



ANIMA TO PETITION CE

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Dog tired. Prominent animal welfare group ANIMA is to petition the Chief Executive. They want to close the Canidrome. Asia's only greyhound racing track. Macau (Yat Yuan) Canidrome Co. Ltd.'s concession expires on October 31. ANIMA president Albano Martins condemns the sport. And says it is of insignificant economic value. The petitioners say the land the stadium occupies should be returned to the community. And that they will attend to the future wellbeing of the animals

SIM back enter

Bank deposits and money
supply declined in Feb

Macau



Almost 400 taxi violations in March

A total of 391 taxi violations were recorded last month, the Public Police Security Force (PSP) announced on Wednesday evening. According to PSP, nearly half of the total prosecuted cases involved taxi drivers overcharging or rejecting passengers, accounting for 91 cases and 102 cases, or 23 per cent and 26 per cent of the total, respectively. In addition, the PSP announced that it had received 865 complaints about noise last month, whereby 266 offenders received a caution, 8 were prosecuted, and the other outcomes remain unconfirmed.

ANIMA to petition CE to close Canidrome

The animal protection group does not want the greyhound racing company's concession to be renewed when it expires at the end of this year

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Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA) is to organise a petition requesting Chief Executive Chui Sai On not to renew the concession for Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co. Ltd. that owns the greyhound racing track. The concession will expire on October 31.

"It makes no sense for the activity (greyhound racing) to continue existing in Macau. This kind of animal cruelty is unacceptable. There is no economic reason since its contribution to gaming revenue is insignificant. The plot of land belongs to the government and should be returned to the community in Fai Chi Kei," President of ANIMA, Albano Martins, told Business Daily. "We are committed to having it shut down."

Greyhound racing at the Macau Canidrome generated gross revenues of MOP306 million in 2014, some 16 per cent less than the year before, according to the latest data from the Gaming Inspection and Co-ordination Bureau (DICJ). The figures also reveal that it takes 0.87

per cent of the total gross revenue from various gaming activities in Macau.

Mr. Martins added that the Canidrome has been paying less percentage of its profits as tax to the government, which is unfair, and ANIMA does not understand why. Furthermore, since this non-casino gaming activity has been broadcast by TV, it could easily generate illegal betting over which the government doesn't have full control, Mr. Martins added.

The head of the city's leading animal welfare group also believes that after closing the greyhound track the plot of land located in a densely populated neighbourhood of the Northern District of Macau could be put better use, such as a park or car park or even to build public housing.

The government is considering amalgamating Macau's horse and greyhound racetracks. Last week, during this year's Policy Address Q&A session Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On mooted this in



response to a suggestion by Assembly member Lam Heong Sang that the government build community facilities on the site now occupied by the dog racing track.

Earlier this week, Managing Director and Deputy President of the Canidrome, Angela Leong, said that they have not started discussing renewing the concessions with the government yet, and even if the horse and greyhound racetracks were to be combined many technical issues would need to be resolved. She also said that the historic value of the track should not be overlooked.

However, ANIMA stands firm that the city should put a stop to this sport as hundreds of greyhounds suffer injuries and die (often euthanised even when healthy) every year. Regarding the future of the dogs should the track close, the ANIMA head said they have this covered.

"We are preparing the second phase of our shelter. We want the government to [allow] ANIMA in the venue [Canidrome] for one year so that we can gradually transfer them to the ANIMA shelter," said Mr. Martins. "Plan B would be to transfer all the dogs to Portugal."

A press conference regarding the petition will be held on Saturday at ANIMA's headquarters in Coloane. The group will collect signatures directly from citizens and online until July 20. ANIMA is also organising an international roundtable on Macau greyhound racing on July 23 with guests from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Australia and other countries and regions to discuss further steps regarding the closure of the Canidrome, Mr. Martins added.