



**Press Release**

**Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office**

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**Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office launched a contact platform for investigating civilian's livelihood crimes. The investigation of suspected Vietnamese smuggling of African swine fever meat resulted in no smuggling of meat, and the office continued to strengthen the prevention of illegal meat from entering the market through the contact platform to ensure the safety of civilian's food.**

Regarding the recent investigation by Customs Department of Ministry of Finance about smuggling Vietnamese meat products with African swine fever virus, the chief prosecutor of Taiwan Pingtung District Prosecutors Office was instructed by the chief prosecutor of Taiwan High Prosecutors Office on the evening of August 22, 2021, to inspect the area under its jurisdiction. After inspecting 106 transaction records involving 21 people and shops suspected smuggling of African swine fever meat, the head prosecutor activated the office's contact platform for investigating civilian's livelihood crimes and commanded Pingtung County Police BUREAU to inspect house-to-house. According to the results of the bureau's inspection, only daily necessities such as clothing and footwear, health food and dry goods other than pork products were traded, and no Vietnamese-made meat has been smuggled into the Pingtung merchants .

At the same time, in order to prevent illegal smuggling African swine fever meat into the country, the head prosecutor of the Civilian's Livelihood and Environmental Crimes Special Team immediately activated the " Civilian's Livelihood Crime Contact Platform" and asked Pingtung County Health Bureau to target the raw meat and meat products sales premises under its jurisdiction. When conducting administrative inspections, in case of suspicious smuggling or illegal meat products, it must immediately notify Pingtung District Prosecutors Office through the platform to designate a special team of prosecutors to direct the investigation, and immediately trace the source and flow of meat. In addition, through the "Contact Platform for Investigating Environmental Protection Cases", Environmental Protection Bureau of Pingtung County Government was asked to conduct administrative inspections of food waste receivers and food waste collection locations within its jurisdiction. If

there were any cases violating Waste Disposal Law, it would immediately report to Pingtung District Prosecutors Office. The office would assign a special team of prosecutors to investigate to prevent African swine fever virus from entering the pig farm through kitchen waste, thereby affecting the health of the people.

We hope that through the contact platform, the relevant administrative, judicial police and prosecutors office will be consolidated and integrated to strengthen exchanges and communication channels in the investigation of illegal cases about food safety. We hope that through adequate communication and exchange of opinions, we can effectively achieve rapid and appropriate investigations for the purpose of completing investigation related evidence, correctly judging criminal evidence, and quickly closing the case, so as to enhance civilian's trust in administration and justice, while maintaining the civilian's high-quality living environment, ensuring civilian's food safety and civilian's health.