



MACAU SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 24, 2026 - May 01, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Security Analysis Report: Macau (April 24, 2026 - May 01, 2026)

Executive Summary

Macau's security posture during this period was characterized by heightened internal control measures and ongoing efforts to manage cross-border movements, particularly in anticipation of the May Day holiday. The implementation of a new national security law, allowing closed-door trials, continues to solidify Beijing's influence over the Special Administrative Region's legal framework, drawing concerns from human rights organizations. Cybersecurity remains a persistent challenge, with government systems fending off millions of attacks monthly, while border authorities actively combat transit scheme abuses. Diplomatically, Macau's Chief Executive engaged in a European tour to strengthen economic ties, aligning the SAR's development with China's broader strategic plans and leveraging its role as a platform for China-Portuguese speaking country cooperation.

Key Security Developments

- **Tightened Border Control and Transit Scheme Abuse:** Macau authorities denied entry to over 2,500 mainland Chinese passport holders between January and April 20, 2026, due to suspected abuse of the city's transit entry arrangement. The Public Security Police Force indicated that individuals were refused entry for failing to present valid onward travel documents, not proceeding to a third country, or frequently entering and exiting to circumvent stay regulations. Additional enforcement measures, including joint inspections at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint, were deployed for the May Day holiday period (May 1-5, 2026) to ensure smooth border operations. This highlights Macau's ongoing efforts to maintain border integrity and prevent exploitation of its immigration policies.
- **Persistent Cybersecurity Threats to Government Infrastructure:** The Macau government's cloud computing center successfully repels an average of more than four million cyberattacks every month. Despite this high volume of attacks recorded throughout 2025, no significant security incidents have occurred to date, a testament to a "dedicated monitoring team" and a "rigorous security

management regime" in place. This indicates a continuous and significant cyber threat landscape, requiring robust and vigilant defensive measures.

- **Regional Counter-Terrorism Exercise Participation:** On April 16, 2026, the Macao Judiciary Police participated in the Counter Cyber & Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026, coordinated by the Hong Kong Police Force in collaboration with INTERPOL and other regional forces. The exercise simulated cyber and physical attacks by a cross-boundary terrorist cell against financial, aviation, and healthcare systems across Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Korea. Macau's involvement underscores its commitment to regional security cooperation and preparedness against hybrid terrorist threats.
- **Civil Protection Drill "Crystal Fish 2026":** A civil protection drill, code-named "Crystal Fish 2026," was scheduled to be held on April 25, 2026. Such drills are crucial for enhancing inter-agency coordination and emergency response capabilities in the event of various crises, including those with security implications.
- **Rise in Gaming-Related Crime:** Macau recorded 2,373 gaming-related crimes in 2025, marking a 63% increase from 1,456 cases in the previous year. This rise followed the criminalization of illegal money exchanges, which came into effect on October 29, 2024. Despite the overall increase, authorities noted that serious gambling-related crimes and organized crime, such as illegal lending for gambling and kidnapping, remained low and even decreased compared to 2024. This indicates a shift in the nature of gaming-related offenses, with authorities focusing on new legal frameworks to combat illicit financial activities.
- **New National Security Law and Closed-Door Trials:** A new national security law, passed on March 19, 2026, and effective during this reporting period, allows judges to hear national security cases behind closed doors and mandates defense lawyers to obtain clearances. This legislation strengthens Macau's Committee for Safeguarding National Security (CDSE) and reinforces the "patriots governing Macau" principle. Human Rights Watch has expressed concerns that this law could be susceptible to government misuse, potentially undermining the rule of law and the independence of lawyers.
- **Emphasis on National Security Education:** The annual National Security Education Exhibition, themed "Coordinating Development and Security, Safeguarding the New Journey of the 15th Five-Year Plan," is running from April 15 to May 15, 2026. Macau's Chief Executive, Sam Hou Fai, attended a military history exhibition by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Garrison in Macau on April 8, 2026, where he called on residents, especially youth, to embrace patriotic education and deepen their understanding of national security. These initiatives aim to foster a stronger sense of national identity and security awareness among the populace.

- **Diplomatic Engagement with Portugal and Spain:** Macau's Chief Executive, Sam Hou Fai, concluded a visit to Portugal and Spain on April 22, 2026, with reports on his engagements continuing into the reporting period. The visit aimed to strengthen economic cooperation and leverage Macau's unique role as a service platform connecting China with Portuguese-speaking countries. This diplomatic outreach aligns with Macau's strategic positioning within China's broader foreign policy objectives.
- **US "Bulk Sensitive Data Rule" Implications:** The US Department of Justice's "Bulk Sensitive Data Rule," effective March 1, 2026, was highlighted on April 30, 2026, as restricting US persons and companies from providing access to sensitive data to "countries of concern," including China, Hong Kong, and Macau. This rule could impact cross-border data flows and economic interactions between Macau and US entities.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Macau's security developments during this period are largely reflective of its status as a Special Administrative Region of China, with Beijing's overarching national security agenda playing a dominant role. The new national security law, allowing closed-door trials, is a significant step in aligning Macau's legal system more closely with mainland China's approach to national security, further solidifying the "patriots governing Macau" principle. This move, while criticized by human rights groups, is consistent with China's broader strategy to enhance control and stability within its territories, particularly following similar legislation in Hong Kong. The emphasis on national security education, including the exhibition and the Chief Executive's visit to the PLA Garrison, reinforces this narrative internally.

Regionally, Macau's participation in the Counter Cyber & Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026 demonstrates its integration into a broader security network with Hong Kong, Singapore, and Korea. This cooperation highlights a shared concern over hybrid threats and the importance of coordinated responses in a highly interconnected region. The ongoing efforts to manage border crossings, especially with mainland China, are crucial for maintaining public order and economic stability, particularly given Macau's reliance on tourism. The forecast of up to 3.7 million border crossers during the May Day holiday underscores the scale of these cross-border movements and the continuous need for robust security measures.

Macau's diplomatic engagements, such as the Chief Executive's visit to Portugal and Spain, position the SAR as a key platform for China's international outreach, particularly with Portuguese-speaking countries. This leverages Macau's historical and linguistic ties to serve China's economic and geopolitical interests, including the Belt

and Road Initiative. However, the US Department of Justice's "Bulk Sensitive Data Rule," which includes Macau as a "country of concern," introduces a potential point of friction in data exchange and economic relations with the United States. This reflects the broader strategic competition between the US and China, where even SARs like Macau can become indirectly impacted by geopolitical tensions.

Military and Defense Analysis

As a Special Administrative Region, Macau does not possess an independent military force; its defense is the responsibility of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Garrison in Macau. During this reporting period, there were no direct reports of military activities, exercises, defense acquisitions, or arms deals specific to Macau. However, the Chief Executive's attendance at a military history exhibition by the PLA Garrison on April 8, 2026, and his call for patriotic education, serve as a reminder of the PLA's presence and its role in fostering national identity and security awareness within the SAR.

The focus of Macau's defense and security efforts appears to be on internal security, border control, and preparedness for non-military threats such as cyberattacks and terrorism. The participation of the Macao Judiciary Police in the regional Counter Cyber & Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise 2026 on April 16, 2026, indicates a commitment to enhancing capabilities in these areas through inter-agency and international cooperation. Similarly, the scheduled "Crystal Fish 2026" civil protection drill on April 25, 2026, further emphasizes a focus on comprehensive emergency response, which would involve various security and public safety agencies. Defense spending trends and modernization programs for the PLA Garrison are determined by Beijing and are not typically reported as specific to Macau. Instead, Macau's role in the broader national security framework is primarily administrative and supportive, aligning with China's 15th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Macau will likely continue to prioritize internal security and stability, particularly given the ongoing implementation of the new national security law and the persistent threat of cyberattacks. Border control measures are expected to remain stringent, especially around major holidays, to prevent illegal immigration and transit scheme abuses. Economic diversification, aligned with China's 15th Five-Year Plan, will be a key focus, with efforts to leverage Macau's platform role for China-Portuguese speaking country cooperation. The tourism sector will continue its recovery, with authorities managing large influxes of visitors.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary risk areas for Macau include potential challenges to the new national security law, which could lead to international scrutiny or internal dissent, though significant public opposition is historically limited. The constant barrage of cyberattacks against government infrastructure poses an ongoing threat to critical services and data integrity. Any significant economic downturn in mainland China could also indirectly impact Macau's gaming and tourism-dependent economy, potentially leading to social stability concerns. Geopolitical tensions between China and Western powers, particularly regarding data security and human rights, could create diplomatic and economic pressures on Macau.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the enforcement and public reception of the new national security law, any reported breaches or significant disruptions due to cyberattacks, and the effectiveness of border control measures in managing large visitor flows. Economic indicators such as tourism arrivals, gaming revenue, and progress in economic diversification initiatives will also be crucial. Additionally, any statements or actions from international bodies or foreign governments regarding Macau's autonomy or human rights situation should be closely watched, as well as the broader trajectory of China's relations with major global powers.

Strategic recommendations: Macau should continue to invest heavily in cybersecurity infrastructure and expertise to counter sophisticated and frequent cyber threats. Proactive communication regarding the implementation of the national security law, emphasizing its legal basis and due process, could help mitigate international criticism. Strengthening cooperation with mainland Chinese authorities on border management and intelligence sharing is essential for maintaining public order and preventing cross-border criminal activities. Furthermore, Macau should continue to diversify its economy away from over-reliance on gaming, focusing on its role as a service platform and cultural hub, to build greater resilience against external economic shocks and geopolitical shifts.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: Macau Daily Times

- [Sam Hou Fai calls for stronger labor force to support economic diversification](#) (2026-05-01 01:08)

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has called on all sectors of society to strengthen support for workers and promote labor values, stressing that labor is the foundation of both economic development and social progress. Speaking at a reception marking the 136th International Labor Day, Sam extended his greetings to workers across all industries and expressed [...] The post Sam Hou Fai calls for stronger labor force to support economic diversification appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Wood-fire Flavours](#) (2026-05-01 01:06)

MGM’ s recent “Gastronomic Journey with Star Chefs” series, welcome back culinary master Chef Dave Pynt, chef-owner and founder of Singapore’ s award-winning wood-fire grill restaurant Burnt Ends. Chef Pynt returns to Macau for his second guest-chef takeover, presenting an exclusive epicurean experience at Grill 58 of MGM Cotai. Showcasing refined Australian-style barbecue, the pop-up offers an exceptional [...] The post Wood-fire Flavours appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’ t in ‘no rush’ to implement senior meal pilot previously set for last month](#) (2026-05-01 01:04)

The government had announced a “Pilot Scheme for Elderly Cafeteria Service for Seniors” in Seac Pai Van for this month, but with April now ended and no sign of the program, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) stated that it is in no rush to implement it. Earlier last month, Secretary for Social and Cultural Affairs [...] The post Gov’ t in ‘no rush’ to implement senior meal pilot previously set for last month appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [MGTO projects 800,000 visitors during May Day holiday](#) (2026-05-01 01:02)

Macau’ s tourism sector is preparing for a surge in arrivals as mainland China’ s May Day Golden Week begins today (May 1), with authorities estimating an average of around 160,000 visitors per day over the five-day holiday, totaling approximately 800,000 arrivals, Macao Governemnt Tourism Office (MGTO) director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said. Hotel occupancy rates [...] The post MGTO projects 800,000 visitors during May Day holiday appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Smoking ban at school and daycare entrances to expand to 12 more sites](#) (2026-05-01 01:00)

Smoking will be banned at the entrances of eight more schools and four more nurseries starting in June. The results of the public consultation on amendments to the Tobacco Control Law are also set to be released that month, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced. The plan was revealed by Health Bureau director Alvis Lo during [...] The post Smoking ban at school and daycare entrances to expand to 12 more sites appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Showers and thunderstorms expected during May Day holiday](#) (2026-05-01 00:58)

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau has forecast mostly cloudy conditions with showers during the upcoming May Day holiday and the following weekend. Under the influence of easterly winds, Friday and Saturday (May 1–2) will start off cloudy with occasional showers. A trough of low pressure is expected to move closer to the coast of Guangdong [...] The post Showers and thunderstorms expected during May Day holiday appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [March imports surge 26%](#) (2026-05-01 00:56)

The total value of merchandise imports rose 26% year-on-year to MOP12.98 billion in March, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Imports of mobile phones surged by 110%, while gold jewellery increased by 36%. In contrast, imports of food and beverages fell by 13.4% during the same period. Export value also grew [...] The post March imports surge 26% appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [DSOP reviews LRT South Line integration](#) (2026-05-01 00:54)

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said it is reviewing a proposal to integrate the LRT South Line cross-sea section with a passage linking to Zone A of the New Urban Area. It noted that existing links, including the A1 and A2 bridges and the B ramp, already include pedestrian walkways. The A3 flyover is expected [...] The post DSOP reviews LRT South Line integration appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [IPIM opens second phase applications for ‘First Store Economy’ plan](#) (2026-05-01 00:52)

Macau’s “First Store Economy Scheme” will open its second-phase applications from May 1 to July 31, the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) announced. The first phase received 20 preliminary applications that met the scheme’s objectives and requirements, involving brands from Portugal, mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, including tech-driven concepts such as interactive motion [...] The post IPIM opens second phase applications for ‘First Store Economy’ plan appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau joins China’s C929 certification team as four deals are signed](#) (2026-05-01 00:50)

Civil aviation authorities from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau signed four cooperative arrangements in Hong Kong yesterday, deepening mutual recognition of airworthiness

standards and launching joint certification work on the C929 wide-body passenger aircraft. The agreements were signed by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department, and the [...] The post Macau joins China's C929 certification team as four deals are signed appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Openness of China benefits its trading partners](#) (2026-05-01 00:02)

The global economic landscape stands at a crossroads. While some traditional economic powers have retreated behind protectionism and unilateral tariffs, China has charted a decisively different course. Beijing's strategy to expand imports while optimizing their structure has become a stabilizing force in global trade. This is not merely a policy of convenience but a manifestation [...] The post Openness of China benefits its trading partners appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Friday, May 1, 2026 – edition no. 4942](#) (2026-05-01 00:01)

\* Lease In Flux — Public housing commercial lease system under scrutiny as rent-free incentives, renewal rules and reforms draw attention across districts \* Labor Day | Sam Hou Fai calls for stronger labor force to support economic diversification \* Taste of Edesia \* Elderly meal pilot in Seac Pai Van has missed its launch [...] The post Friday, May 1, 2026 – edition no. 4942 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Mainland Chinese lead Macau's 14,246 overstayers as illegal worker cases rise](#) (2026-04-30 00:52)

Macau recorded 14,246 overstayers last year – mostly from mainland China – along with a rise in illegal worker cases, according to the 2025 crime statistics released online by the Office of the Secretary for Security. Mainland Chinese nationals accounted for 13,651 of Macau's 14,246 visa overstayers in 2025 – a 2% annual decline – [...] The post Mainland Chinese lead Macau's 14,246 overstayers as illegal worker cases rise appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Sands China unveils upgraded revitalization program for historic street](#) (2026-04-30 00:50)

Sands China Ltd. launched its Community Revitalization Program 2.0 for Rua das Estalagens on Wednesday at a press conference at the Londoner Macao, where the company unveiled new initiatives to support small businesses on the culturally rich street. The Rua das Estalagens program builds on the original edition's success and aligns with the Macau SAR [...] The post Sands China unveils upgraded revitalization program for historic street appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov't launches online column to support deeper Macau-Hengqin integration](#) (2026-04-30 00:48)

The Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) has launched a new online column, “Macau-Hengqin Integration,” aimed at improving public access to policy updates as the second phase of

development in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone progresses. The column, available on the bureau's official website in Chinese and Portuguese, is designed to provide more systematic and timely information [...] The post Gov't launches online column to support deeper Macau-Hengqin integration appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Consumption campaign drives MOP290 million in spending](#) (2026-04-30 00:46)

The 2026 Community Consumption Rewards campaign has generated strong early results, with authorities reporting a surge in transactions and spending during its first two weeks. The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) said the 10-week initiative recorded 1.7 million eligible transactions for raffle entries, with daily transaction volume nearly doubling compared with the same period [...] The post Consumption campaign drives MOP290 million in spending appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Mining is poisoning Mekong River, that starts in China, threatening 'the world's kitchen'](#) (2026-04-30 00:44)

Perched on the bow of his long-tail fishing boat, 75-year-old Sukjai Yana untangled a handful of small fish from his net, disappointed by his catch and fretting over whether he can sell them. Some days Yana earns nothing: demand for fish is falling due to worries over contamination of the Mekong River and its tributaries [...] The post Mining is poisoning Mekong River, that starts in China, threatening 'the world's kitchen' appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau takes new approach to metal cages, flower racks](#) (2026-04-30 00:42)

Authorities are refining subsidy programs to encourage property owners to voluntarily remove metal cages and flower racks, as relying solely on subsidies to demolish unauthorized structures has yielded "limited" results. The Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) will combine the amended Legal Regime of Urban Construction, effective July, with public outreach to eliminate long-standing hazards. [...] The post Macau takes new approach to metal cages, flower racks appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Advertising Law mandates platform reporting, personal use by endorsers](#) (2026-04-30 00:40)

The Legislative Assembly has passed the Advertising Law bill, effective January 1 next year. The law requires internet platform operators to restrict or suspend illegal advertisements and report them to authorities. Endorsers must personally use products or services before recommending them, or cite relevant information if unable to do so. Authorities said the law primarily [...] The post Advertising Law mandates platform reporting, personal use by endorsers appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Hunan film internships return as Macau pushes youth into AI-powered media production](#) (2026-04-30 00:38)

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has reopened applications for a month-long film and television production internship in Hunan province in southern China, as the government continues its push to diversify the local economy and equip young people with skills in emerging fields such as AI-generated content. The “2026 Hunan Film & TV Internship Program for [...] The post Hunan film internships return as Macau pushes youth into AI-powered media production appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [CCAC refers casino bribery case to prosecutors after HKD500 offer rejected](#) (2026-04-30 00:36)

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has concluded an investigation into a case of active bribery involving a woman who attempted to gain unauthorized entry into a casino. According to the investigation, the woman had been previously banned from entering the casinos of an integrated resort. Despite the restriction, she was suspected of offering HKD500 to [...] The post CCAC refers casino bribery case to prosecutors after HKD500 offer rejected appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’ t steps up crackdown on illegal tour guides, lodging ahead of Labor Day](#) (2026-04-30 00:34)

Tourism authorities have stepped up enforcement against illegal tour guiding and unlicensed accommodation ahead of the Labor Day holiday. From January to April 26, the Macao Government Tourism Office conducted 523 inspections, uncovering three suspected illegal tour guide cases and receiving 21 related complaints. Authorities also carried out 102 joint operations with police, inspecting 176 [...] The post Gov’ t steps up crackdown on illegal tour guides, lodging ahead of Labor Day appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Organized crime: Europol task force nets 280 arrests as ‘violence for hire’ spreads across Europe](#) (2026-04-30 00:04)

An international task force formed to crack down on violence as a criminal service has led to 280 arrests in its first year, the European Union’s police agency, Europol, reported yesterday. The arrests underscore a trend across the continent of criminals hiring people — many of them youngsters — via social media and messaging apps [...] The post Organized crime: Europol task force nets 280 arrests as ‘violence for hire’ spreads across Europe appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [The numbers say 1.6%; the streets say otherwise](#) (2026-04-30 00:02)

With International Labor Day approaching, several Macau legislators used Tuesday’s Legislative Assembly session to voice concerns over labor rights and employment — particularly the principle of prioritizing local residents. While one lawmaker linked youth unemployment to skills mismatches and inequality, the real drivers of the issue may not lie entirely with the

authorities. Official data [...] The post The numbers say 1.6%; the streets say otherwise appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Thursday, April 30, 2026 – edition no. 4941](#) (2026-04-30 00:01)

\* Overstayers climb — Mainland Chinese dominate Macau’s 14,200 overstayers as illegal worker cases jump 27% despite overall crime falling and enforcement intensifying \* Revival push — Sands China rolls out upgraded program to revitalize Rua das Estalagens, backing SMEs and heritage businesses with funding and training \* Government launches online column aimed at improving [...] The post Thursday, April 30, 2026 – edition no. 4941 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [GEG and CPTTM Hold “GEG SME Series: Quality Enhancement Certification Program” Award Ceremony to Empower Local SMEs](#) (2026-04-29 09:53)

As the first integrated tourism and leisure enterprise in Macau to promote “Large Businesses Leading Small Businesses” business model, Galaxy Entertainment Group ( “GEG” ) has actively supported local SMEs through a range of diversified initiatives to foster their sustainable development. Since 2024, GEG has launched the “GEG SME Series: Quality Enhancement Certification Program” to support eligible [...] The post GEG and CPTTM Hold “GEG SME Series: Quality Enhancement Certification Program” Award Ceremony to Empower Local SMEs appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Lawmaker pushes ‘people-first’ policy amid youth unemployment rise](#) (2026-04-29 00:46)

On the eve of International Workers’ Day, legislator Leong Sun Iok urged Macau authorities to adopt a “people-first” approach, citing a recent International Labor Organization report showing that youth unemployment among local residents rose year over year last year. Citing the International Labor Organization’s latest report, legislator Leong Sun Iok pointed out that Macau’s unemployment [...] The post Lawmaker pushes ‘people-first’ policy amid youth unemployment rise appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Yacht free travel scheme hinges on Guangdong green light](#) (2026-04-29 00:44)

Macau has long promoted yacht free travel with mainland China’s nine Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area cities as part of its economic diversification push, with the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) confirming yesterday that an online pre-booking system is already operational and berths and customs systems are ready – pending final approval of a temporary [...] The post Yacht free travel scheme hinges on Guangdong green light appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’t rolls out May lineup led by two-month arts festival, obstacle challenge](#) (2026-04-29 00:42)

Local authorities have unveiled a dense calendar of cultural and sports activities for May, headlined by the 36th Macao Arts Festival running from May 8 to June 27 and the first round of a new competitive obstacle challenge on May 31. The arts festival, budgeted at MOP22 million, adopts the theme “Cultural Encounter on the [...] The post Gov’ t rolls out May lineup led by two-month arts festival, obstacle challenge appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’ t preps Labor Day crowd controls with up to 1.1 million arrivals](#) (2026-04-29 00:40)

With the Labor Day holiday approaching, authorities have rolled out a series of traffic and crowd control measures to handle the expected influx of visitors from April 30 to May 5. The Transport Bureau (DSAT), in coordination with the police, customs, bus operators, and resort firms, announced that pedestrian-only zones will be established from May [...] The post Gov’ t preps Labor Day crowd controls with up to 1.1 million arrivals appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macao New Neighbourhood surpasses 4,000 residents as larger units unveiled](#) (2026-04-29 00:38)

More than 4,000 people are now living in the Macao New Neighbourhood housing project in Hengqin, a key milestone for the cross-border development designed for Macau residents, project officials said. The development, which opened for sales in November 2023 and saw its first residents move in in September 2024, has added a new large-unit show [...] The post Macao New Neighbourhood surpasses 4,000 residents as larger units unveiled appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [SME credit approvals rise 22% in 2025](#) (2026-04-29 00:36)

Macao banks increased lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in 2025, supported by a gradual economic recovery and easing interest rates, according to new data from the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM). However, the sector also saw a deterioration in loan quality, with delinquency levels reaching a multi-year high. Total new SME credit approvals [...] The post SME credit approvals rise 22% in 2025 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Legislator raises concerns over low prize rate in relaunched consumption campaign](#) (2026-04-29 00:34)

A legislator raised concerns yesterday over public feedback that the prize rate for the relaunched Community Consumer Rewards campaign was low, questioning its effectiveness in stimulating consumer spending, while another legislator suggested that the existing “ticket-driven economy” could serve as a positive force for driving community economic development. Legislative Assembly (AL) member Wong Kit Cheng, [...] The post Legislator raises concerns over low prize rate in relaunched consumption campaign appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [DSEDJ to host series of events for May 4](#) (2026-04-29 00:32)

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), partnering with the May Fourth Youth Day Commemoration Organizing Committee, unveiled a comprehensive lineup of activities Tuesday to mark the 107th anniversary of the historic May Fourth Movement, aiming to instill its core values of patriotism, progress, democracy, and science in over 6,000 young participants. The initiatives, announced [...] The post DSEDJ to host series of events for May 4 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Crime cases fall 5.9% in 2025](#) (2026-04-29 00:30)

Macau recorded a decline in criminal investigations in 2025, with a total of 13,458 criminal cases opened over the year, down 5.9% from 2024, according to the Office of the Secretary for Security. During the same period, 5,925 individuals were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office, an increase of 9.7% year-on-year. The security authorities said [...] The post Crime cases fall 5.9% in 2025 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Credit concerns drive loan rejections for SMEs, survey finds](#) (2026-04-29 00:28)

More than one-third of banks cite weak credit profiles as the leading reason for rejecting small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) loan applications, according to the Monetary Authority of Macao's (AMCM) latest SME credit survey for the second half of 2025. The report, which compiles responses from participating banks on lending conditions, provides a broad indication [...] The post Credit concerns drive loan rejections for SMEs, survey finds appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – edition no. 4940](#) (2026-04-29 00:01)

\* Jobs pressure — Lawmaker pushes ‘people-first’ policy as youth unemployment rises and skills mismatch deepens, urging reforms in labor protections and training \* Tourism | Yacht free travel scheme hinges on Guangdong green light \* Culture | Gov’ t rolls out May lineup led by two-month arts festival \* Gov’ t prepares Labor Day crowd controls [...] The post Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – edition no. 4940 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau braces for surge in mainland visitors over May Day holiday](#) (2026-04-28 00:50)

The hotel and tourism industry expects occupancy rates to remain stable at high levels during the mainland Chinese five-day May Day holiday that begins Friday, with the Area Development Center anticipating that its events in the Barra revitalization area from May 1 to 3 will attract around 10,000 visitors. The May Day holiday is expected [...] The post Macau braces for surge in mainland visitors over May Day holiday appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Ella Lei calls for transport hub to ease Taipa Village congestion](#) (2026-04-28 00:48)

With tourist crowds overwhelming Taipa Village's narrow roads, lawmaker Ella Lei has urged authorities to convert idle land into a transport hub and revive the Iec Long Old Firecracker

Factory. In a recent written interpellation to the Legislative Assembly (AL), Lei targeted a large unused plot near Chun Su Mei. “According to residents, although the [...] The post Ella Lei calls for transport hub to ease Taipa Village congestion appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [CE secures EU, Belgian pledges on trade, tech, and economy](#) (2026-04-28 00:46)

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai secured a series of cooperation pledges in trade, technology, and economic development during high-level meetings with European Union and Belgian officials in Geneva and Brussels, as part of his first overseas visit since taking office. The four-day visit, spanning April 24-27, highlighted the government’s ambitions for Macau as a bridge [...] The post CE secures EU, Belgian pledges on trade, tech, and economy appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau signals bid for mainland Chinese student market as Hong Kong, Singapore loom as rivals](#) (2026-04-28 00:44)

Macau is signaling it wants to compete with Hong Kong, Singapore, and Western countries for Chinese students seeking cross-border education, as the city’s education authority led seven local universities on a promotional tour to Shanghai last week. The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) organized the delegation to participate in the 31st China International Education [...] The post Macau signals bid for mainland Chinese student market as Hong Kong, Singapore loom as rivals appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’t sees 10% rise in suspicious transaction reports](#) (2026-04-28 00:42)

Macau recorded a 10% increase in suspicious transaction reports in the first quarter of 2026, as authorities warn that rapid growth in virtual assets, digital payments and cross-border fraud is reshaping the city’s financial crime landscape. The data was revealed at the “2026 Anti-Money Laundering/Anti-Financial Crime Annual Conference” held during the weekend at the Macau [...] The post Gov’t sees 10% rise in suspicious transaction reports appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Sands China’s reinvestment strategy may keep EBITDA margins under pressure, CreditSights warns](#) (2026-04-28 00:40)

Sands China EBITDA margins will likely trend lower in 2026 as the casino operator ramps up its player reinvestment strategy to chase market share in Macau’s premium gaming market, according to CreditSights. In a note Friday, the Fitch Group firm described Sands China’s first-quarter 2026 results as “decent” despite softer margins. It maintained a Market [...] The post Sands China’s reinvestment strategy may keep EBITDA margins under pressure, CreditSights warns appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [AlipayHK companion code rolls out for Macau buses](#) (2026-04-28 00:38)

Hong Kong travelers can now pay Macau bus fares using the AlipayHK “Companion Code” feature for up to two companions, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday. The fare is MOP6 per person per trip, with no transfer or other discounts. The feature is also available on mainland Alipay and both mainland and Hong Kong versions [...] The post AlipayHK companion code rolls out for Macau buses appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau to host PATA Travel Mart again after eight-year gap](#) (2026-04-28 00:36)

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart will be held in Macau for the third time from September 20 to 22 next year, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday. Preparations are already underway to showcase Macau’s dynamic development as a global tourism and leisure hub to tourism officials and professionals from the [...] The post Macau to host PATA Travel Mart again after eight-year gap appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Residents lose HKD1.3 million in online investment scams](#) (2026-04-28 00:34)

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have received reports of an online investment scam and a fake “law enforcement” impersonation case, with two victims losing a combined HKD1.3 million. An elderly foreign male resident in Macau lost HKD985,000 after joining a social media investment group in February 2026 and transferring funds three times for stock trading. He [...] The post Residents lose HKD1.3 million in online investment scams appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Zhuhai Customs seizes suspected cannabis from traveller at Jiuzhou Port](#) (2026-04-28 00:32)

Zhuhai Customs said it intercepted a traveler suspected of carrying cannabis into mainland China at Jiuzhou Port. The passenger entered through the “green channel” on Apr.19 and was found to be visibly nervous during inspection, officials said. Upon further examination, officers discovered a sealed plastic bag containing a yellow-green plant material with a strong pungent [...] The post Zhuhai Customs seizes suspected cannabis from traveller at Jiuzhou Port appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Six-year programme equips neurodivergent participants to lead public events](#) (2026-04-28 00:30)

A six-year training programme in Macau has been helping neurodivergent participants develop the skills needed to organise and eventually lead public events, with organisers highlighting a steady shift toward greater independence and community collaboration. Ada Lo, CEO of XDChannel Consultant Limited, has worked with members of the Macau IC2 Association ( “I Can Too” ) since 2020. [...] The post Six-year programme equips neurodivergent participants to lead public events appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Attack threatening Trump reflects rising political violence in US](#) (2026-04-28 00:02)

For the third time in three years, Donald Trump has come under threat by an attacker. Many facts remain unclear after a gunman stormed the Washington Hilton [last Saturday], during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner. As the investigation continues, Alfonso Serrano, The Conversation's politics and society editor, spoke with James Piazza, a political violence [...] The post Attack threatening Trump reflects rising political violence in US appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – edition no. 4939](#) (2026-04-28 00:01)

\* Holiday surge — Macau braces for May Day influx as visitor numbers are expected to match or exceed pre-pandemic levels, with hotels near full occupancy and events driving traffic \* Traffic | Lawmaker Lei calls for transport hub for Taipa Village \* Cooperation | Sam secures EU, Belgian pledges on trade, tech, and economy [...] The post Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – edition no. 4939 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Pedestrian jaywalking drops but red-light violations by vehicles surge](#) (2026-04-27 00:40)

Traffic accidents and pedestrian jaywalking cases dropped year-on-year in the first quarter, but red-light violations by vehicles surged by 1.1 times, resulting in 177,000 prosecutions and MOP46.6 million in fines, according to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). Traffic accidents fell 5.2% year-on-year in the first quarter of this year to 3,426 cases, but injuries [...] The post Pedestrian jaywalking drops but red-light violations by vehicles surge appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Pedestrian zones make May Day comeback in Taipa and Macau peninsula](#) (2026-04-27 00:38)

Taipa Village, along with Rua dos Ervanários and Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo on the Macau peninsula, will once again be designated as pedestrian zones for the May Day holiday, which falls this Friday, with vehicles banned daily from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 1-4. The Taipa Village pedestrian zone will stretch [...] The post Pedestrian zones make May Day comeback in Taipa and Macau peninsula appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Hoteliers brace for tepid Golden Week as room rates slip 10%](#) (2026-04-27 00:36)

With Golden Week days away, the hotel industry faces an uncomfortable reality: rooms are filling, but rates aren't keeping up. Average daily rates have softened by approximately 10% compared to last year, according to Rutger Verschuren, area vice president at Artyzen Hospitality Group and general manager of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau. "The downside is that [...] The post Hoteliers brace for tepid Golden Week as room rates slip 10% appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Tap Seacraft Market draws strong turnout as vendors point to business opportunities](#) (2026-04-27 00:34)

Vendors at the Tap Seac Craft Market say strong crowds, repeat customers, and growing business opportunities are key highlights of this year's spring edition, which opened last week at Tap Seac Square and brings together more than 200 creative and handicraft stalls from Macau and across Asia. Participants from Thailand, Macau, and other regional markets [...] The post Tap Seac Craft Market draws strong turnout as vendors point to business opportunities appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [ANZAC Day celebrated in Macau](#) (2026-04-27 00:32)

An important commemorative event for Australia and New Zealand was marked in Macau over the weekend, as the community gathered to observe ANZAC Day on April 25. The annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held on April 25 at the Grand Hyatt. The Australian Chamber of Commerce Macau organized a reception on Friday evening at [...] The post ANZAC Day celebrated in Macau appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Visitor arrivals rise 13.7% in Q1](#) (2026-04-27 00:30)

Macau recorded 11,213,904 visitor arrivals in the first quarter of 2026, an increase of 13.7% year on year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Same-day visitors rose 20.3% to 7,007,320, while overnight visitors increased 4.1% to 4,206,584. The average length of stay slightly declined by 0.1 day to 1.0 day, while overnight visitors [...] The post Visitor arrivals rise 13.7% in Q1 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [CE wraps Europe tour, touts deeper ties in trade, tourism and high-tech sectors](#) (2026-04-27 00:28)

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai returned to Macau yesterday after leading a delegation of government officials and business representatives on visits to Portugal and Spain, followed by stops in Geneva, Switzerland, and Brussels, Belgium – including the European Union headquarters – where he highlighted Macau's development achievements under the successful implementation of the 'One country, [...] The post CE wraps Europe tour, touts deeper ties in trade, tourism and high-tech sectors appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Unemployment rate falls slightly to 2.1% in Q1](#) (2026-04-27 00:26)

The city's unemployment rate for local residents stood at 2.1% in January–March 2026, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous rolling period, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The underemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.1%. The number of unemployed residents totaled 6,000, with most previously employed in retail trade and the gaming sector. [...] The post Unemployment rate falls slightly to 2.1% in Q1 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [March inflation rises 1.06% y-o-y](#) (2026-04-27 00:24)

Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.06% year on year in March 2026 but fell 0.18% month on month, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). For the 12 months ending March, average inflation increased by 0.53% compared with the previous period. Food, transport, and personal services posted notable annual gains, while alcohol and [...] The post March inflation rises 1.06% y-o-y appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Man caught smuggling 51kg of cooked meals at Hengqin checkpoint](#) (2026-04-27 00:22)

A 35-year-old Macau man was intercepted by customs on April 22 at the Hengqin Port inbound vehicle lane while attempting to smuggle cooked meal boxes into Macau, according to TDM. Customs officers found a large batch of uninspected cooked food weighing about 51 kilograms in the trunk of a light vehicle. The man admitted to [...] The post Man caught smuggling 51kg of cooked meals at Hengqin checkpoint appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Monday, April 27, 2026 – edition no. 4938](#) (2026-04-27 00:01)

\* Rules go red — Red-light violations surge despite drop in traffic accidents and jaywalking in Q1 \* Society | Pedestrian zones make May Day comeback \* Tourism | Hoteliers brace for tepid Golden Week as room rates slip 10% \* Vendors say strong crowds, repeat customers, and business opportunities define this spring’ s Tap [...] The post Monday, April 27, 2026 – edition no. 4938 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Shots fired as gunman charges toward ballroom at White House correspondents’ dinner. Trump unharmed](#) (2026-04-26 09:37)

A man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby outside the White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner attended by President Donald Trump on Saturday night (today, Macau time), charging toward the ballroom in a chaotic encounter with Secret Service agents as guests dived under tables at the sound of shots being fired. The president was [...] The post Shots fired as gunman charges toward ballroom at White House correspondents’ dinner. Trump unharmed appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [48 tourism agreements lift Macau-Spain ties to new level, CE says in Madrid](#) (2026-04-24 01:02)

Having concluded his Portugal visit on Tuesday afternoon local time, Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai arrived in Madrid, Spain, and reported that the one-day visit had brought bilateral cooperation to a new level, with 48 agreements jointly signed with Spain. Reportedly, the CE summarized the outcomes of his visit to Spain on Wednesday local [...] The post 48 tourism agreements lift Macau-Spain ties to new level, CE says in Madrid appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau expects visitor growth, but legislators push for tourism upgrades](#) (2026-04-24 01:00)

Macau is forecasting continued growth in visitor arrivals, supported by rising international tourist numbers, but lawmakers are pressing the government to enhance the city’ s tourism

offerings and better distribute economic benefits across local communities. During his European visit, Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai summarized his itinerary in Spain on Wednesday, local time, addressing media [...] The post Macau expects visitor growth, but legislators push for tourism upgrades appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Grand Bombana Feast](#) (2026-04-24 00:58)

Last week, to celebrate Italian cuisine as UNESCO heritage – in a rare convergence of culinary mastery, Chef Umberto Bombana gathers his protégés—now helming Michelin-starred kitchens across Macau, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Bangkok—for an unprecedented gastronomic summit. Revered as the King of White Truffles and the maestro behind the first three-Michelin-starred Italian restaurant outside Italy, Bombana [...] The post Grand Bombana Feast appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [South Shore Green Promenade Zone 2 opens to public](#) (2026-04-24 00:56)

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has opened Zone 2 of the second phase of the South Shore Waterfront Green Promenade to the public, marking another milestone in the city’ s ongoing waterfront enhancement project. The newly accessible zone, located between Macau Tower and Portas do Entendimento, spans about 17,000 square meters along the coast and offers [...] The post South Shore Green Promenade Zone 2 opens to public appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau and Vietnam endorse criminal judicial assistance draft](#) (2026-04-24 00:54)

Macau and Vietnam have initialed a draft criminal judicial assistance agreement following two days of consultations held in Macau, marking progress toward formal cross-border legal cooperation. A Vietnamese delegation visited Macau on April 20 and 21 at the invitation of the Macau government to negotiate the agreement, which is intended to strengthen cooperation in criminal [...] The post Macau and Vietnam endorse criminal judicial assistance draft appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Macau Orchestra posts MOP56 million deficit as financial pressure persists](#) (2026-04-24 00:52)

Macao Orchestra Company Limited, which manages the city’ s two flagship orchestras, remained in the red for the fourth consecutive year in 2025, posting a loss of nearly MOP56 million, according to an annual report released yesterday. The government-backed company, established in early 2022 to professionalize operations and reduce reliance on public funds, saw its losses [...] The post Macau Orchestra posts MOP56 million deficit as financial pressure persists appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Gov’ t secures 43 trade deals in Spain mission](#) (2026-04-24 00:50)

Macau’ s first economic and trade mission to Spain has resulted in 43 cooperation agreements and 104 business matching sessions during a one-day conference in Madrid. The

“Macau-Spain Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference,” held on April 22 local time, brought together about 170 government and business representatives from mainland China, Spain, Macau, and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth [...] The post Gov’ t secures 43 trade deals in Spain mission appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Beijing talks highlight Macau diversification push](#) (2026-04-24 00:48)

The director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Chinese People’ s Political Consultative Conference and the State Council’ s Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Xia Baolong, met in Beijing on Wednesday with a delegation led by the president of the Macau Legislative Assembly, André Cheong. According to a report on the office’ s [...] The post Beijing talks highlight Macau diversification push appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Over-height truck strikes tunnel ceiling, roof detaches](#) (2026-04-24 00:46)

An over-height truck entered the underground tunnel on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, first striking a height restriction sign before colliding with the tunnel ceiling and causing part of the roof to detach. The Public Security Police (PSP) dispatched a tow truck to the scene to handle the situation. The driver, a 40-year-old local resident, [...] The post Over-height truck strikes tunnel ceiling, roof detaches appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [DSAL warns of scam calls spoofing hotline number](#) (2026-04-24 00:44)

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has warned the public about scam calls falsely using its hotline number “2833 8808.” Authorities said several Hong Kong residents recently reported receiving calls from individuals claiming to be DSAL staff, speaking in Mandarin and citing personal details such as names and birth dates while inquiring about overseas recruitment. DSAL [...] The post DSAL warns of scam calls spoofing hotline number appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Is the chicken being raised for its own sake, or someone else’ s table?](#) (2026-04-24 00:02)

There is something almost tender about the way Washington worries about China’ s Taiwan island — like an ardent salesman who tries hard to peddle his goods but forgets to ask what the customer actually needs. Testifying before Congress, Samuel Paparo, head of the US “Indo-Pacific” Command, offered a homespun warning: the United States “can’ t want [...] The post Is the chicken being raised for its own sake, or someone else’ s table? appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

- [Friday, April 24, 2026 – edition no. 4937](#) (2026-04-24 00:01)

\* Hola Madrid — 48 cooperation agreements lift Macau–Spain ties to a new level as Chief Executive highlights tourism, trade and platform role expansion in Europe \* Tourism | Macau expects visitor growth, but legislators push for upgrades, better distribution of benefits \* Taste of Edesia \* South Shore Green Promenade Zone 2 opens, adding [...] The post Friday, April 24, 2026 – edition no. 4937 appeared first on MACAU DAILY TIMES 澳門每日時報.

