A_{22}

政府應將乘疫打劫無良業主列黑名單

Government should blacklist unscrupulous landlords who take advantage of the pandemic



疫情當前,各行各業慘淡經營,不 少業主凍租甚至減租,與租戶共度時 艱。但天后嘉頤護老中心遭業主大幅 加租倍半,護老中心被迫結業,近80 名長者頓失所依。逆市加租,如同趁

疫「打劫」,是無良企業所為,更擾亂市場,製造 擴散效應,不利安老服務。政府應有擔當,主動協 調解決事件,保障長者正當權益不受損害。若業主 大幅加租趕走長者,只為將物業高價賣給政府作福 利設施,政府更應設定黑名單懲罰機制,以免政府 的良好初衷被濫用。

嘉頤護老中心院舍續租時,被業主要求由20多 萬元大幅加租至近50萬元,近80名長者家屬上周 接獲院舍通知,需於2月底前搬走,頓感彷徨無 助。疫情嚴峻加上臨近農曆新年,要在此時為長 者另覓宿位,根本強人所難,更對防疫工作不

受疫情影響,本港過去一年商業租金普遍下跌, 處處吉舖。差估署最新資料顯示,去年全年租金指 數下跌6%,寫字樓、商舖租金更錄得雙位跌幅, 預料今年仍有下跌壓力。在這種情況下,護老中心 的業主大幅加租顯然背離市場實況。

另外,護老中心是疫情「高危地」, 需請更多 人清潔院舍、購買更多防護裝備,安排長者、員工 接受檢測等,經營成本驟增。在此情況下,業主更 應承擔社會責任,對經營護老中心的租戶凍租甚至 減租,至少不能大幅加租。現在的做法,全然不管 租戶和長者死活,造成十分負面的示範效應

對於業主逆市加租,有立法會議員估計,可能與 政府去年推出的200億元購置福利設施計劃有關, 某些業主乘續約之機,加租趕走原來租客,「清 場」之後將物業以高價賣給政府。如果這真的是業 主加租的「如意算盤」,那豈不是等同政府間接趕 走長者、令長者失去照顧、這肯定有違政府購置福 利設施計劃的初衷。

社會福利署應盡快調查事件,必須保障受影響長 者得到妥善安排,絕不能以不干預商業運作為理由 袖手旁觀,否則勢必被社會詬病姑息養奸。

政府更需要明確購置福利設施計劃的實施細 則,不容許有業主借政策牟取不義之財;對加租 逼遷的無良業主,政府應將其列入黑名單,不購 買相關物業,彰顯政府照顧長者、對市民負責的 擔當。

(摘錄自香港《文匯報》社評 2021-1-28)



● 嘉頤護老中 心院舍被大幅 加租

資料圖片

Exercise

1. 個人防護裝備 2. 長者日間護理中心 3. 長者鄰舍中心 4. 長者度假中心 5. 驅逐(租戶)

4. Holiday Centre for the Elderly 5. eviction 1. Personal protective equipment (PPE) 2. Day Care Centre 3. Neighbourhood Elderly Centre

Answer



As the Covid-19 pandemic wreaks havoc on businesses, many landlords chose to weather the storm

with tenants by freezing or even reducing rent. However, the landlord of the Care & Services Elderly Home in Tin Hau significantly increased the rent by 150 per cent, forcing the elderly home to close down with nearly 80 elderly people losing their homes. Increasing rent in such difficult times is blatant exploitation. Not only does it disrupt the market, but it also sets a poor example and is detrimental to elderly services. The government should take the initiative to resolve the incident to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the elderly. If the landlord increases rent just to drive away the elderly and then sell off the property at a high price to the government, whose intent for the property acquisition is to provide welfare facilities, the government should consider setting up a blacklist mechanism to make sure its policies

During the negotiation of lease renewal, the landlord requested a substantial increase of rent from around HK \$200,000 to nearly HK \$500,000 per month. In the aftermath, family members of the 80 elderly residents were left stranded as they received a notice last week that the residents need to move out before the end of February. As the pandemic is still raging on in Hong Kong while the Chinese New Year holidays are also approaching, it would be extremely difficult for the families to find new care homes for the elderly. The relocation of the elderly people might also have an impact on the government's efforts to contain the

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, commercial rents in Hong Kong have generally fallen over the past year, and

empty retail shops waiting for lease can be seen everywhere. According to the latest figures from the Rating and Valuation Department, the rental index fell by 6 per cent last year, with the rents of office buildings and shops both recorded a double-digit decline. It is also expected that there will continue to be downward pressure this year. Under such circumstances, the landlord of the elderly care centre has obviously lost touch with reality by substantially increasing the rent.

Besides, elderly care centers are considered high risk in the Covid-19 pandemic. Operating expenses have soared as more manpower and money are needed in keeping the premise clean, purchasing more personal protective equipment, and arranging for the elderly and employees to undergo testing. The landlord should shoulder the social responsibility by freezing or even reducing the rent, not the other way round. By doing the exact opposite, the landlord has made a really bad example and is clearly disregarding the wellbeing and the lives of both the tenant and the elderly residents.

Members of the Legislative Council believe that the decision of the landlord may be related to the government's HK\$20 billion plan to purchase properties for welfare facilities that was rolled out last year. Landlords might be trying to seize the opportunity of contract renewals to drive away the original tenants by increasing the rent to unrealistic levels. Once the tenants were gone, they can then sell the property to the government at a higher price. If this is really the case, does it mean that the government is now indirectly causing the elderly homes to close down and thus depriving the elderly of care? This is definitely against ment to purchase properties for welfare facilities.

The Social Welfare Department should look into the matter quickly to ensure that the elderly residents being affected could receive proper care as soon as possible. If the authorities do not want to be criticised by the society for breeding evil by lenience, the last thing they want to do would be to stand idly by with the excuse of "not wanting to interfere with business operations". The government also needs to clarify the implementation details of its property purchase plan for welfare facilities, so as to make it clear that it will not allow landlords to abuse the policy for making ill-gotten gains. Unscrupulous landlords who drive away tenants by increasing rents should also be blacklisted and excluded from the plan in order to demonstrate the government's determination to take care of the elderly and to protect the interests of citizens.

楊貴妃沒被斬?記載不一難考證

歷史今昔

疫情關係,戲院關閉,因而筆 者只能轉看網上串流電影作解悶 之用。最近看了一部名叫《妖貓 傳》的電影,講述中唐時期發生 在首都長安 (現今西安) 的一連 串妖貓事件,當中有一個情節成 為今天的文章主題。唐朝安史之 亂爆發後,唐玄宗倉皇逃離長 安,到了馬嵬驛,兵將突然兵 變,要求玄宗下令斬殺同行的楊 貴妃,玄宗不忍,身旁術士黃鶴 (虛構人物)提議使用「屍解」 法術,讓楊貴妃處於假死狀態, 瞞過兵將後,再來使用法術復活 貴妃,玄宗最終同意。故事發展 且不再透露,但貴妃之死的確是 劇情的關鍵。寫到這裏,相信沒 有觀眾會相信這個奇幻故事便是 歷史真相,但真相是什麼呢?其 實楊貴妃之死的離奇程度真的絲 毫不遜於這個虛構故事,是一個

玄宗尋屍 墳剩香囊

我們先看看史書如何記載,《唐 國史補》載:「玄宗幸蜀,至馬嵬 驛,命高力士縊貴妃於佛堂前梨樹 下。」史書似乎記載得很清楚,玄

宗命高力士縊死楊貴妃。《舊唐 書》和《新唐書》記載也大致相 同。那麼有何謎團呢?原來史書記 載中有遐想空間。根據記載,玄宗 皇帝回到長安之後,下令改葬貴 妃,《舊唐書》記載:「肌膚已 壞,而香囊猶在」,但新唐書只記 能尋回香囊,絲毫未提軀體。

玄宗下令改葬貴妃,結果探子回 報卻不提遺體,只帶回貴妃生前的 香囊讓玄宗紀念,是否暗示貴妃遺 體不見了?新舊唐書記載各有不 同。故此,白居易名詩《長恨 歌》:「天旋日轉回龍馭,到此躊 躇不能去。 馬嵬坡下泥土中,不見 玉顏空死處。」這裏便清楚記載玄 宗希望尋回貴妃遺體的時候,已經 不見了。正正因為史書的記載不一 致,使人們對貴妃的死亡和去向有 了不同的推測和説法,在此也分享 幾個較為流行的。

侍女調包 逃亡而去

其一是「調包説」,這類説法認 為楊貴妃並沒有死於馬嵬驛,而是 被調包後逃跑了。這類説法並不是 無中生有,俞平伯先生曾為此作過 考證,他認為兩份唐代文獻,白居 易的《長恨歌》和陳鴻的《長恨歌 傳》都在暗示楊貴妃並未命歸馬嵬 驛,而是逃亡而去。他認為當時六 軍譁變,貴妃被劫,玄宗知道不能 免貴妃一死,於是「使牽而去 之」,楊貴妃最終被使者牽去藏匿 的地方,以其他婢女代替而死,故 而最後「不見玉顏空死處」。

其二是「逃亡日本説」。楊貴妃 既然得以婢女代而死之,於是她便 在日本遣唐使的幫助下,乘船離開 大唐,經過漫長的漂泊,最終到了 日本山口縣久津。這種説法有日本 民眾的認同,日本久津這條村子以 「楊貴妃之鄉」自稱,並立了一個 「楊貴妃墓」。1963年甚至還有一 位日本姑娘在電視向觀眾展示自己 一本族譜,稱自己正是楊貴妃後 人,以證實楊貴妃當時流亡至日

其三是「美洲説」,台灣教授衛 聚賢在他的著作《中國人發現美 洲》,稱經過他考證,楊貴妃並非 死於馬嵬驛,而是被人帶去了美

回顧以上種種説法,其實乃因當 時民間説法,正史野史民間文獻記 載不一而造成,筆者翻查了許多現 今學者考證,似乎也沒有統一説 法,也沒有一個得到學術界統一的 説法。楊貴妃之死成了人們永遠探 究的話題,可能正是這種無法驗證 的歷史,才衍生出《妖貓傳》這種 天馬行空的「歷史」出來吧。

溫室效應

氣象萬千

我們身處的地球表面,被一層大氣包圍着,稱 為大氣層,這個大氣層孕育了地球上的各種生

太陽是地球的主要能量來源,太陽主要用可見 光和紫外線等短波輻射的方式,穿越太空向地球 傳遞能量。到達地球的太陽輻射中,大約有三成 會被雲層、地面等反射出太空,約五成被地球表 面吸收,約兩成被大氣吸收。為平衡日間吸收的 能量,地球需向太空輻射出等量的能量。不過, 因為地球的溫度比太陽低得多,因此地球輻射主 要為紅外線形式的長波輻射。

大氣層內有些溫室氣體,它們對紅外線的吸收

能力較強,陸地和海洋釋放出來的 紅外線會被這些溫室氣體吸收,然 後四方八面輻射出來,部分會射到 太空,部分射到地球表面,為地球 表面加熱,這就是溫室效應。

溫室效應取名自受太陽照射而變 暖的人造溫室,但嚴格來說,地球 的溫室效應和人造溫室中使溫度變 高的原理是不同的。溫室保暖的原 因主要是陽光透過玻璃照射到溫室 内,温暖了温室内的地面及物件, 再間接使室溫提高,而溫室是一個 封閉的空間,抑制了對流活動,令 裏面受熱的空氣無法與室外較冷空 氣混合,從而保暖。

地球就是因為有溫室氣體為我們保暖,令地球 表面平均溫度長期保持攝氏約15度,這個溫度適 合萬物生長。如果失去大氣層,科學家推算地球 表面平均溫度只得大約攝氏零下18度。

適量的溫室氣體可以維持一個合適的地球溫 度,但太多溫室氣體就會令地球溫度上升,在過 去一個世紀,汽車、飛機、發電廠、工廠,燃燒 大量的化石燃料和石油,令大氣中溫室氣體濃度 急劇增加,過多的溫室效應使增多熱力積存在地 球,令地球溫度不斷升高,造成全球暖化,持續 的全球暖化導致一系列破壞性的影響,例如冰川 融化,海平面上升,極端天氣愈來愈多等。

為避免全球暖化帶來的嚴重影響,我們每個人 都應該從日常生活做起,減少溫室氣體的排放。



● 太陽輻射有部分會被吸收,部分反射回太空。

影片截圖

香港天文台(本欄以天文台的網上氣象節目《氣象冷知識》向讀 者簡介有趣的天氣現象。詳請可瀏覽天文台 YouTube 專頁:https: //www.youtube.com/user/hkweather ·)



· 通識時事聚焦 / 品德學堂

●布安東(歴史系博士,興趣遊走於中西歷史文化及古典音樂。)

• 通識文憑試摘星攻略