

Mooncake sample fails food tests

The government has announced the test results for 40 mooncake samples, one of which was revealed to have not met required standards. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), together with two other government departments, collected 31 traditional Cantonese-style mooncakes and nine ice-cream mooncakes for chemical and microbiological testing. The chemical tests included testing for preservatives, colorants, and antioxidants. The microbiological tests checked for pathogens such as Salmonella, Staphylococcus aureus and Listeria monocytogenes. Of the 40 samples, one mooncake from the Grandview Hotel was found to contain amounts of Aflatoxin B1 exceeding the legal limit. The IACM has called for the suspension of this mooncake.

Retailers found to raise prices during typhoon

The government has received reports concerning a number of wholesalers and retailers who raised the prices of goods during Typhoon Mangkhut. Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong reported the situation at a meeting with wholesalers and retailers. The industry representatives suggested to Leong that the government establish a mechanism for deliveries, tank truck parking and short-term storage during typhoons, in order to ensure punctual delivery and sufficient storage of basic supplies.

Confidentiality bill to face public consultation

The government will conduct a public consultation on the Macau SAR Confidentiality System this year. The Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), Liu Dexue, said the bill aims to improve the legal system for confidentiality in Macau and safeguard the SAR's national interests. The bill will set standards for confidentiality within the SAR, establish a strict confidentiality management system, and implement criminal penalties for those who disclose or steal national secrets. The DSAJ, the Public Security Police Force, the Judiciary Police and the Personal Data Protection Office have formed a group to draft the bill.

Elderly residents demand action on greyhound noise

DANIEL BEITLER



Daniel Beitler

A group of elderly residents hand-delivered a petition to the government yesterday afternoon to protest the relocation of some 500 greyhounds to their Coloane neighborhood, which they say has brought problems of noise and odor.

Led by spokesperson Sister Beatrice Ip, the group resides at Asilo Vila Madalena in Coloane village, home to approximately 80 senior citizens, many of whom are over 90 years old.

Ip said the first batch of the greyhounds from the Canidrome rehousing program began on Wednesday and that the re-

sidents are already concerned about the animals' noise and smell.

As many as 500 dogs are expected to be housed at the Coloane site, which is very close to Asilo Vila Madalena, once their relocation is complete.

"The smell and the noise of the dogs will disturb the whole village," Ip told the media yesterday outside of the government headquarters. "When one dog starts to bark, the others do too. Then the street dogs start barking. If the whole place is filled with dogs, we will not be able to sleep. It will become very loud."

"Most of our elderly ladies

cannot move so much; only these few [present at the meeting yesterday] could come out. If there is any problem, it will be difficult for these elderly people to do something about it," she added.

The group's petition seeks answers from the authorities on whether the project was approved by the relevant government departments, and whether the Canidrome or the government should have consulted with residents in the area.

Ip added that other people in the neighborhood "are [also] not happy about it [the situation] but they haven't fully understood the outcomes yet."

In the petition, the senior citizens and their relatives described the situation as an emergency and requested an urgent meeting with the government, as well as a written reply within 10 days.

Last week, the Social Affairs Bureau director, Vong Yim Mui, said that his bureau had sent staff to the senior citizens' home to learn their opinions and to provide assistance if necessary.

The greyhounds are being relocated after the Macau (Yat Yuen) Company concession for greyhound racing expired on July 20. The company had operated in Macau for more than half a century.

Gov't listening to opinions on typhoon casino closures

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, told reporters yesterday that there was no specific regulation in Macau currently enabling the government to order a blanket suspension of casino operations in the city.

In view of the adverse weather conditions caused by Typhoon Mangkhut, gaming operations in all of Macau's casinos were suspended

from 11 p.m. on September 15. Gaming operations resumed at 8 a.m. on September 17.

In a bid to minimize the impact of Typhoon Mangkhut, the civil protection management team recommended suspending the city's casino operations to ensure the safety of casino employees, visitors to the city and residents. The recommendation was approved by the Chief Executive and agreed

by the city's six gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaries.

Leong said the temporary suspension of casino operations was a result of the ongoing cooperation between the government and the city's gaming operators.

Meanwhile, Leong said he hoped gaming operators would streamline the process of suspension and resumption of casino operations in the event of a public emergency.

On Wednesday, the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association also called for a mandatory suspension of casino operations during strong typhoons.

The government said that it will heed opinion from the public and from members of the Legislative Assembly regarding the potential introduction of a mandatory city-wide suspension of casino operations during public emergencies.

On Monday, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, also said that the government had yet to consider such mandatory casino closures.

According to Wong, Macau does not have a law requiring casinos to close during strong typhoons. The gaming concession contract also does not stipulate casino closures during emergencies.

Such a provision is, however, included in a government proposal to overhaul Macau's civil protection system. A public consultation on the proposal was concluded in August.

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