



Passengers pass through the immigration checkpoint at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport on Tuesday. — IC

Optimized exit-entry policies come into effect in Shanghai

Zhu Yuting

STARTING May 15, Shanghai fully resumed exit and entry services to Macau and Hong Kong for Chinese mainland residents following the National Immigration Administration's optimization of the country's exit-entry policies.

The city has halved the time for applications for exit-entry documents through service windows, from 20 days to 10

days, according to Hou Xiaowen, an official with the Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau.

Since January 8, when China downgraded its prevention and control of COVID-19, Shanghai has dealt with over 2 million applications for exit-entry documents, an increase of 15 percent compared with 2019. Application numbers have remained high during the last

couple of months.

At present, applicants can make a reservation online or go directly to the exit-entry services sites.

For those who have made reservations online, it should take about half an hour for the application procedure, and for those without reservations, it should take about an hour.

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Comic probed over PLA insult

Wang Qingchu and Zhang Chaoyan

LI Haoshi, a stand-up comedian who goes by the name House, is under investigation by police in Beijing over accusations that he insulted the military during a performance.

The police have registered a case against him for this derogatory act, which caused a negative impact on society, Beijing police said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Li's company Shanghai Xiaoguo Culture Media was banned from staging performances in Shanghai after the incident that sparked online uproar.

The comedy troupe must suspend all performances in Shanghai immediately, the city's cultural authority said. Meanwhile, the company is urged to carry out internal management inspection and rectification.

"Xiaoguo must learn deeply from this incident and take practical measures to prevent the recurrence of such problems by means of content review, program censorship, management of comedians and building their ethics,"

according to the Shanghai Administration of Culture and Tourism.

The company is also urged to improve the political and cultural education and moral quality of its stand-up comedians themselves.

During a performance on May 13 in Beijing, Li used a military comparison while discussing two chasing dogs, which some found to be disrespectful to the military. The incident led to an online uproar and spurred Xiaoguo to fire Li.

Beijing's cultural and tourism bureau fined Xiaoguo 13.35 million yuan (US\$1.9 million) and confiscated 1.33 million yuan of illegal gains.

The bureau said in a statement: "We will not allow any company or individual to slander the glorious image of the People's Liberation Army. We will not allow any harm to the deep feelings of the people for soldiers."

Xiaoguo said in a statement after the fines that it accepted all criticism and punishment, would deeply reflect on its errors and would not shun from its responsibilities.