

# Wong admits IIs enter Macau via UM campus

## Facial identification to catch wanted people

Helder dos Reis

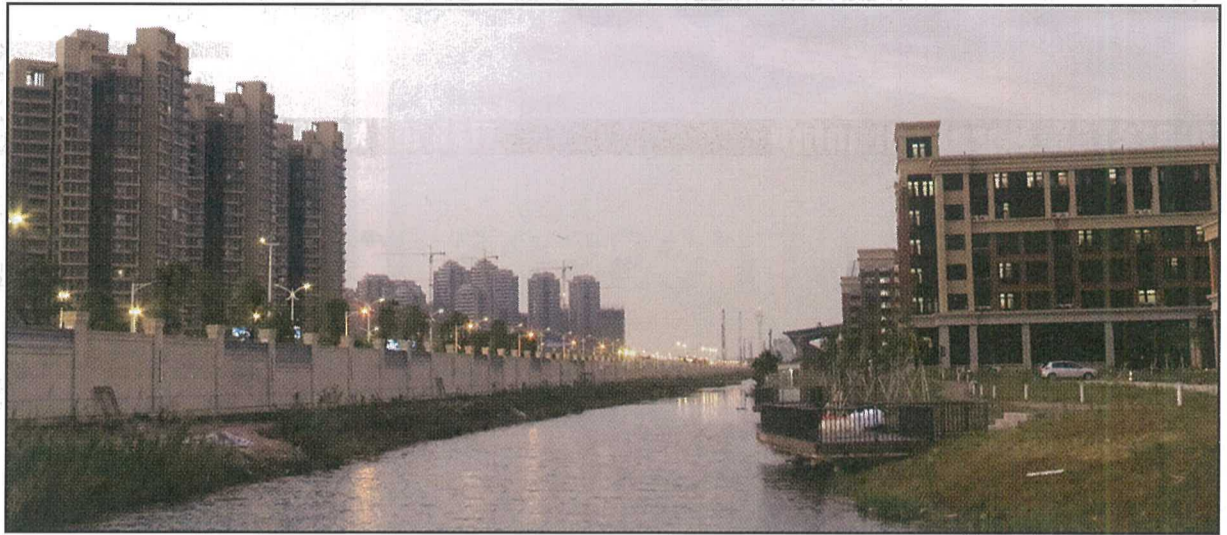
Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak acknowledged yesterday the problem of people entering Macau illegally through the University of Macau's (UM) Hengqin campus, pledging that he will talk to the mainland authorities and the university's administrators to find ways of solving the issue.

The policy secretary made the remarks during a Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly when responding to lawmakers' enquiries about human trafficking, the protection of victims of sex-related crimes, such as sexual harassment,

and the distribution of "sexually explicit" materials.

Several lawmakers, including Si Ka Lon and Kou Hoi In, raised the issue of people entering Macau illegally. Kou said that on average there were three to four such cases per day last year. He added that the UM Hengqin campus was a hotspot for people to enter the city illegally, drawing security concerns.

Wong conceded that people using the university campus to enter Macau had grown into a serious problem. He said the campus was designed so that it did not "look like a prison, no high walls and no elec-



This photo, taken in October last year, shows the UM campus (seen on the right) separated from the rest of Hengqin Island by a wall and a moat.  
Photo: Helder dos Reis

## Govt to open new library in Taipa next week



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Ung Vai Meng speaks to reporters during yesterday's press tour of the bureau's new library in Taipa's Central Park.  
Photo: Leong Lok Ian

Leong Lok Ian

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will open a new library in Taipa next week, IC President Guilherme Ung Vai Meng told reporters during a press tour of the Central Park facility yesterday. He said the soft opening would take place on Wednesday.

According to a statement from the bureau, the total area of the library covers about 2,200 square metres. The bureau estimates that it can hold 150,000 books, making it the largest public library in Macau.

The statement said one of the library's main focuses was its children's section, boasting almost 20,000 children's books, a special "parking area" for pushchairs and a children's cinema screening feature films and cartoons, as well as a children's theatre slated to open later this

month. According to the statement, the library will host a string of family activities.

The library also has the largest multimedia room of all the city's public libraries, said the statement.

Ung said the bureau had spent about two million patacas on the project, and was confident that the library will be fully operational by the end of this year. However, he pointed out that the library is currently understaffed and that for the time being some sections will be closed to the public.

Ung also said the bureau would consider opening the library for workshops, seminars and exhibitions.

During the soft opening period, the library will be open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays. It will be closed on Sundays and public holidays. ■

tric fences so students and faculty members won't feel like they are going to jail.

"So for those [illegal entrants] who are physically fit, they can climb over the wall in 17 seconds," said Wong, adding the police had spoken to UM administrators about the issue to look for possible solutions. He also said the problem posed a serious challenge to the Public Security Police (PSP) and Customs Service.

He also talked about the need to strike a balance between security measures at border checkpoints and to simplify entry and exit procedures for locals and visitors. He

said the government planned to introduce a facial recognition system to help with the identification of wanted people.

Meanwhile, lawmaker-cum-educator Chan Hong asked Wong about police measures to stop people handing out cards advertising commercial sex. Wong replied that those caught distributing such cards may face trial but he also noted that there have been instances in which judges did not regard the cards they distributed as "sexually explicit" material, thus the suspects avoided trial.

Lawmaker Au Kam San commented that with Macau's gaming revenues continuing to decline,

junket operators' business interests may be jeopardised. He said there were concerns that if the downturn persists, crime in Macau may return to the levels of the pre-handover period in the 1990s when the city was hit by a wave of deadly gangland violence.

Wong said statistics showed that other than loan sharking and illegally holding gamblers against their will for failing to pay back their gambling debts there were no indications that casino-related crimes were set to increase. Wong also said there was no proof to claim that falling casino revenues meant that public security would worsen. ■

## Almost 2,700 netizens petition govt to axe dog races

Staff Reporter

Nearly 2,700 netizens have signed an online petition started by the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA) which urges the government to abolish the city's greyhound races for good by not renewing Yat Yuen Canidrome's betting licence which will expire in October.

Talking to *The Macau Post Daily* over the phone last night about the group's campaign which started on Saturday, ANIMA President Albano Martins said that apart from the online petition they had also collected hundreds of signatures from visitors to their shelter, adding that starting from tomorrow ANIMA would also collect residents' signatures in the streets.

Martins, an economist by profession, also said that the online petition and signature-collection drive would continue until July.

"We'll collect as many signatures as we can... we hope the chief executive [Fernando Chui Sai On] will respond to our appeal as soon as possible," he said, adding that if Chui did not respond to their petition the group would call for support from international organisations.

Albano also said that in July and October ANIMA would hold meetings with international organisation which would also discuss the local dog racing issue.

Asked about recent comments by SJM Executive Director Angela Leong On Kei that the canidrome had a history and contributed to the

local economy, Albano said: "No-one lives in the past... Macau does not need Yat Yuen... the land [on which the canidrome stands] should be used for the Fai Chi Kei [district] community."

Chui said last month that the Yat Yuen Canidrome was part of the collective memory of several generations of local people.

The dog-racing track is run by a company affiliated to gaming tycoon Stanley Ho Hung Sun's gambling empire. Animal rights activists have slammed dog races as cruel.

ANIMA's petition website: <https://www.change.org/p/anima-macau-please-help-us-end-the-suffering-of-our-greyhounds>

At the time of going to print 2,694 people had signed the petition. ■

## Phone scammers pretend to be mainland police

Leong Lok Ian

Two separate but identical cases of phone scammers pretending to be mainland police officers were reported on Wednesday, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said during a regular press briefing yesterday.

The spokesperson said that the two victims – a woman and a man – received a call from a person who claimed that he worked for a bank in the mainland. The person claimed that transactions on the victims' credit

cards issued by the bank had been dishonoured. When the victims pointed out that they own no credit cards issued in the mainland, the "bank staff" then provided them with a number for a "mainland police station".

When the victims called the number, the person who answered claimed to be a mainland police officer, said the spokesperson. The "mainland police officer" told the victims that they were suspected of being involved in several money

laundering cases with an accomplice in the mainland, and requested personal information and bank details from the victims to help with the investigation.

The spokesperson said both gave their personal details before realising that they were victims of a phone scam, after which they contacted the local police with their suspicions. Neither victim suffered any pecuniary losses as they did not give any of their bank details. ■

Published since August 2004

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Printed by – Tipografia Welfare Lda.,

82-86 Rua dos Pescadores

Wire services – AFP, AP, Bloomberg, Xinhua

Macau POST

### Macau Weather

A FEW LIGHT RAIN PATCHES.  
MIST.  
FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTH TO  
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.  
RELATIVE  
HUMIDITY WILL  
RANGE BETWEEN  
80% AND 98%.



16°C~19°C

Source: SMG