

# Gov't says Pearl Horizon proposal in line with pledges made

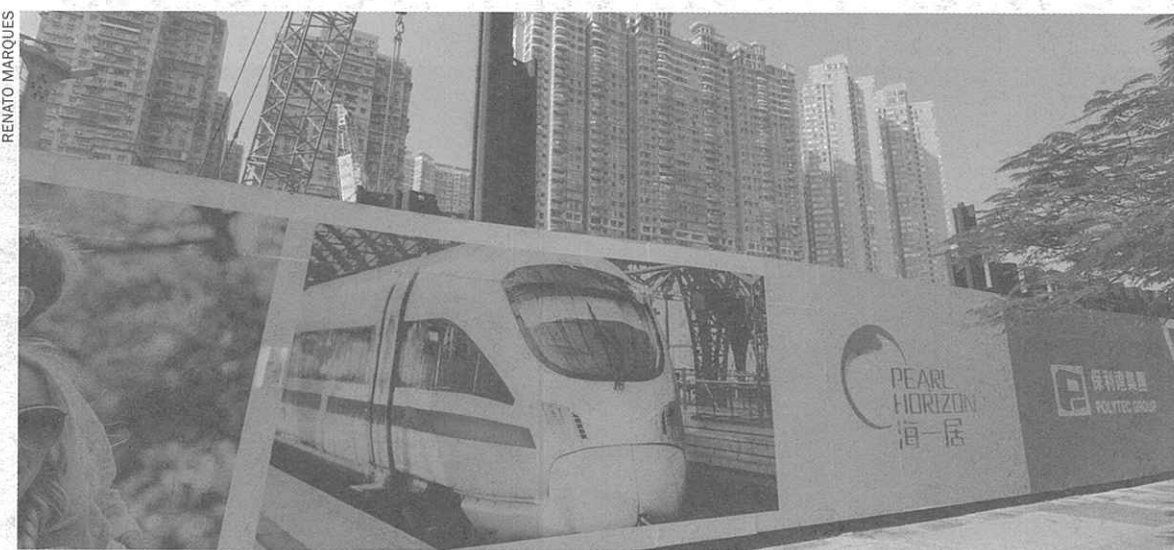
**T**HE government has reacted to criticism from Pearl Horizon buyers, saying that its proposal to solve the case was made following the principles of "good faith" and in line with promises made to the buyers of the housing units of the development.

The statement comes in reply to the buyers that took the microphones of the TDM radio forum program to air their disapproval of the proposal.

On Thursday evening, a group of over 100 buyers gathered at Polytec's headquarters to express their discontent with the government's proposal. At that time, the buyers accused the Secretary for Justice, Sonia Chan, of deceiving them regarding the land-bidding process.

Kou Meng Pok, president of Pearl Horizon Condominium Owners United Association, said he initiated the demonstration to direct buyers' dissatisfaction towards the government's proposal.

According to Kou, Polytec, in the past, messaged buyers claiming that it would seek a solution for the Pearl Horizon issue.



Kou then called the buyers to be united while their matter is unresolved. Police officers arrived at the assembly and persuaded people to leave the scene.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the government mentioned it had to take many factors into account.

As it was said during a press conference by the government last week, the government feels the Pearl Horizon case is not a matter of public interest. The government also said it is not able to ignore the provisions

settled by the Land Law on matters such as public tender. According to them, it is not possible for the government to take on a project, and build it to a specific group of people and for a specific price.

Once more, the government also reaffirmed the "lack of cooperation" from the developer, that "insisted on solving the problem judicially."

After the decision from the Court of Final Appeal, the government will wait to see their position reaffirmed in legal terms.

"Between the government of the Macau SAR and the buyers of the housing units," there aren't any relations of credit, debt or any matters regarding responsibilities that can lead to any compensation or claim. Many of the affected said they were not happy with the solution given by the government regarding aspects such as the type of apartments to be built and the fact that mortgages contracted with credit institution still need to be fulfilled by the buyers. **MDT**

## CE in Beijing for partnership launch ceremony

Chief Executive Chui Sai On is leading a government delegation to Beijing for the launch ceremony of the Beijing-Macao Cooperation Partnership 2018 and the signing of some cooperation agreements, according to the Government Information Bureau. Held in the capital until tomorrow, Chui will also attend the opening ceremony of the 2018 China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services, and a summit session on the topic of trade in services. Chui is also planning to meet with officials of the General Administration of Customs. Beijing and Macau launched their Cooperation Partnership program in October 2016, with the aim of boosting ties in economic matters and trade, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

## Man arrested following aggravated assault

A mainland man has been arrested after injuring another mainland man while they were drinking inside a housing unit in a Taipa residence. The suspect and the victim got involved in a quarrel while drinking. The victim started becoming violent and shortly after, he threw a glass bottle against the suspect's head. The suspect, in turn, grabbed two knives from the kitchen to attack the victim. The man's violent behavior was quelled by other people who were also drinking along with both the suspect and the victim. Police are now investigating the suspect's violence practice.

## TRANSPORT

# Companies merge to reduce buses on the roads

**T**HE merging of two public bus operators is expected to keep all the drivers employed while reducing the number of buses on the roads of Macau, the director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San, said during a press conference last week.

The previously announced merging of the TCM and New Era companies into one "would be very positive," Lam said. "The companies have already guaranteed that they will keep all 1,100 drivers currently working under both companies."

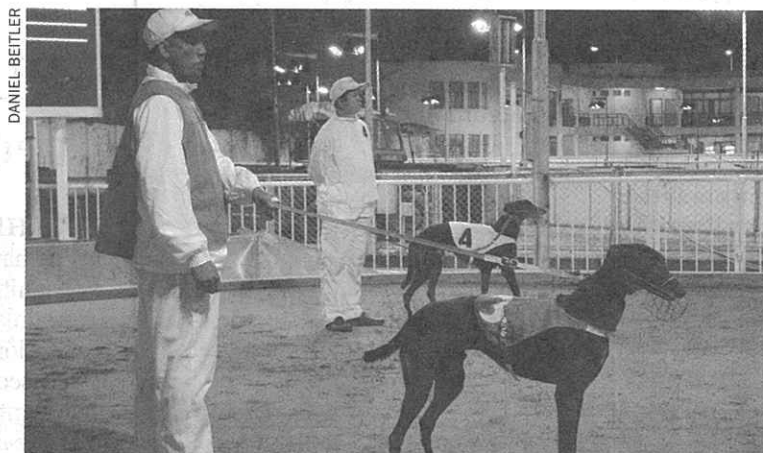
The measure is expected to allow a better management of resources, given a reduction on the number of buses performing routes at the same time as well as more training opportunities for the drivers," Lam added.

Questioned on whether the attempt to introduce new private operators in Macau failed after the Reolian

bankruptcy, Lam said: "I do not consider that this [merging] represents a failure of the market liberalization. [...] In this way, the companies will be able to allocate more resources to serve the population. As we must note, we have [the limitation of having] the same roads but an increasing population [over the years]."

As Lam also remarked, Macau has been reaching new highs in terms of the number of passengers transported. Quoting the most recent figures, Lam said that the number of passengers has increased 4 percent in general terms and that such an increase was up to "5 percent in the period starting at 7 a.m." The increase of passenger transportation was "mainly the routes between the Peninsula and the Islands." The previous passenger record of 690,000 passengers carried in 2017 was broken last month. **RM**

## Canidrome required to report plan of racing dogs' placement



**T**HE Macau Canidrome is required to deliver a plan within this month concerning the dogs' future locations after the Canidrome is closed, according to a statement released by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

In a meeting between IACM, the Canidrome company and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, IACM asked the Canidrome to fulfill its duty and social responsibility in developing a comprehensive rehousing plan for the dogs.

IACM is willing to provide technical support.

IACM also suggested that the

Canidrome should cooperate with local organizations, as well as organizations from other regions, to search for potential homes for the retired racing dogs.

During the meeting, a Canidrome representative acknowledged the company's responsibility in providing appropriate care for retired dogs.

It was mentioned that the Canidrome, despite having an adoption registration plan for the retired dogs, has only found a few homes thus far.

The Canidrome hopes that related associations can provide information to help find new adopters.

## Public car parks upgraded, electronic payments made available

The 13 public car parks that the government has been granting concessions to private companies to run, have been registering added improvements in their facilities and soon, all of them will be equipped with different forms of electronic payments, the Director of the Transport Bureau, Lam Hin San said last week. Lam said that most of the 13 public car parks recently underwent renovations of their facilities and upgrades to equipment, which includes the possibility of several forms of electronic payments. Lam also added that the bureau is seeking other avenues to update this "e-pay" system, in particular, technology that is "compatible with the systems mostly used in other places like in the mainland." He noted that the government is proposing such an idea but that the acceptance of it lies in the hands of the concessionaires.