

Man sentenced for breaching compulsory quarantine order

A 53-year-old man was sentenced to 80 hours' community service by the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (May 10) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C).

The man was issued a compulsory quarantine order, stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days, when he entered Hong Kong on May 19, 2020. Without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer, he went to an office of the Immigration Department on the same day to handle visa-related issues. He was charged with contravening sections 8(4) and 8(5) of the Regulation and was sentenced by the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today to 80 hours' community service.

Breaching a compulsory quarantine order is a criminal offence and offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months. A spokesman for the Department of Health said the sentence sends a clear message to the community that breaching a quarantine order is a criminal offence that the Government will not tolerate, and solemnly reminded the public to comply with the regulations. As of today, a total of 227 persons have been convicted by the courts for breaching quarantine orders and have received sentences including immediate imprisonment for up to 14 weeks or a fine of up to \$15,000. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who has breached the relevant regulations.