



臺灣彰化地方檢察署新聞稿

Taiwan Changhua District Prosecutors Office Press Release

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The Mazu Pilgrimage: The Grand Sedan Chair Snatching Is Not an Option

The Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage, a globally recognized annual religious event, commences this Friday evening. To safeguard the event from the threat of violence and the notorious grand sedan chair snatching, the Changhua District Prosecutors Office, in a strategic move, invited the Changhua County Police Department on March 20, 2024. Chief Prosecutor Gao Ru-ying (高如應) has been stationed at the Changhua Police Station during the pilgrimage, ensuring a swift response to any potential violent incident.

The Dajia Mazu Pilgrimage, a prestigious religious and cultural event in Taiwan, is dedicated to praying for peace and security, attracting large crowds of Mazu's followers domestically and internationally annually. Nevertheless, there were occasional violent incidents caused by the grand sedan chair snatchers in the past, which affected the safety of pilgrimage participants. In keeping eyes on the event would go on peacefully and smoothly, the Changhua District Prosecutors Office held a special task meeting, in which the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Corp. of the Changhua County Police Department, Chen Pei-de (陳培德), presented a report on the prevention and deployment of the project, and jointly examined the factors of conflict that might occur during the pilgrimage and preventive actions to be taken. After the meeting, the Changhua County Police Department set up a "Tactical Response Team" under the leadership of Chief Lin Shih-ming (林世明) of the Training Division in response to any unexpected situations on the scene and to ensure that all participants in the spiritual feast of religious activities will be able to obtain physical and mental healing and be free from violent incidents.

The Changhua Prosecutors Office calls for high-grade religious activities that bring peace to society and a healthy atmosphere for the public, especially in light of the severe earthquake that struck Taiwan on April 3. In addition, with great hopes that all sectors of the community jointly pray for the good fortune of Taiwan and pilgrimage participant act rationally, calmly, and smoothly. The Changhua Prosecutors Office will investigate any illegal acts in no time to protect public security without leniency.