the birth rate, the School Development Promotion Subsidy was established to fund schools with an insufficient number of students in their first year of kindergarten. In the 2026-2027 school year, transitional support measures for early childhood education subsidies will be introduced, extending the subsidy's scope to second-year early childhood education classes that meet the requirements, with a view to ensuring job stability for teachers at affected schools," the official added.

O Lam added that, to assist teachers affected by reductions in the number of classes, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) is creating conditions to

promote internal teacher mobility within the education system. The bureau will also organize training courses to support teachers seeking to teach at different educational levels or become inclusive education instructors.

The Secretary also announced that DSEDJ will hold a press conference this week to share details of the plans and subsidies, as well as a shared human resources platform that schools can use to recruit teachers for specific needs.

Responding to questions from several lawmakers, including Chan Hao Weng, José Pereira Coutinho and Loi I Weng, O Lam said that while the ongoing transformation of the local education sector presents challenges and some instability, it ultimately represents an opportunity to improve quality

rather than focus on quantity.

DSEDJ director Kong Chi Meng added that the bureau is in talks with 11 schools that have expressed interest in joining the merger program. He said four of them have already made a decision and will implement mergers beginning in the upcoming school year.

Regarding the conversion of schools into continuing education centers or adult education facilities, Kong said this could be done during evening hours alongside regular daytime school activities.

He also suggested that adult education courses could be offered in partnership with local universities, which would help organize course offerings and curricula.

In response to a question from Pereira Coutinho regarding job protections for local residents,

the DSEDJ director noted that this "will certainly be ensured," adding that local teachers would always be given priority and that the recruitment of teachers from outside Macau would be permitted only in highly specialized fields and subjects "for which we do not have qualified local personnel."

According to the latest report from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), citing figures through the end of March, 2,265 non-resident workers (TNRs) were employed in Macau's education sector, representing 36.2% of all specialized non-resident workers.

Without providing specific figures, DSAL also noted that the majority of these 2,265 specialized non-resident workers are employed as university professors and academic researchers.

LABOR

Over 3,700 locals employed as non-local worker cap remains strict

YUKI LEI

THE principle that non-resident workers are only a temporary supplement to local manpower shortages "has never changed," authorities reaffirmed, adding that over 3,700 locals had been hired as of April through a series of job-matching and support measures.

Lo Chi Fai, head of the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, asserted during a Legislative Assembly session



on Tuesday that any opportunities and encroachment on local labor rights resulting from the recruitment

of non-resident workers is absolutely impermissible.

Authorities further observed that the implementation of "1+4" key industry projects has contributed to the expansion of local employment. According to the Macau Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), of the 93 investment projects it advanced during the first four months of this year, over 60% were classified as "1+4" industry projects, generating 591 jobs.

Statistics from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicate that the local unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points year over year to 2.3% during the February-April period this year. The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) director, Chan Un Tong, further noted that more than 10,000 locals were successfully matched with employment last year, with about 77% of those placed retaining their jobs.

Non-resident worker permits are only adjusted when suitable local workers are available, authorities told lawmakers reviewing the Law on the Employment of Non-Resident Workers. The DSAL bases

decisions on economic conditions, labor market dynamics and enterprise-specific factors, they added.

Meanwhile, authorities revealed that new forms of illegal work have emerged, primarily involving job recruitment through online platforms such as RedNote, Douyin and WeChat, which "have a certain degree of concealment."

Authorities have established multiple reporting channels to facilitate public reporting of illegal work, while police have committed to focusing on development trends in popular industries and job types, using more scientific methods to enhance enforcement effectiveness.

DSAL, RESORTS TO OFFER 407 JOB VACANCIES IN JUNE MATCHING SESSIONS

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) will continue cooperating with six gaming operators in June to host job matching sessions, offering 407 vacancies. The positions cover food and beverage, front-line operations, housekeeping and cleaning, as well as management and technical roles, including IT manager, facilities manager, senior analyst, and head chef. Applications are open until June 25 via the DSAL's website or the Macao One app. Matching sessions are scheduled from June 17 to June 30, with each of the six enterprises hosting one session. Qualified applicants will be contacted by the enterprises for interviews.

PASSENGER CAUGHT WITH 15 LIVE TURTLES HIDDEN IN TROUSER POCKETS AT HZMB

Mainland customs authorities said a passenger was intercepted after concealing 15 live turtles in his trouser pockets while passing through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Zhuhai Port in mid-April. Officers found the animals during inspection at the inbound hall on April 15 after the traveler showed suspicious behavior and was selected for checks. The turtles, weighing 4.15 kilograms in total, were wrapped in socks. The passenger failed to present legal documentation. The species included several listed under CITES Appendix II, customs said, warning that illegal wildlife transport may lead to criminal charges.

MACAU TO HOST 55TH SKAL INTERNATIONAL ASIA CONGRESS NEXT WEEK

SKAL International Macau will host the 55th SKAL International Asia Congress from June 11 to 14 at the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau. Accredited by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), the event is expected to strengthen Macau's role as a leading MICE destination and "World Centre for Tourism and Leisure." Supported by MGTO and IPIM, Macau won the bid against regional competitors including Japan and Korea. More than 150 delegates from Asia, Europe and other regions are expected to attend.

GOVERNANCE

GOV'T RESTRUCTURES IAM, NEW LEADERSHIP VOWS 'EVERY PUBLIC DEMAND WILL BE FOLLOWED UP'

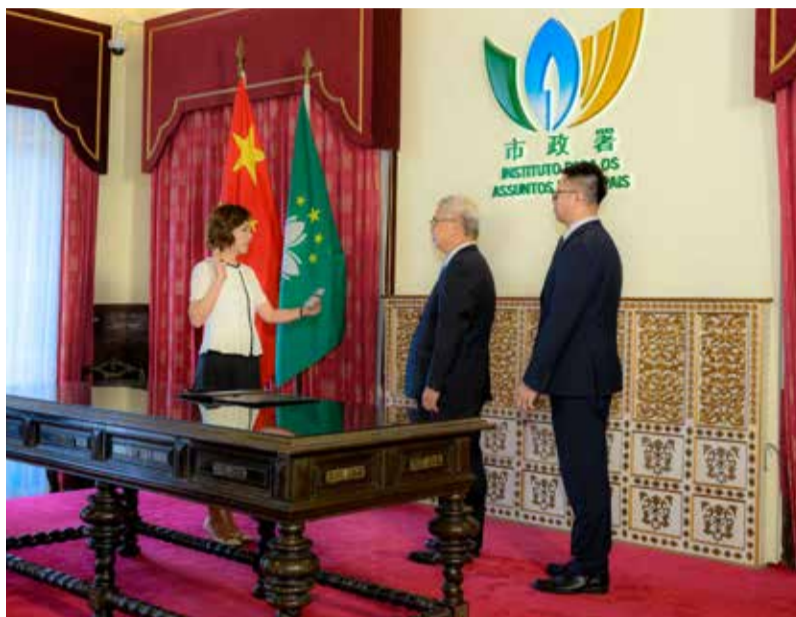
RICIELA DIPUTADO

FOUR newly appointed members of the Administration Committee on Municipal Affairs took their oaths of office yesterday, as a government restructuring law took effect, streamlining the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) into eight departments and 19 divisions.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Wong Sio Chak, who administered the swearing-in, raised "four expectations" for the new leadership, including ensuring that "follow-up and response are provided for each and every public request."

The inauguration ceremony took place at 10 a.m. in the Grand Hall of the IAM Building. Wong administered the oath, with Chang Cheong, chief of the Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice, serving as witness.

Chao Wai Ieng and Tam Wai Fong, chairman and vice-chairwoman of the Administration Committee on Municipal Affairs, along with Ung Sau Hong and To Sok I, members of the Administrative Committee, took their oaths and signed their certificates of inauguration one by one.



The restructuring, formalized under Law No. 1/2026 amending the IAM establishment law and Administrative Regulation No. 14/2026 on the bureau's organization and operations, took effect on June 1.

Under the revamped structure, the IAM has been streamlined into eight departments and 19 divisions, responsible for eight core functions: provision of integrated public services; cultural and recreational activities and civic education; food safety; management of animals, mar-

kets and hawkers; environmental hygiene; parks, gardens, green areas and greening; construction and maintenance of municipal facilities; and municipal administration and supervision.

The structures of the Consultative Committee on Municipal Affairs and the Financial and Property Supervisory Committee remain unchanged.

In his address, Secretary Wong put forward "four expectations" for the new leadership team. First, he called for persisting in reform and innovation to

launch work efforts with higher standards and service quality. Second, he urged upholding the concept of "people-oriented and service-oriented" governance and collecting the public's views widely, ensuring that "follow-up and response are provided for each and every public request."

Third, he encouraged promoting streamlined administrative procedures for public convenience and leveraging technology to achieve efficiency, precision and professionalism in municipal affairs. Fourth, he emphasized attaching importance to public relations techniques and policy publicity to promote unity between the government and the public for advancement toward the same direction.

In his speech, chairman Chao Wai Ieng stated that IAM aims to achieve efficient and effective service-oriented governance closely aligned with the policy direction of the Macau SAR, striving to elevate municipal services to a new level based on the principles of "efficiency, precision and professionalism" and guided by the Secretary's "four expectations."

HEALTH

Macau TCM grant quotas exhausted after three firms secure MOP3 million each

THREE pharmaceutical companies have each received MOP3 million in one-off GMP certification subsidies under Macau's incentive scheme, fully exhausting the available quotas as the government accelerates efforts to develop the city's traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) sector.

The grants fall under the Incentive Scheme for Upgrading and Development of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Macau, administered by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED). Director Yau Yun Wah confirmed that all three subsidy quotas have now been allocated.

A separate component of the scheme, which supports



the local registration of proprietary Chinese medicines, offers MOP100,000 per approved product. Of 50 available quotas, five applications have been approved so far, while two are still under review.

The updates were provided in response to legislative inquiries from lawmaker

Si Ka Lon, who raised concerns about industrial policy direction, digital transformation, funding support for overseas clinical trials and investment attraction strategies.

Beyond subsidy measures, authorities said work is underway on a larger biomedical infrastructure pro-

ject. Lo Chi Fai, head of the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, said the government is advancing plans for a dedicated technology R&D industrial park focused on biomedicine.

The planned park will include innovation platforms, customized manufacturing facilities and supporting services, as well as data and computing centers designed to shorten research and development cycles through digital technologies.

Separately, the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine at the Macau University of Science and Technology was reorganized last August, strengthening its research capacity.

In November, the

"Guangdong-Macao Joint Laboratory for Innovative Drug Research on Traditional Chinese Medicine and Natural-Derived Small Nucleic Acids" was established, becoming the first joint laboratory led by a Macau tertiary institution.

To address funding and operational challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises conducting overseas clinical trials, the Science and Technology Development Fund has adopted a "funding plus support services" model. The approach encourages collaboration between local institutions and international research partners to strengthen clinical research capacity.

RD

TOURISM

New law allows shared rooms and 'sleeping spaces' as hotel supply nears 45,000 rooms

LYNZY VALLES

THE hotel sector is expected to see further diversification in accommodation types following the introduction of a new legal framework that permits shared rooms and "sleeping spaces" as part of economic lodging facilities.

Lawmakers Ho Ion Sang and Lao Chi Ngai raised concerns over hotel room supply, smart tourism applications, talent development and Macau's development as a "World Centre of Tourism and Leisure" during oral interpellations at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Responding on behalf of the government, Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance head Lo Chi Fai said authorities are promoting the integrated development of "tourism + technology" through infrastructure upgrades, smart applications and workforce training.

The executive stressed that overall hotel supply is ultimately determined by market demand.

Lo said that as of April, Macau had 147 operating hotel establishments, with total room supply rising to more than 45,000 rooms. He added that the newly



implemented bill on hotel establishments' operations introduces a new category of budget accommodation, allowing shared rooms and "sleeping spaces" to support industry diversification.

"To promote the diversified development of hotel establishments and create favorable conditions to precisely meet the diverse

accommodation needs of today's visitors, Law No. 8/2021 (Law on the Operation of Hotel Establishments) has added a new type of establishment, 'low-cost accommodation,' allowing the installation of shared rooms and 'sleeping spaces,'" Lo said to lawmakers.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is also

streamlining approval procedures to reduce investment and construction costs. As of the end of April, 11 hotel projects had submitted opening applications, involving more than 2,000 rooms.

Lo noted that future hotel room expansion will depend on market conditions, investor decisions, land supply and urban planning

considerations, adding that direct government intervention in supply would be inappropriate.

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said Hengqin currently offers about 10,000 hotel rooms, which could complement Macau's accommodation capacity under policies such as group travel arrangements and visa facilitation for foreign visitors.

On smart tourism, authorities recalled ongoing digital initiatives, including the "Macau Tourism Data+" platform, which publishes tourism statistics, and collaborations with major online travel platforms to release weekly indicators on mainland visitors' accommodation demand.

MGTO also launched an AI-powered tourism chatbot in 2024 and uses mapping platforms to promote community events and support small businesses in increasing online visibility through the "Smart Travel to Macau with One Click" platform.

Meanwhile, to support small and medium-sized enterprises, the government has offered digital transformation services since 2023, covering training, business diagnostics and free solutions for the catering and retail sectors.

In workforce development, MGTO has rolled out 37 online training courses since 2019, with new programmes focusing on artificial intelligence applications and digital marketing certifications.

The government said it will further explore the use of artificial intelligence and large language models in tourism services to develop new smart tourism products and promote cross-sector integration under the "tourism+" strategy.

CAM

Macau appoints Chui Sai Cheong, Anton Tai to airport board

MACAU has appointed former Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai to the board of Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. (CAM), according to an official decree published in the government gazette on Wednesday.

The move, ordered by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai under Executive Order No. 130/2026, also names Chui Sai Cheong as chairman of CAM's board of directors and Zhang Yun as both a board member and chairman of the executive committee.



The appointments also suggests he take effect immediately for a three-year term. Tai's appointment overseeing economic

and financial affairs.

Tai joins the board alongside Pun Weng Kun, who has been named to the executive committee on a temporary service commission basis. Pun previously led the Sports Bureau (ID) and most recently headed the city's organizing committee for the National Games.

The decree also confirms that Simon Chan, the outgoing chairman of the executive committee, will remain within CAM as a member of both the board and executive committee, ensuring continuity during the

transition. Andy Wu, president of the Macau Tourism Industry Association, has also been appointed to the board.

The appointments were made under the legal framework governing public capital companies and the statutes of CAM, with remuneration to be determined by the company's general assembly. For officials appointed on a service commission basis, pension and social contributions will continue to be calculated based on their original public sector salaries. NS

LOCAL WOMAN LOSES MOP8,600 IN PHISHING SCAM

A local woman lost about MOP8,600 after falling victim to a phishing text scam, police said yesterday. The Judiciary Police reported that the victim received a fraudulent message on May 27 claiming her water service would be cut off. She clicked a link to a fake utility website and entered her mobile number and credit card details to pay an alleged bill. Later that day, she received a bank alert showing overseas transactions. Suspecting fraud, she reported the case. Police said the investigation is ongoing and urged residents to verify messages before making payments.

MONEY SUPPLY FALLS IN APRIL AS DEPOSITS, LOANS SHIFT

Broad money supply declined in April 2026 as deposits and lending showed mixed trends, according to the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM). M1 fell 8.1% on weaker demand deposits, while M2 slipped 0.6% to MOP854.4 billion. Resident deposits dropped 0.6%, and total deposits fell 0.3% to MOP1,435.8 billion. Private sector loans declined 1.2%, but external lending rose 11.5%, lifting total loans 5.5%. The loan-to-deposit ratio climbed to 75.4%, while bad loans improved to 4.4%. Shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total loans were 21.2%, 37.9%, 20.0% and 17.0% respectively.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ENERGY

Skyline to go dark for an hour in city-wide energy-saving campaign

MACAU'S skyline will be partially darkened tomorrow evening as four cross-sea bridges, government buildings, tourism facilities and other public and private entities take part in a one-hour "Lights Off for One Hour" campaign marking National Environment Day.

The initiative will run from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., during which non-essential lighting will be switched off across participating sites.

Organizers said six integrated tourism and leisure enterprises, government landmarks, hotels, banks, schools, associations and commercial buildings will join the campaign.

Residents are also being encouraged to turn off non-essential lights and electrical appliances at home during the same period.

The campaign forms part of the National Main Venue Activities for World Environment Day and

the Beautiful China Promotion Week (Macau Region), aimed at raising public awareness of energy conservation and carbon reduction.

A second initiative, "Casual Summer, Energy Saving Together," will run until August 31. Public servants are encouraged to adopt light, casual clothing instead of formal wear and to set air-conditioning temperatures at no lower than 25 degrees Celsius, or increase existing settings by one degree.

Private companies, associations and members of the public are also urged to participate in the energy-saving measures.

The highlight of Macau's environmental awareness week will take place on Friday afternoon with a launch ceremony and a "National Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction" action announcement. A beach clean-up activity is also scheduled for the morning of the same day. **RD**

GAMING

MGM RESORTS BUYOUT BID RAISES QUESTIONS OVER MACAU UNIT AND JAPAN PROJECT

LYNZY VALLES

A proposed takeover of MGM Resorts International by its largest shareholder, U.S. conglomerate People Inc, could reshape the casino operator's global portfolio, with analysts focusing on potential implications for its Macau business and Japan expansion plans.

People Inc, formerly known as IAC Inc, has submitted a non-binding all-cash offer of USD48.30 per share for MGM Resorts, valuing the company at more than USD18 billion, including around USD6.4 billion in net debt. If completed, the deal would leave People Inc with a 50.1% controlling stake.

Market observers say attention is now shifting to MGM Resorts' international holdings, particularly its 56% stake in MGM China Holdings Ltd and its equity participation in the Osaka integrated resort project in Japan.

Research firm Seaport Research Partners said MGM China could emerge as a key asset in any post-deal restructuring. The brokerage recently lifted its price target on MGM China, citing its strong market position in Macau and what it described as an attractive valuation.

Analyst Vitaly Umansky suggested that a future divestment of the Macau business could unlock shareholder value and potentially help finance broader strategic priorities under new ownership, including expansion in digital gaming.



AP PHOTO

CBRE Equity Research estimated MGM Resorts' stake in MGM China is worth about USD3.3 billion, generating annual cash flow of roughly USD316 million through dividends and management fees. Analysts John DeCree and Max Marsh said the Macau stake could be partially or fully monetised to support acquisition financing or other capital needs.

They added that potential buyers could include MGM China's existing major shareholder Pansy Ho Chiu King, or other Macau-based gaming operators with sufficient financial capacity, though regulatory approval would be a key factor.

Japan is also seen as a strategic consideration. MGM Resorts holds a 42.5% stake in the USD9.5 billion MGM Osaka integrated resort, scheduled to open in 2030, with remaining equity com-

mitments estimated at USD2.3 billion.

Seaport noted that any new controlling shareholder could reassess exposure to both Macau and Japan, potentially recycling capital into online gaming and the BetMGM platform.

Other potential investors in the Osaka project could include major global casino operators, although any ownership changes would require government consent and compliance with existing development agreements.

Analysts said the proposed ownership structure – combining majority control by People Inc with participation from rollover and minority investors – could provide flexibility to selectively divest international assets while maintaining MGM Resorts' core U.S. operations and digital gaming strategy.



CORPORATE BITS

Melco backs Inclusion Conference and Macau Golf Masters



Melco Resorts & Entertainment continued its support for the 2026 Inclusion Conference & Festival and Macau Golf Masters, two international events promoting diversity and inclusion, held from May 17 to 22.

Organized by the Charity As-

sociation of Macau Business Readers, the Inclusion Conference brought together educators, experts, families and advocates to discuss neurodiversity, inclusive education and family-centered care. More than 200 participants from outside the school com-

munity attended, including over 100 families from Macau and the Greater Bay Area.

Sponsored by Melco and the We Can Dream Together Foundation, the conference featured a full day of discussions and community engagement hosted at the School of Nations.

Melco also supported the Macau Golf Masters, recognized as the world's largest golf tournament for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Melco executive vice president Akiko Takahashi said the initiatives reflect the company's commitment to building an inclusive environment and supporting Macau's sustainable development through global platforms that promote dialogue, resilience and international exchange.

Galaxy wins top honors at Global Gaming Awards Asia-Pacific 2026



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has received two major accolades at the Global Gaming Awards Asia-Pacific 2026, held in Manila, including "Integrated Resort of the Year" for Galaxy Macau

and "Casino Operator of the Year."

The company said the awards reflect international recognition of its performance in advancing Macau's integrated tourism and lei-

sure industry. Galaxy Macau retained the Integrated Resort of the Year title for a second consecutive year, while GEG was named Casino Operator of the Year for the third straight year.

The group highlighted Galaxy Macau's diversified offerings, including nine international hotel brands, the Grand Resort Deck, the Galaxy Promenade retail complex, and more than 120 dining outlets. It also noted that the property earned a record 12 Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Awards between 2025 and 2026.

The Global Gaming Awards Asia-Pacific are organized by Global Gaming Insider and judged by senior industry executives across the region.

DIPLOMACY

New PM says Solomon Islands will review its security treaty with China

ROD MCGUIRK, MELBOURNE

THE Solomon Islands will review its secretive security treaty with China, the South Pacific nation's new Prime Minister Matthew Wale said yesterday.

The pact struck in 2022 with the Solomons' then-Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare created fears in the United States and among allies including Australia that it would allow the Chinese navy to build a base in the South Pacific.

Before Wale became prime minister in a parliamentary vote May 15, he had called for the detail of the treaty to be made public.

Wale said yesterday he had only been provided with a copy a few days ago and after he had "removed certain people from key positions." He didn't identify those people.

"I haven't had a good look at it. I've had a look at it," Wale told reporters in the Australian capital Canberra.

"I've been praying and fasting about it. ... There is a nondisclosure clause in it, so I couldn't show it to you right away. But we are going to be reviewing (the

AP PHOTO



Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Matthew Wale (right) signs a visitors' book at Parliament House in Canberra, yesterday

treaty), as we are reviewing other security agreements that we have with many other countries," he added.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said China was "ready to work with

the new government of Solomon Islands to expand pragmatic cooperation in various fields so as to better benefit the two peoples."

Wale was visiting Australia in his first overseas trip since he became leader of his nation of

700,000 people, 2,000 kilometers northeast of Australia.

Wale and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese announced their governments would negotiate a comprehensive strategic treaty that would elevate the

bilateral relationship and cover security and economic issues.

Wale's predecessor, Jeremiah Manele, had resisted Australia's efforts to forge closer ties, but Wale said the two governments had decided to "reset" the bilateral relationship.

"We acknowledge that there's been some problems in the past few years," Wale said.

Albanese said Australia should be the Solomons' primary security partner, rather than China.

"We have said very clearly we want Australia to be the security partner of choice in our region and we want the Pacific family to look after our security in this region," Albanese said.

Wale said the regional looking after its own security was "the direction we want to take."

China has provided police instructors to the Solomons as part of their bilateral deal. The Solomons doesn't have a military, so police there have a larger security role than in countries with defense forces.

The Solomons provided China with a diplomatic coup in 2019 when Sogavare's government switched official recognition to Beijing from Taiwan. **MDT/AP**

GOVERNANCE

State Council issues 5-year plan for agricultural, rural modernization

THE State Council, China's cabinet, has issued a plan to accelerate agricultural and rural modernization during the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) period.

The plan seeks to accelerate the modernization of agriculture and rural areas to drive Chinese modernization, and has identified key tasks and policy measures for this purpose during the period.

According to the plan, by 2030, the nation's food security will be continuously enhanced; the quality, efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture will be further improved; and the achievements of poverty alleviation will be consolidated and expanded.

The plan laid out two binding targets, including increasing the country's comprehensive grain production



capacity to about 725 million tonnes by 2030. It will also aim to raise the overall pass rate of routine agricultural product quality and safety inspections to no less than 98% by the same year.

The plan has also proposed 13 other anticipatory targets aimed at improvements

in areas including meat production, technology contribution to agriculture, green development in agriculture, sewage treatment in rural areas, and farmers' income, among others, through 2030.

"On the basis of ensuring stable and secure supplies of grain and other important

agricultural products, greater emphasis will be placed on improving quality and efficiency in the agriculture sector," an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said, adding that the plan aims to better meet people's special and higher demand through the increased supply of nutritious and healthy agricultural products.

Guided by the plan, the country aims to greatly enhance its self-reliance and strength in agricultural science and technology, make major strides in transforming agriculture into a modern major industry, and continue to increase farmers' income at a relatively fast pace through 2030.

It also proposes accelerated efforts to build a beautiful and harmonious countryside for people to live and work in,

calling for new breakthroughs in the integrated development of urban and rural areas and remarkable achievements in the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas.

The plan calls for efforts to achieve major breakthroughs in developing new quality productive forces in agriculture, foster and strengthen specialty industries in rural regions, accelerate the comprehensive green transition of agricultural development and promote green agricultural production methods, and improve infrastructure conditions and public services in rural areas, among others.

It also outlines work arrangements for advancing major projects covering high-standard farmlands, agricultural science and technology innovation capacity, and cold-chain logistics facilities for food storage and preservation, stressing efforts to promote AI adoption in agriculture and upgrade the agricultural product processing industry.

Faster adoption of agri-

cultural technology has continued to lift agricultural productivity in China in recent years. In 2025, China's grain production reached about 714.9 million tonnes, marking the second straight year grain output had stayed above 700 million tonnes. Last year, the contribution rate of agricultural scientific and technological progress exceeded 64%, while the comprehensive mechanization rate of crop cultivation and harvesting reached 76.7%.

With regard to greater sci-tech contribution to agriculture, the new plan has set an anticipatory target of raising the contribution rate of sci-tech progress in boosting agricultural development to 67% by 2030.

According to the plan, the country will seek to scale up more pioneering industries, such as intelligent design breeding, new-energy agricultural machinery, low-altitude agricultural economy, agricultural bio-manufacturing, and new foods over the coming years. **XINHUA**

AP PHOTO



U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer arrives for the G7 trade meeting in Paris, yesterday

TRADE WAR

US says it plans extra tariffs of 10% or more for most trading partners

THE Trump administration is proposing that tariffs of 10% or more be imposed on products from dozens of major trading partners following a probe into imports of goods allegedly made with forced labor.

The report released yesterday by the U.S. Trade Representative said Canada, Mexico, Taiwan and the United Kingdom and some other countries and territories would face 10% additional tariffs for allegedly failing to enforce a forced labor import ban.

A 12.5% additional tariff would be imposed on China, Japan, India, South Korea, Brazil and Switzerland and dozens of other countries.

"The failure of our most important trading partners to address the importation of goods made with forced labor is unacceptable. This creates a dynamic where American workers are forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field,"

USTR Ambassador Jamieson Greer said in a statement.

He added that "each of our trading partners must do more to ensure that trade does not perversely encourage and entrench forced labor globally."

The USTR said failure to prevent such imports is "unreasonable and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce."

This latest barrage of tariffs is likely to unsettle key trading partners that have been hit by waves of tariffs since President Donald Trump returned to office early last year.

Just two weeks ago, the European Union approved a tariff deal with the United States to cap tariffs on most EU exports at 15% following intense debates among the EU's 27 nations and threats by European lawmakers to block the agreement.

Trump recently returned from a visit to China, where he and its leader Xi Jinping discussed expanding market

access for American businesses in China and increasing Chinese investment into U.S. industries. The two leaders agreed to set up separate boards of trade and investment — though few details were provided.

A Chinese government spokesperson denied the forced labor allegation and called for resolving economic issues through dialogue, saying a trade war doesn't serve anyone's interests.

"There is no such thing as forced labor in China, and we oppose using it as an excuse to engage in political manipulation," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing.

The new tariffs would not take effect immediately. They are subject to public comment and review. Public hearings on the proposed duties are due to begin on July 7.

The investigation into alleged failure to prevent imports of goods allegedly made by forced labor was

conducted under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. The strategy would enable Trump to skirt limits on his tariffs imposed by the Supreme Court.

It found that 60 countries investigated had failed to enforce a prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor.

The report defined forced labor as "work or service exacted from a person under the menace of any penalty for its nonperformance and for which the worker does not offer himself voluntarily."

It cited an estimate by the UN's International Labor Organization that as of 2021, 27.6 million people were engaged in forced labor.

Rice imported from Myanmar, tobacco from Malawi, beef from Brazil, and cotton and polysilicon from China were among the many products it said are prone to involving forced labor.

The U.S. has long said imports of goods that include material from China's far-western Xinjiang are at risk of using forced labor. Beijing denies allegations of forced labor in the Muslim majority region.

The Supreme Court ruled in February that Trump had overstepped his authority by using a different law — the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 — to impose sweeping tariffs on U.S. trading partners.

The Trump administration has said it would appeal a federal judge's order making all companies that paid the duties on those earlier tariffs eligible for refunds.

Earlier this week, the administration separately proposed 25% tariffs on imports from Brazil, charging that the world's 10th-biggest economy engages in trade practices that are "unreasonable" and that "burden or restrict U.S. commerce."

The USTR said its investigation showed Brazil had lax anti-corruption enforcement and unfair tariffs of its own, among other things.

In its nearly 100-page report on forced labor, the USTR said that even if a country enforces a ban on forced labor domestically, importing goods made with forced labor violates the rules of fair trade.

It said some key items would be exempt from the additional tariffs or subject to lower tariffs, including certain textiles, tomatoes, bananas, coffee and some metals. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1977 GREECE RELEASES UK PLANE-SPOTTERS



Five British plane-spotters imprisoned in Greece for spying have been released after 10 weeks in jail.

An Athens appeal court last week reduced their original sentence from 10 months imprisonment to six, and allowed them to exchange the balance of their jail terms for fines.

Greek police arrested the young plane enthusiasts in March 1977 on suspicion of espionage, after trailing them around nine military airfields and observing them taking detailed notes.

The five members of the West London Aviation Group, all aged between 20 and 28, have denied they are guilty of spying and insisted at the trial they were simply engaged in an innocent hobby.

Kieron Pilbeam, Roy Sturgess, Christopher Knott, Christopher Taylor and Timothy Blyth-Spearman have each paid a fine of £555 to obtain their release.

They are expected to fly home to the UK tomorrow.

Air Force intelligence chief Wing-Commander Ioannis Marinakis had told the panel of three judges at the trial that information on the layout of Greek airfields would be valuable to a foreign power.

Mr Taylor said the Greek court had not understood recording plane serial numbers could be regarded as a hobby.

"The way they sentenced us was obviously to deter anyone else from aircraft spotting in Greece," he said.

The 22-year-old added: "I don't think I will be coming back to Greece at least in the next few years."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Twenty-five years later another group of plane-spotters saw their hobby land them in trouble with the Greek authorities. Police arrested 11 British men, one British woman and two Dutch men in Kalamata in November 2001, alleging the group had been gathering secret information at a military airbase.

Six were convicted of spying and the remainder of aiding and abetting in April 2002, but their sentences were suspended after they all lodged appeals.

On 6 November 2002 the Greek judges acquitted all but one of the plane-spotters. Michael Keane's conviction was upheld as he did not attend the appeal.

FOOTBALL | ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

Ronaldo, Messi and the new generation:

JAMES ROBSON,
SOCCER WRITER

TWO of soccer's all-time greats will likely make their final bows on the sport's biggest stage at the 2026 World Cup.

Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo can finally pass the baton on to a new generation including Spain's Lamine Yamal.

Kylian Mbappé — who was only 19 when he won the World Cup with France in 2018 — is still waiting to confirm his place as the heir-apparent to Messi and Ronaldo.

But there are others, too, aiming to make their mark in the United States, Canada and Mexico, from Norwegian goal machine Erling Haaland to Team USA's Christian Pulisic.

Here are 10 players to watch this year's World Cup.

LIONEL MESSI

The magnificent Messi finally achieved his career ambition in Qatar four years ago by leading Argentina to World Cup glory and emulating national icon Diego Maradona.

With it, Messi effectively completed soccer, winning the top titles for club, country and individually.

Since Qatar, he has moved to the United States to make Inter Miami the dominant force in MLS, winning the MLS Cup last year.

AD

His status as the greatest player of all time is still debated, with Maradona and Pelé generally considered his main rivals for that title. But back-to-back World Cups — which Pelé achieved in 1958 and '62 — would further strengthen his case.

Messi, however, has given Argentina a scare just two weeks ahead of the World Cup. The 38-year-old was substituted in an Inter Miami game on Sunday and diagnosed with "an overload associated with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring." No timeline was given for his recovery.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Ronaldo is still waiting for the one trophy that has eluded him in his glittering, record-breaking career.

The Portugal star heads to the World Cup after leading Saudi club Al Nassr to the domestic league title this season. That trophy adds to league titles with Manchester United in England, Real Madrid in Spain and Juventus in Italy, along with five Champions League trophies (four with Madrid, one with United).

He has also won the European Championship with Portugal and two UEFA Nations League titles. His 143 goals is a record in men's international soccer and nobody has scored more than his 41 in World Cup qualifiers.

Even at the age of 41, his hunger



Lionel Messi



Lamine Yamal



Cristiano Ronaldo



Jude Bellingham

for trophies and records shows no sign of relenting.

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

Mbappé has long been considered the player to take over the title as the best player on the planet after Messi and Ronaldo.

Some would say the Real Madrid striker has already done that as a World Cup and multiple title-winner, but the fact that he has yet to win the Champions League or Ballon d'Or leaves a big question hanging over his career.

He should have a good shot at this year's Ballon d'Or — awarded annually to the best player in the world — if he can lead France to another World Cup title after

topping the scoring charts in Spain and leading the way in the Champions League.

Mbappé is often judged on what he hasn't won, rather than what he has. In two years at Madrid, he is still waiting for major titles in Spain.

OUSMANE DEMBÉLÉ

The current Ballon d'Or holder could be a two-time Champions League winner by time the World Cup kicks off.

The France forward has reignited his career since joining Paris Saint-Germain three years ago, helping it secure its first Champions League title last season and reach back-to-back finals this year.

Having been touted as one of the brightest prospects in Europe

earlier in his career, Barcelona bought Dembélé for \$173 million in 2017. An underwhelming time in Spain led many to think he would never realize his potential.

No one is saying that now.

ERLING HAALAND

The Manchester City striker is playing in his first major international tournament after smashing records at club level.

Haaland, 25, is well on his way breaking scoring records in the Champions League and Premier League and has already surpassed benchmarks set by Messi in terms of the speed with which he's amassing goals.

Norway is an outsider at this year's World Cup, but in Haaland

New Rugby Season

Saturdays, 9-11am, Taipa Stadium

BOYS AND GIRLS, AGES 6 – 18

- Team working
- Co-operation
- Fitness and FUN



SIGN UP NOW!!



**MACAU
BATS
RUGBY**

10 players to watch at the cup



Kylian Mbappé



Ousmane Dembélé



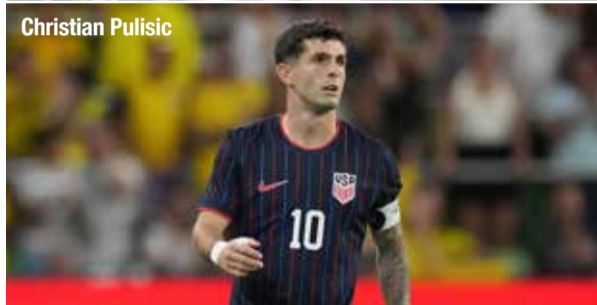
Erling Haaland



Neymar



Mohamed Salah



Christian Pulisic

it has arguably the most lethal forward at the tournament.

LAMINE YAMAL

Spain's teenaged sensation was the star of its triumph at the European Championship in 2024 despite not turning 17 until the eve of the final.

He was the youngest-ever scorer at a men's Euros and with mesmerizing speed and footwork. Yamal is earning comparisons to

Messi, who was once photographed with the Argentina star when he was still a baby.

Yamal has arguably overtaken Mbappé as the man most likely to fill void when Messi and Ronaldo retire and an impressive World Cup could strengthen that argument.

JUDE BELLINGHAM

He's the midfielder virtually every top team wanted when Real Madrid sealed his signature in 2023.

He went on to lead the club to its 15th Champions League title and the Spanish title in his first season at the club before driving England to the final of the Euros with one of the goals of the tournament on the way.

Bellingham is a matchwinner capable of unforgettable moments on the biggest stage and despite an underwhelming season at Madrid, he will be one of England's biggest hopes as it

aims to win a major title for the first time since 1966.

NEYMAR

Brazil's all-time record goalscorer has carried the weight of a nation on his shoulders throughout his career.

Despite winning the biggest honors as a player, he is yet to lead Brazil to a record-extending sixth World Cup title.

Neymar, now 34, has been called

up by Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti for his fourth World Cup after enduring injuries and an underwhelming move to Saudi Arabia since the last edition in Qatar four years ago.

MOHAMED SALAH

The Egyptian icon is leaving Liverpool after a disappointing campaign, but remains his country's talisman.

Egypt will just have to hope the 33-year-old striker has saved his best for the World Cup.

Salah scored 257 goals in 442 and won a full set of trophies with Liverpool - including the Champions League and two Premier League titles.

With Egypt he has been runner up in two African Cup of Nations.

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

From an early age Pulisic was seen as capable of becoming American soccer's biggest overseas star.

He has gone on to play for some of Europe's biggest clubs in Germany, England and Italy, winning top honors along the way and none bigger than the Champions League with Chelsea.

Now at AC Milan the forward has discovered some of his most consistent form and will be an important part of Mauricio Pochettino's hopes to go far with the U.S. Men's National Team at a home World Cup. **MDT/AP**

AD



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
澳門賓菲加體育學校



FOOTBALL | BASKETBALL | DAILY TRAININGS

79th Annual Charity Ball BLOOMING TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rotary Club of Macau's 79th Annual Charity Ball "Blooming Together" was successfully held on 16 of May, 2026, at the Galaxy International Convention Center. We would like to thank you and all our sponsors for your kind and valuable support.

Diamond Sponsors:

MELCO
新濠

Silver Sponsors:

銀河娛樂 GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT MGM 美高梅 澳娛綜合 SJM Resorts, S.A.

Lucky Draw and/or Cash Sponsors:
(Sponsors' sequence is in alphabetical order)

			Immediate Past President Calvin Kuang							

Partners in Service:

--	--	--	--

Support:

Wine Sponsor:

Seapower 凱權
Sports • Wine • Beer

Media Partner:

OPINION

Our Desk

Yuki Lei



GRIEF WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

The heartbreaking death of a Macau schoolboy has stirred a rare storm of collective anger and mourning across the city, yet as ordinary citizens cry out for justice and change, the voices that matter most — our elected lawmakers and community leaders — have been conspicuously, and inexplicably, silent.

The traffic accident that has gripped Macau occurred on the evening of May 27, on a zebra crossing on Avenida do Conselheiro Borja. A 10-year-old boy in school uniform was struck by a high-speed seven-seater vehicle while crossing the road, was dragged underneath, and later died in hospital despite emergency treatment.

The tragedy has sparked unprecedented public mourning and widespread outrage, along with sustained calls for long-overdue traffic reform. At the heart of the public fury lies not just the heartbreak of a young life lost, but the growing belief that Macau's traffic laws — particularly the maximum five-year sentence for negligent homicide — are dangerously lenient, failing to deter reckless driving or deliver justice.

Grief has swept across Macau, but in the halls of power, the response has been muted. A few legislators have spoken out, demanding a full review of zebra crossing safety and tougher penalties for dangerous driving. But others have chosen to look away, and at least one prominent social leader, when asked for thoughts, replied only that it was “not convenient” to respond.

This is not the first time a zebra crossing has become a death trap. Similar tragedies have occurred over the years, each followed by the same ritual: public outrage, official promises, and then silence until the next accident. Each time, authorities pledged to review crossing safety. Each time, little changed. The difference now is not the accident itself but the public's refusal to accept business as usual.

Macau's media have faced severe restrictions and mounting pressure for self-censorship in recent years, with independent media particularly targeted by official crackdowns and legal charges, leading to a dramatic shrinkage of press freedom. In this climate, where civil society and independent commentators face a chilling effect when addressing controversial government-related issues, it now appears that even media outlets regarded as “pro-establishment media” are being forced into silence.

With independent media shuttered and official restrictions on press access increasingly stringent, critics have long observed that “Macau is heading toward a homogenized media landscape where almost no independent critical voices remain.” For many citizens, this traffic accident now represents the final straw — triggering a rare wave of collective outrage and mourning, and more significantly, a sense that they can no longer rely on lawmakers or social leaders to speak on their behalf.

But where, then, does the public turn? In healthier democracies, civil society organizations would amplify public anger into organized advocacy. In Macau, such groups are few, tightly controlled, or simply non-existent. The void has been filled by spontaneous online outrage, anonymous social media posts, and the quiet distribution of candles and flowers at accident sites. This is not a movement. It is a desperate signal that trust in institutional channels has evaporated.

If this tragedy is to mark a turning point, Macau needs more than a review of zebra crossing designs. It needs genuine accountability: legislators willing to ask hard questions without fear, a media landscape that includes independent voices, and traffic laws with penalties that actually deter reckless driving.

The public has done its part. Citizens have mourned, demanded answers, and refused to look away. Now it is time for those in power to respond — not with silence, not with “inconvenient” excuses, but with action.

US GRANTS VISA TO HAITIAN SOCCER PLAYER TO JOIN TEAM FOR WORLD CUP

The United States has granted a visa to Haitian soccer player Woodensky Pierre, allowing him to join Haiti's national team for the World Cup after days of uncertainty.

Haiti Football Federation spokesperson Thecieux Jeanty confirmed that Pierre left Port-au-Prince for Florida yesterday [Macau time], where the squad has been preparing since last week. Pierre is the only member of Haiti's World Cup team still based in Haiti.

Supporters, airport workers and family members gathered to see him off. Fans posed for photographs, while Pierre's mother embraced him repeatedly before his departure.

Pierre had remained in Haiti awaiting his visa while training with local players in Port-au-Prince. Security concerns have prevented the national team from using its stadium, forcing Haiti to play World Cup qualifiers in Curaçao.

The midfielder comes from Cité Soleil, a neighborhood in Port-au-Prince heavily affected by poverty and gang violence.

Haiti, appearing in the World Cup for only the second time and its first since 1974, will play warmup matches against New Zealand and Peru before opening against Scotland on June 13. The team will then face Brazil and Morocco.

THE BUZZ

AP PHOTO



UK GOV'T CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AT PROTEST OVER TEEN'S STABBING DEATH

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

BRITAIN'S interior minister accused activists of hijacking a tragedy to stir up violence after police were attacked at a protest over the death of a teenager who was handcuffed as he lay dying while his killer stood nearby.

Police were pelted with chairs, cans, rocks and flares late Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time) by some of the hundreds who attended a protest in the southern English coast city of Southampton, where Henry Nowak was killed in December. Two people were arrested and 11 officers and a police dog were injured, police said.

Nowak's death has triggered debates about policing and knife crime, and has spurred claims by far-right activists and politicians that there is bias against white people in the justice system.

Nowak's killer, Vickrum Digwa, who is Sikh, falsely claimed he was the victim of a racist assault by 18-year-old Nowak, who was white. When police officers arrived, they initially treated the wounded man as a suspect, before noticing his injury and trying to resuscitate him.

Home Secretary Shabana

Mahmood said Tuesday night's violence was “completely unacceptable.”

“The Nowak family made a powerful call to us all yesterday to not let Henry's death be used to create further division, hatred or tension,” she said. “There can be no justification for hijacking this tragedy to stir up violence and disorder. Those responsible can expect to face the full force of the law.”

Digwa, 23, was convicted of murder and sentenced Monday to life in prison with a minimum term of 21 years. The judge said he didn't believe Nowak had said anything racist to his attacker.

After the sentencing, police released video showing officers dismissing Nowak when he told them he had been stabbed and repeatedly said he couldn't breathe.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was sickened by the video and there are questions to be answered about how “accusations of racism informed the decision-making in this case.”

The Independent Office for Police Conduct, which investigates allegations of police wrongdoing, is probing the actions of the officers from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. The National Police

Chiefs' Council said it will review its anti-racism guidance in the wake of the killing.

After the sentencing hearing, the victim's father, Mark Nowak, said the case was not about racism or religion, and that he wanted his son's death to lead to safer streets and not to be used to create “further division, hatred or tension.”

But Nigel Farage, leader of the anti-immigration Reform UK party, said on Tuesday that it was an example of so-called two-tier policing — a popular far-right talking point that claims ethnic minorities are better treated than white people.

Farage urged people to respond to the incident with “pure cold rage,” and said “white lives matter just as much as Black lives.” X owner Elon Musk and British far-right activist Staphen Yaxley-Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson, have also expressed outrage at the crime.

Some politicians have called for Sikhs to be banned from carrying ceremonial knives, known as kirpans. The judge said Digwa had a small kirpan but also had an 8-inch (21-centimeter) sheathed Sikh dagger that was used as the weapon to kill Nowak. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Australia An Australian appeals court heard arguments yesterday on whether Indigenous activist Uncle Robbie Thorpe can pursue a private prosecution against King Charles III for alleged genocide. Judges reserved their decision, while Thorpe vowed to seek international legal avenues if domestic appeals fail.

AP PHOTO



Cuba Raúl Castro turned 95 yesterday as Cuba marked the birthday of the revolutionary leader and former president. Though officially retired since 2021, Castro remains an influential figure in Cuban politics, military affairs and relations with the United States amid continuing tensions.

Lebanon An Israeli strike hit a car near Beirut yesterday, hours before renewed U.S.-brokered ceasefire talks with Lebanon. Despite a limited agreement curbing attacks around the capital, fighting continued in southern Lebanon. Israel demands Hezbollah's disarmament, while Lebanon seeks a nationwide truce and troop withdrawal.

AP PHOTO



Russia Ukrainian drones struck and ignited an oil terminal in St. Petersburg yesterday ahead of President Vladimir Putin's appearance at a major economic forum. The attack highlighted Ukraine's expanding long-range capabilities and came amid escalating cross-border strikes as the war entered its fifth year.

AP PHOTO



UK Britain's competition regulator ordered Google yesterday to let publishers opt out of AI scraping for search summaries and generative services. The ruling also requires clearer citation links and greater publisher control, aiming to rebalance relations between media organizations and dominant search platforms.