

# Angela Leong says she can take all greyhounds

Joel Chu

SJM Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer Angela Leong said yesterday that if any of the owners of greyhounds at the local racetrack didn't want their dogs when it closes for good in July, she could take all of them.

Leong made the remarks when asked by a reporter about the future of the over 600 greyhounds at the dog racetrack in Fai Chi Kei district, on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of an occupational safety and health charter at Grand Lisboa.

In July 2016 the government told the racetrack operator, Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co. Ltd. to vacate the property, a public land concession, within two years. The company's concession to run greyhound racing will expire on July 20 this year. Leong heads the company.

Local animal protection group Anima urged the government last

year to allow it to take over the Fai Chi Kei racetrack for a year, after the operator shuts down its business there this year, so that the group has enough time to rehabilitate the hundreds of greyhounds for adoption overseas.

Leong said, "I believe that the dogs [at the racetrack] are now living well ...and the owners of those dogs love and care about their dogs."

Leong said she had noticed rumours about the greyhounds being mistreated or killed, adding that it was blackening the company's name. She also said that her company had invited some Anima members to visit the dog racetrack.

Leong also she had noticed that some people were trying to raise 5 million euros (48.5 million patacas) to move the greyhounds from Macau to Portugal. She hinted there was, however, no need to rehome the dogs overseas. She insisted there was no need either for "other

people" to intervene in the process of rehoming the greyhounds.

Leong urged the public not to listen to information about the greyhounds released by anyone but her.

Leong said if she would ask her friends to help her rehome the dogs, there would be many wanting to get one.

Meanwhile, she was also asked by the media about the opening schedule of the Grand Lisboa Palace resort in Cotai.

Leong said that she aimed for the Cotai property to open by the end of this year. According to Leong, the Grand Lisboa Palace is set to employ around 8,000 staff, adding that her company has already hired 2,000 locals working as electricians, mechanics and in management.

The project has been hit by several accidents and fire incidents which have repeatedly delayed the opening date. ■



Casino executive-cum-lawmaker Angela Leong On Kei speaks to reporters yesterday on the sidelines of an event at Grand Lisboa. Photo: Joel Chu

## At least 10 fined for smoking at bus stops

Staff Reporter

The government fined at least 10 people for smoking at bus stops on Monday and yesterday since the toughened version of the anti-smoking law took effect on New Year's Day, according to the Health Bureau (SSM).

The Legislative Assembly (AL) passed the government-initiated Tobacco Prevention and Control Law's amendment bill during a plenary session in July last year.

The new version of the law bans smoking within a 10-metre-area of

all bus stops and taxi ranks.

The no-smoking area at bus stops and taxi ranks is indicated by grey lines painted on the ground.

The bureau said in a statement on Monday that its anti-smoking inspectors fined 15 people for violating the new law until 5 p.m. on that day, comprising seven tourists and eight local residents. Among the 15 violators, eight were fined for smoking at bus stops.

The bureau said in a statement yesterday that 19 people were fined for violating the new law between

5 p.m. on Monday and 5 p.m. yesterday, comprising seven tourists, 11 local residents and one blue-card holder. Two of the 19 violators were fined for smoking at bus stops.

The bureau fined 10 people for smoking at bus stops up until 5 p.m. yesterday since the new anti-smoking law took effect.

The new version of the law allows casinos to set up smoking lounges in gaming areas in line with the standards set by the government, with the aim of ensuring that casino workers' health will not be jeopardised.

Before the new version of the law took effect on New Year's Day, smoking had already been banned in casinos' mass-market areas, although smoking lounges with separate ventilation systems were permitted, while high-rollers were still allowed to smoke in designated smoking areas in VIP rooms.

The new version of the law states that smoking lounges with the officially required standards will have to be set up within a year of the law coming into force. The current smoking lounges and smoking areas can remain in place during the one-year interim period, while casinos finish setting up the smoking lounges in accordance with the new official standards.

Under the new version of the law, smoking is banned in all public indoor areas, except smoking lounges in casinos and the local airport.

Now those found smoking in a no-smoking area such as in public parks and on beaches face a fine of 1,500 patacas, while they were fined between 400 patacas and 600 patacas before the new law took effect.

The new law bans the sale of e-cigarettes in Macau and also prohibits the display of tobacco products in shops. However, shop owners are still allowed to sell tobacco products and display a price list.

The original version of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law first took effect in January 1, 2012. ■



Passengers get onto a bus at a bus stop where its no-smoking area is indicated by grey lines on the ground, outside Flower City Garden in Taipa yesterday.

Photo: Tony Wong

## Govt collects over 2,400 opinions on minimum wage implementation: labour chief

Staff Reporter

The government has gathered more than 2,400 opinions from civil society during its recently-finished public consultation on the proposed implementation of a statutory minimum wage for all employment sectors, Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) Director Wong Chi Hong said yesterday.

Wong made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of the SJM "Occupational Safety and Health Charter" at Grand Lisboa Hotel. The charter is an industry-wide commitment to workplace safety initiated by the bureau.

The bureau launched its 45-day public consultation in November on the proposed implementation of a statutory minimum wage for all workers. The public consultation ended on Wednesday last week.

The bureau proposes that domestic helpers and disabled employees will be excluded

from the implementation of the minimum wage.

The public consultation document does not propose a specific amount for the statutory minimum wage for all employment sectors.

A statutory minimum wage of 30 patacas an hour – or 240 patacas a day or 6,240 patacas a month – for cleaners and doormen employed by the property management sector has been in force since January 1, 2016.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Wong said his bureau aimed to finish a report detailing the opinions collected during the consultation period, in the first quarter of this year.

Wong also said that the government had not yet decided whether domestic helpers will be excluded from the implementation of the overall minimum wage.

Macau is the only Chinese jurisdiction which still does not have an overall minimum wage law – unlike the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan. ■



Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) Director Wong Chi Hong speaks to reporters at Grand Lisboa Hotel yesterday. Photo: Joel Chu

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THE MACAU POST

### Macau Weather

THERE WILL BE FLOODING FROM 9 PM ~ 0 AM WITHIN THE INNER HARBOUR AREA. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS. FORCE 2 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 90%. 16°C~21°C

Source: SMG