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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
1099 Manila

January 26, 2018

CUSTOMS SPECIAL ORDER
NO. 19-2018

In the interest of the service, the Trade Transparency Unit (TTU), as established under the Letter of Intent (LOI) signed on June 20, 2013 by the Philippine Bureau of Customs (BOC) and US Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the following are hereby ordered:

1. Reactivation of the Trade Transparency Unit (TTU), having the following functions:
 - a. Assists and cooperate with its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) counterpart on activities covered by LOI, such as but not limited to detecting anomalies and suspicious trade and financial transactions indicative of trade-based money laundering, contraband, smuggling, trade fraud and tax evasion;
 - b. Facilitates the exchange of data between the parties to the LOI, on matters covered by the LOI consistent with the national policies of the parties on confidentiality;
 - c. Provides administrative support to its US counterpart on matters covered by the LOI, by sharing information, data and documents, upon request and compliance with applicable domestic laws, rules and regulations; and
 - d. Performs such other functions necessary to pursue and carry out the objective set forth in this order such as detecting anomalies and suspicious trade and financial transactions.

2. The TTU shall be composed of the following personnel:
 - a. Director, Imports and Assessment Service (IAS)
BOC Over-all Coordinator, TTU

 - b. Valuation and Classification Officer, Imports and Assessment Service (IAS)

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c. Technical Assistants, Imports and Assessment Service (IAS)
Member, TTU

3. Only persons assigned to the TTU shall be granted access to the workplace. All data and information shared or exchanged pursuant to the LOI and this Order shall be treated with utmost confidentiality. Any violation of this confidentiality clause shall be dealt with corresponding administrative and/or criminal action, as the case may be.
4. Any detection by TTU of trade-based money laundering, trade anomalies, suspicious trades and commercial fraud violations will be forwarded to the Intelligence Group (IG) and Enforcement Security Service (ESS) for their appropriate action.
5. All Orders and Memoranda previously issued which are inconsistent with this Order are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
6. This order shall take effect immediately and shall last until revoked.

Isidro S. Lapeña

ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA, PhD, CSEE
Commissioner #



MAR 05 2018