

2016-08-031

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** ALL DISTRICT COLLECTORS  
ALL SUB PORT COLLECTORS

**SUBJECT :** Apprehensions, seizures and condemnation of  
agricultural products

**DATE :** 25 August 2016

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In view of the attached letter dated 15 August 2016 of Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Finance in Agriculture, requesting a copy of information relating to matters such as smuggling of agricultural products, rendering of abandoned agricultural products and/or any information relating to agriculture/fisheries to aid her in her legislative agenda, you are hereby directed to provide this Office with the status of transactions involving apprehensions, seizures and condemnation of agricultural products pending in your respective ports.

For your immediate compliance.

  
**NICANOR E. FAELDON**  
Commissioner

16-23798



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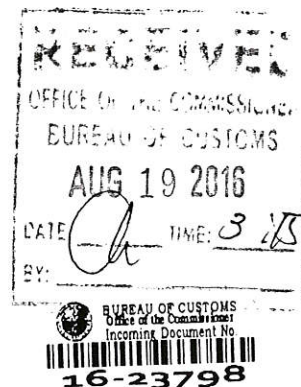
Republic of the Philippines  
**SENATE**

*Cynthia Villar*  
Senator

August 15, 2016

**COMMISSIONER NICANOR FAELDON**

Bureau of Customs  
Ground Floor OCOM Bldg.  
Port Area, Manila



Dear **Commissioner Faeldon**,

We have received a copy of a letter of the Chairman of Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) Engineer Rosendo So, regarding the Disposal of the 32 containers of pork imports that will be rendered in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. I believe that their concerns are legitimate and need to be resolved.

For an easier working relationship, I would appreciate if I can be given a copy of information relating to matters such as smuggling of agricultural products, rendering of abandoned agricultural products, and/or any information relating to agriculture/fisheries (rice, meat, poultry, sugar, onions and garlic, etc.). As Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance in Charge of Agriculture, these matters will help me in my legislative agenda. Smuggling as we all know not only unjustly expose local farmers to unfair competition, which eventually leads to the loss of millions of jobs for Filipinos, it also exposes the public to substandard and noxious products detrimental to our health.

RA 10845 or "**The act declaring large-scale agricultural smuggling as economic sabotage**" which I principally authored in the Senate and which was passed recently considers the smuggling of agricultural commodities and people caught engaging in smuggling and technical smuggling of goods worth P10 million or more for rice, and P1 million or more for other agricultural products, such as sugar, corn, high-value crops, poultry and livestock as economic sabotage and will be subjected under this law. The smugglers and their cohorts will be charged with life imprisonment and a fine of twice the fair value of their smuggled products, plus the aggregate amount of the taxes, duties and other charges avoided and the smuggled articles shall be confiscated.

Smuggling of agricultural products endangers the survival of the agriculture industry where most of the poor are. They are mainly in farming and fishing. It threaten the livelihood of small and subsistence farmers because the presence of smuggled products unjustly lowers market price, making it almost impossible for locally-produced goods to compete.

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Republic of the Philippines  
**SENATE**

*Cynthia Villar*  
Senator

In this regard, I look forward to your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Villar", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

Chair, Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture

Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Finance in Agriculture

Cc: Secretary Emmanuel Piñol  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Senator Francis Pangilinan  
Chair, Committee on Agriculture

Engineer Rosendo So  
Chairman, SINAG