

2019

year-end press

conference

Department of Finance, Taipei City Government

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## **Report tobacco and alcohol knowledge to you**

According to statistics from the Department of Finance, Taipei City Government, 168 cases of illegal tobacco and alcohol trafficking were detected as of November 30, resulting in a fine of 4.72 million yuan. Violations of the appearance mainly to the public snitch online trading platform or community website selling tobacco and alcohol as the bulk.

Department of Finance explains that people carry a certain amount of duty-free tobacco and alcohol (cigarettes 1, 1 liter of wine) from abroad, can only for own use or given gifts, do not post on community websites to sell or transfer. Regardless of the success of the transaction, the sale, transport, or transfer, or the display or storage with the intent to sell, transport, or transfer illegal tobacco or alcohol will be punished with an administrative fine of not less than NT\$30,000 and not more than NT\$500,000. In addition, we should also remind the public that the tobacco and alcohol may not be sold or transferred by a method by which the age of the buyer or transferee cannot be identified, and which methods include, but are not limited to, vending machines, postal sales, or transactions via electronic platforms, violators will be imposed an administrative fine of not less than NT\$10,000 and not more than NT\$50,000 in accordance with the Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act or the Tobacco and Alcohol Administration Act.

Department of Finance further explained that, in order to safeguard the health of consumers and protect the rights of consumers and legitimate operators, Department of Finance, in addition to the Spring Festival,

Dragon Boat and Mid-Autumn Festival and other folk festivals, dispatch officers to various places of sale to investigate, and with the police to cooperate with the implementation of the project to investigate, actively investigate the illegal tobacco and alcohol.

Department of Finance finally stressed that the public do not buy unknown, incomplete signs and low price and inferior quality tobacco and alcohol, if any illegal tobacco and alcohol found, you can call the public service hotline 1999 transfer extension 6294 to file a report, such as the detection of illegal tobacco or alcohol, the prosecutor's reward, based on the calculation of 20% of the fine and confiscation of the non-entry price (up to 45%), the maximum amount of NT\$6 million in each case will be awarded. Welcome to combat illegality, Department of Finance will continue investigating actively to maintain the order of the tobacco and alcohol market and consumer safety.

### **Taipei City Government expected to achieve the best investment solicitation performance for the third time in succession**

Taipei City Government (TCG) actively promotes public-private partnership projects. In 2017 and 2018, the annual investment amounts of TCG were NT\$29.9 billion and NT\$59.1 billion respectively, which were the best performance among local governments in Taiwan for 2 consecutive years. In 2019, with efforts made by TCG, 8 projects of

private participation in public works were signed, including “Project of the Creation of Superficies on City Owned Land of Land Serial Nos. 32 and 33-2 of the 4th Sub-section, Xinyi Section, Taipei City”, “The Taipei City West District Gateway Project, Land Development on the Taipei Main Station Special District Parcel C1 and the Eastern Part of Parcel D1” etc. With an estimated amount of NT\$80 billion, TCG is expected to achieve the best investment solicitation performance among local governments for 3 consecutive years.

### **Seek creative proposals for the Reuses of Idle Municipal Properties**

In order to introduce creative ideas to revitalize idle municipal properties, the Department of Finance (DoF) of Taipei City Government (TCG) passed “Requesting for Proposals on Revitalizing Idle Municipal Properties Plan” for public to seek creative proposals since 2018. Until now, it has been four spare space revitalized, the contents of creative proposals include cultural and legal services (No. 40-3, Zhao’ an Street., Zhongzheng District), photo book library (No. 19, Lane. 269, Section. 3, Roosevelt Road., Da’ an District), community development(No. 5, Alley. 2, Lane. 38, Zhao’ an Street., Zhongzheng District), services for community-dwelling older adults(No. 4, Alley. 27, Lane. 329, Wanda Road., Wanhua District), etc, and integrate the life of citizens. Among them, No. 19, Lane. 269, Section. 3, Roosevelt Road., Da’an District, the original public dormitory was selected to be transformed into a "Light box Library" as an information station for photography promotion and communication. The non-profit art space promotion

concept of Light Box Library except implementing the goal of friendly community, more specifically shows the results of city renovation, maintenance, and transformation during the urban renewal process. This year, it won the first prize in the community space category of the "2019 Taipei Old House Rebirth Award", which is known as the Golden Horse Award in the old housing industry.

The DoF announced that “Requesting for Proposals on Revitalizing Idle Municipal Properties Plan” passed inadvertently, but the idle space was managed seriously by the proposer, already implemented the original idea of plan. In the future, if there is a suitable city property, DoF will continue to promote the activation of seeking creative proposals and work with the proposers to create a vision of open and shared public space.

### **Use private-public collaboration model to renew the decay of public property**

To satisfy the huge demand of leasing market in Taipei, to supply enough rental housings for citizen is one of the main duties for Taipei City Government (TCG). Department of Finance (DoF) indicated that, by using public-private collaboration model, the old public properties could be renewed without extra expenditure of public funding and extended their survive life. DoF heads those properties to private sector through bidding process. The outcome of using public-private collaboration model not only saves the management cost but also increases the

property value.

At the beginning stage, DoF put the effort on property inventory and divided public properties into several categories. The inventory appears that the majority of vacant properties are decayed. In order to renovate the old buildings, DoF invites private sector to invest the properties and booming leasing market.

DoF announced, 155 decayed public properties have already been renovated and headed to private sector. The old decayed buildings turn into bright and clean rental housings for higher market value. In addition, those properties, which located on the first floor with the potential of retail-use, are able to improve the quality of life in the community. The ongoing public-private collaboration project provides a new option for citizen in leasing market.

Taipei's implement electronic write-off system, e-government moves on the top

Taipei City Government promoted paperless operations on the electronic write-off system from 2019. In January 2019, 140 government units began to implement electronic write-off system for small purchases less than 100,000 NT dollars (approx. 3,333 US Dollars), which will substitute paper vouchers to electronic ones. Through cloud electronic verification and payment, we enlarge the scope of implementation from August, 2019. All the write-off cases should be listed in electronic write-off system. In November 2019, 25 more Special funds were included

into this system. In 2020, 252 schools will also join in.

Since the first beginning till now, the rate of electronic invoices reached 52% and the rate of write-off came to 95%, compare to those were 20.2% and 51.2% in July 2019. Both rates boost rapidly. By the end of 2019, we reached the goal of paper-saving and stocking cost reducing since 180 thousand write-off cases were listed in the system, 850 thousand paper vouchers were saved, 8 million seals were omitted.

We will keep promoting electronic invoices and paperless electronic business to the market, hoping business can get used to the electronic invoices through government's help. We will also improve the system to the utmost in order that the first government-pushed electronic write-off system to be better off to attain electronic government's goal.