

'People's pharmacy' to open branch in ex-notary office: report

Staff Reporter

The city's old-established Farmacia Popular ("People's Pharmacy") chain of pharmacies will open a branch on the premises of the First Notary Office in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Holy House of Mercy in Largo do Senado, government-owned broadcaster TDM reported on Friday.

Holiday House of Mercy President Antonio Jose de Freitas told TDM that the 10-year leasehold contract between the city's oldest charitable institution and oldest Western-style pharmacy will be signed "within days".

Jose de Freitas also said that the company will pay an annual rent of 700,000 patacas, to be adjusted annually in line with the inflation rate, apart from an undisclosed profit share arrangement.

According to Jose de Freitas, Grupo Popular, which owns the chain of pharmacies, won't have to pay rent during the first three months of the con-

tract. However, he was quick to add that the leasehold includes a museum project which will display old photographs and other exhibits from the pharmacy. Local architect-cum-artist Carlos Marreiros will be in charge of the museum project, Jose de Freitas told TDM.

The government announced recently that the First Notary Office will move to new premises in the northern district, after using the current ones for about five decades. The current rent amounts to 1.2 million patacas.

Farmacia Popular's flagship shop next to the Holy House of Mercy is also leased from the charitable institution, which was set up in 1569. Jose de Freitas described the future branch at the ex-notary office as an "extension" of the flagship shop.

Farmacia Popular opened in 1895. It is now owned by family members of former Legislative Assembly president Susana Chou. ■