

Lawmaker slams govt for dragging its feet on urban renewal

Ian Sio Tou

Grassroots lawmaker Ho Ion Sang yesterday slammed the government for dragging its feet on coming up with plans and regulations for the city's old quarters' renewal, adding that the government should consider Iao Hon as its top priority when finally drafting its redevelopment plans.

Ho, a vice-chairman of the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (commonly known as Kai Fong), made the remarks at a religious event organised by the San Kio District Welfare and Mutual Help Association at Shigandang Temple.

The district association is affiliated to Kai Fong.

Asked by reporters about the city's old quarters, Ho said that every district had its old part replete with culture and collective memories.

"Regarding the renewal plans for the old areas the government has really dragged its feet," Ho said, adding, "It seems that the government is at a standstill. It is neither drafting regulations [on urban redevelopment] nor coming up with plans [regarding the matter]."

He acknowledged that over the past decade the government has done some preliminary work to get the redevelopment of the city's old quarters off the ground, such as having presented a bill on the matter to the legislature which later, however, was withdrawn.

"The government has also carried out studies on possible redevelopment plans for Iao Hon...I think once the government-appointed Urban Renewal Council has been set up it should assist the government in coming up with related regulations as soon as possible," he said, adding that when the government finally starts drafting the city's urban renewal plans, Hon should be a priority as public security, traffic and the living environment there needed to be urgently improved.

He also urged the government to take note of resi-



Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang talks to reporters yesterday outside Shigandang Temple in San Kio district yesterday.

Photo: Ian Sio Tou

dents' collective memories of each old quarter when it drafts its respective urban renewal plans.

The San Kio District Welfare and Mutual Help Association yesterday organised an anniversary celebration for shigandang, a divine stone tablet believed to suppress evil.

According to information provided by the association, Shigandang Temple was built in 1902. It is the only temple in Macau in which a stone tablet is worshipped as having divine powers to exorcise evil spirits and save people from natural disasters.

According to Wikipedia, a shigandang is an ornamental stone tablet meant to exorcise evil spirits. ■

Police bust 3 mainland sex workers

'Yellow cow' caught with 106 ferry tickets

Staff Reporter

A Public Security Police (PSP) statement said yesterday three mainland women were arrested in Zape and Iao Hon during an anti-prostitution operation on Saturday.

According to the statement, the police arrested a woman in her twenties near Holiday Inn Hotel in Zape at around 7 p.m. on Saturday, who they later found had been arrested once before.

At around the same time that evening, the statement said the police spotted a 30-year-old woman near a flat in Iao Hon, telling passers-by that she was offering a "massage" service for a charge.

The statement said the third suspect, a 40-year-old woman, showed up with a local man, as the police were investigating the "massage" case, whom they later learnt

was also one of the masseuses.

The statement said the trio have been arrested for working without work permits.

"Massage" is a common local euphemism for prostitution services. While prostitution is not illegal in Macau, tourists are not allowed to engage in gainful employment.

Meanwhile, in a separate PSP statement, the police arrested a local man in the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal on Saturday who was caught red-handed trying to sell "yellow cow" ferry tickets, to passers-by.

"Yellow cow" is Chinese slang for ticket touts.

The statement said the police found 106 ferry tickets on the suspect which, according to the suspect, were bought from gamblers in a casino near Rua do Terminal Marítimo. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) shows some of the tickets seized from the "yellow cow" at the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal on Saturday.

186 pets adopted from ANIMA in 2015

Davis Ip

A total of 186 dogs and cats from the Macau Society for the Protec-

tion of Animals' (ANIMA) shelter in Coloane were adopted last year, a number similar to that of 2014, Kiko

leong Im Fai, an administrative staff member of the group, said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the society's animal adoption booth near Flower City Garden in Taipa, Ieong said the group was trying to encourage more people to adopt the city's abandoned animals by holding an "adoption day" campaign twice a month. She said that residents generally prefer cats to dogs when it comes to animal adoption.

The group is currently looking after about 370 dogs and 160 cats that are awaiting adoption, Ieong said, adding that its shelter was not large enough to house any more abandoned or stray animals.

According to Ieong, some families, after the Noise Law was enacted last February, had abandoned their dogs which bark at night while others had given up their pets when they moved to a smaller flat. Having a new baby was also among the common reasons that pets end up at the ANIMA shelter, she said.

Also speaking to reporters at the booth, an ANIMA staff member surnamed Tang said about 40 percent of the non-resident workers who adopt dogs or cats from the group eventually abandoned them when they leave Macau. The dogs guarding construction sites and their offspring are also often abandoned after the construction projects are completed, Tang said. ■



Kiko Ieong Im Fai, an administrative staff member of the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA), talks to reporters at the society's animal adoption booth near Flower City Garden in Taipa yesterday.

Photos: Davis Ip

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MacauPOST

Macau Weather

THE TEMPERATURE INDEX IS YELLOW (COLD). TEMPERATURE FALLING. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS. FORCE 4 TO 5 NORTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 50% AND 80%. MAXIMUM UV INDEX IS EXPECTED TO BE 6, WHICH IS CLASSIFIED AS HIGH. 10°C~15°C Source: SMG



A five-month old male dog named Paisley, which is being looked after by the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA), stands at the society's animal adoption booth near Flower City Garden in Taipa yesterday. He was born in a local construction site and abandoned there.