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A 73-year-old man was sentenced to imprisonment for 14 days, suspended for 12 months, by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today (May 27) for violating the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C).

The man was earlier issued a compulsory quarantine order stating that he must conduct quarantine at home for 14 days. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he left the place of quarantine on October 12, 2021, without reasonable excuse nor permission given by an authorised officer. He was charged with contravening sections 8(1) and 8(5) of the Regulation and was sentenced by the Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts today to imprisonment for 14 days, suspended for 12 months.

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 238 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.

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HKSAR Government and UNIDROIT sign memorandum of understanding for collaboration relating to private international law and international commercial law

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC and the President of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Professor Maria Chiara Malaguti, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the administrative arrangements for collaboration relating to private international law and international commercial law at a virtual signing ceremony today (May 27).

This is the second MoU concluded between the Department of Justice (DoJ) and UNIDROIT, following the signing of the first MoU in May 2021, which put in place the arrangements for the secondment of Hong Kong legal professionals to the Secretariat of UNIDROIT.

Ms Cheng said in her opening remarks that the signing of the MoU opened a new chapter in the close co-operation between the DoJ and UNIDROIT, and laid the foundation for the enhanced collaboration between the two parties in the field of private international law. Ms Cheng also announced that, under the MoU, the DoJ and UNIDROIT will be jointly launching the inaugural Asia-Pacific Private International Law Summit in Hong Kong in November this year as one of the flagship events of Hong Kong Legal Week 2022.

Ms Cheng expressed her deep gratitude to UNIDROIT for their continuing trust in and support to the DoJ, as well as to the Central People's Government for their staunch support in the conclusion of the MoU.

The virtual signing ceremony was technically supported by the technical

partner, eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre.

SDEV and SFH visit Kai Tak Community Isolation Facility

The Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, and the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, visited the Kai Tak Community Isolation Facility (CIF) this afternoon (May 27).

Accompanied by the Director of Architectural Services, Ms Winnie Ho, Mr Wong and Professor Chan received a briefing from the Assistant President of the contractor, China State Construction International Holdings Limited, Mr Huang Jiang, on the scale and features of the project, as well as the challenges encountered during construction. They then inspected the isolation units and facilities to learn about the operation of the CIF.

The construction of the Kai Tak CIF project commenced on February 19 and will be delivered in batches. The project will provide about 3 000 units upon completion.

Mr Wong once again expressed gratitude to the Central Government for its staunch support, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for its intensive co-ordination and the construction team for working around the clock to enable the project to be handed over in phases in a timely manner, enhancing the anti-epidemic capabilities of Hong Kong.

Each block of the Kai Tak CIF has four storeys and is equipped with lifts. Each unit is fitted with an individual toilet and bathroom. The construction adopted the modular integrated construction (MiC) method. The MiC modules are prefabricated with interior fittings, building services and furniture in a factory. Upon arrival at the construction site, the units will be ready for use after simple installation and connection to the fresh water, electricity and sewerage system, which can reduce the overall construction time.

Update on supplies from Mainland

The Task Force of Supplies from the Mainland led by the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has been working closely with the Guangdong Provincial

Government and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government to explore various means to stabilise the supply of goods from the Mainland to Hong Kong. In addition to road transport arrangements, transportation of goods by water and railway is already in service.

A spokesperson for the THB said that the "Sea Express" water transportation service from the Mainland to Hong Kong has been fully launched and its capacity is rising to increase the supplies of fresh food, other daily necessities and manufacturing materials. The current supply of fresh food from the Mainland is stable.

Currently, there are three water transportation routes between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, namely (1) from Shenzhen Yantian International Container Terminals to Hong Kong Kwai Tsing Container Terminals (KTCT); (2) from Shenzhen DaChan Bay Terminals to KTCT; and (3) from China Merchants Port (South China) Management Center (Shenzhen Mawan, Shekou and Chiwan Container Terminals) to Hong Kong River Trade Terminal and elsewhere. Together with the water transportation routes from other cities in Guangdong Province, including the routes from Guangzhou Lianhuashan Port, Nansha Port, Huadu Port, Zhongshan Huangpu Port and Zhuhai Doumen Port to different terminals in Hong Kong, the water transport capacity amounts to tens of thousands of tonnes daily.

The spokesperson said today (May 27) that Shenzhen operated 63 cargo vessel trips and transported around 9 870 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cross-boundary supplies by water yesterday (May 26), equivalent to about 46 510 tonnes of goods, of which around 10 TEUs (about 10 tonnes) were fresh food and around 9 860 TEUs (about 46 500 tonnes) were non-fresh food, according to information from the Mainland authorities.

Since the launch of services from the three ports in Shenzhen since February 18 to yesterday, a total of around 432 860 TEUs of cross-boundary supplies have been transported, equivalent to about 2 176 450 tonnes of goods, of which around 1 760 TEUs (about 15 060 tonnes) were fresh food and around 431 100 TEUs (about 2 161 390 tonnes) were non-fresh food.

To further ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong through land transport, a trial run of cargo transfer was conducted by the THB at a yard situated on Kam Pok Road, San Tin, Yuen Long, and it was completed smoothly. The THB will continue to work with the Mainland authorities to fully take forward cargo transfer arrangements on the Hong Kong side. It is a contingency measure in response to the latest epidemic situation in the city so as to reduce the risk of epidemic transmission in both the Mainland and Hong Kong, ensuring both smooth cross-boundary land transport and a stable goods supply to Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, to avoid a spillover of the epidemic, the Transport Department (TD) has arranged for dedicated staff to conduct rapid antigen tests for cross-boundary goods vehicle drivers at various land boundary control points (BCPs) from February 28 onwards. Only drivers with a negative result are allowed to enter the Mainland. In order to further improve the

accuracy of the tests, the TD has already switched to use rapid nucleic acid tests at the BCPs. Starting from April 21, the sampling method for rapid nucleic acid tests has been further changed to nasopharyngeal swabs. A total of 3 290 rapid nucleic acid tests were conducted yesterday in which nine drivers preliminarily tested positive. The TD has passed the cases to the Department of Health for follow-up.

The THB will closely monitor the situation and co-operate with the Mainland authorities to facilitate and implement various measures to ensure a stable goods supply to Hong Kong, with a view to complementing the supply through road, water and railway transport, enhancing capacity and efficiency as well as optimising the flow of cross-boundary supplies.