

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

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Ruiz Assumes the Post of Customs Chief

Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz formally assumed office as the Head of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) following the turnover ceremony at the Customs head office in Port Area, Manila.

(See more in page 4)

BOC collects P78.902B, beats August target by P20B

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) surpassed its target collection for the 8th consecutive time this year. Acting on instructions of Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz to plug revenue leakages, the BOC accumulated P78.9B in August based on a preliminary report from the Financial Service. This means P20B or 34.1 percent more than its target collection of P58.8B for the month.

(See more in page 2)



BOC Tightens Security vs Banned Agri Products

Fifty-seven criminal and administrative complaints were filed against unscrupulous traders and individuals based on the mid-2022 report of the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) under the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG) - Legal Service. The anti-smuggling efforts of the Bureau of Customs in coordination with the Department of Justice -

(See more in page 6)



BOC Expedites Release of Abandoned Balikbayan Boxes

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) is expediting the release of balikbayan boxes of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) abandoned by CMG International Movers and Cargo Services and Cargoflex Haulers Corporation. Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz approved the release after a meeting with the Door-to-Door Consolidators Association of the Philippines (DDCAP) -

(See more in page 3)





BOC collects P78.902B, beats August target by P20B

From page 1

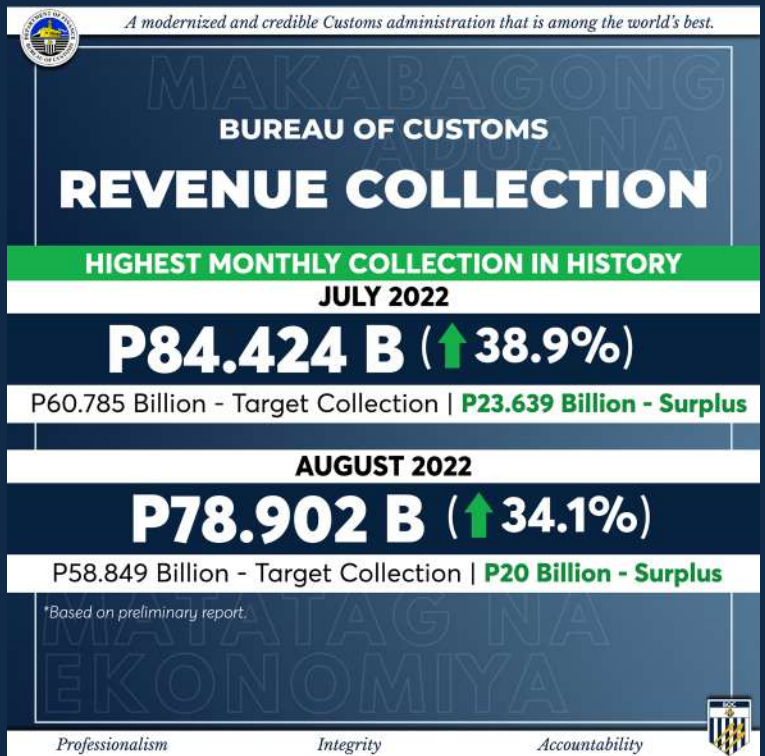
The generated revenue of P78.9B includes the P77.9B collection from all collection districts of the Bureau, P248.2M from the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG), and P677.4M from the Tax Expenditure Fund (TEF).

All 17 Ports surpassed their targets and cumulatively achieved a P15.8B or 25% surplus through intensified collection efforts under the present leadership.

Moreover, the consistently improving performance of the Bureau manifests the BOC's sustained reform efforts. From January to August 2022, the BOC garnered a total revenue of P559.2B. This is P146.9B or 35.6 percent higher than the P412B actual collection from the same timeline in 2021.

In July, BOC recorded its highest monthly collection in history, collecting a total of P84.424B, surpassing its target of P60.785B by P23.639B or +38.9 percent.

The collection includes additional revenues from the Tax Expenditure Fund (TEF) collection of P1.128B and Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) collection of P527.65M in the same month.



BOC Collects P837-M Add'l Revenue thru Post-Clearance Audit in Q2 2022

In its bid to collect additional lawful revenues through post clearance audit, the Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG), reports its semi-annual accomplishment on additional revenue collections for January to June 2022.

The latest report of PCAG highlighted its successful collection of P683,956,393.99 additional revenues in the first half of 2022 from the 64 Prior Disclosure Program (PDP) Applications and P154,013,196.87 as part of the 121 Audit Notice Letters (ANL) issued for the same period. In total, BOC-PCAG managed to collect P837,969,590.80 total additional revenue.

Furthermore, the Bureau is expecting an additional collection in the total amount of P13.647 billion from the enforcement of 67 demand letters, arising from post-clearance audits conducted in 2019, 2020, and 2021, which have become final and executory for the failure of the audited importers to contest the same.



BOC marks 9-Billion liters of fuel, collects P118-B in revenue in Mid-2022



Aligned with its thrust to curb illicit trade and collect rightful duties and taxes for the government, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has marked 9-Billion liters of fuel equivalent to P118 billion duties and taxes for the first semester of 2022. With this, the total marked gasoline, diesel, and kerosene from September 2019 to June 2022 were 43.65 billion liters equivalent to P432.3 billion in duties and taxes.

Diesel comprises 60.59% of the total volume marked, followed by Gasoline with 38.9% and Kerosene with 0.51% of marked volume. As to location, 73.88% of the marking was in Luzon, 20.66% in Mindanao, and 5.47% in the Visayas.

Also aligned with the Program, the BOC and the BIR seized a total of 111,157.80 liters of diesel, 3,311 liters of kerosene, 18,839 liters of Gasoline and seized 2 units of tank trucks carrying unmarked fuel with a total estimated value of P14.4 million. Tanks of 16 retail stations and 4 private companies where BOC found these unmarked fuels were likewise sealed and recommended for filing of criminal cases.



BOC Expedites Release of Abandoned Balikbayan Boxes



From page 1

- to discuss measures to fast-track the release and delivery of the boxes.

The BOC already released 7 containers consigned to CMG inspected by Ruiz and the DDCAP last month and is expected to complete the delivery by the end of August. An additional 27 containers of abandoned balikbayan boxes will be auctioned off to the DDCAP and sent to the consignees.

"The BOC initiated this move to help our OFWs," Ruiz said. Ruiz added that a Balikbayan Box Assistance

Unit will be created to monitor the immediate expeditious release and delivery of the balikbayan boxes and to serve as the primary communications center of the consignees.

BOC Delegates Join the 59th Meeting of the Working Group on Technical Matters for the ASEAN Single Window

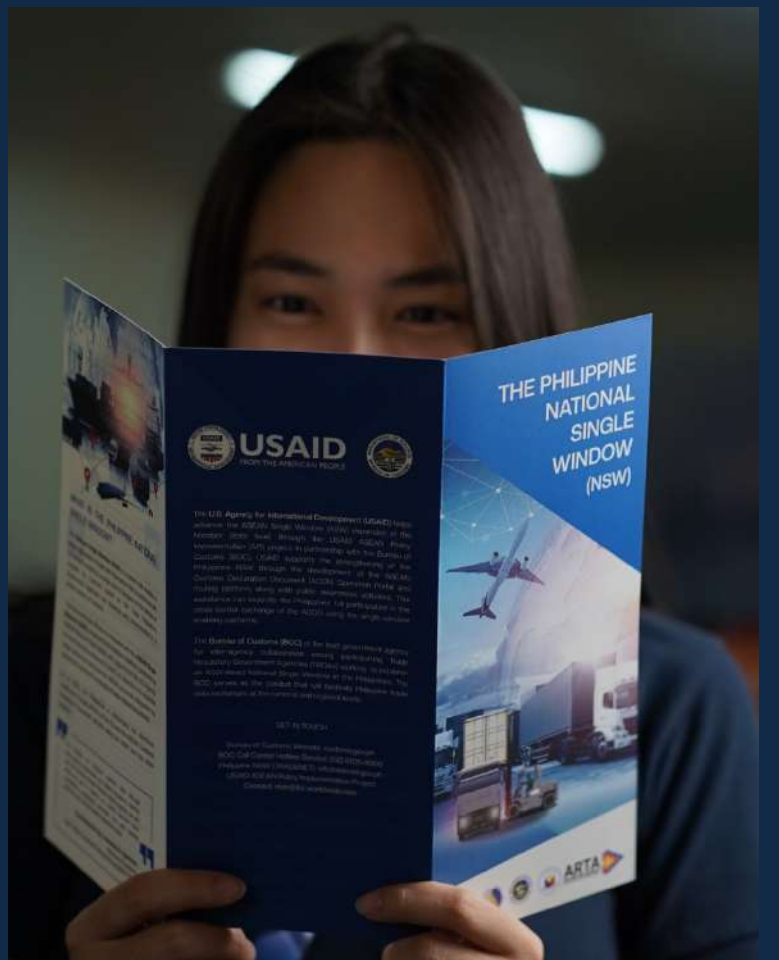
Customs Governing Agency, Certificate Issuing Agency, and NSW Operating Agency representatives from all ten (10) ASEAN Member states met virtually during the 59th Meeting of the Working Group on Technical Matters for the ASEAN Single Window (ASW TWG).

The four-day meeting, which was attended by MISTG OIC Director Jonathan Soriano, MISTG ITO III Reginaldo Linang, and Rhoan Escarmosa, discussed the progress of the initiatives under the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and the National Single Window (NSW).

These initiatives included the live electronic exchange of ATIGA e-Form D (electronic Certificate of Origin) and the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) by the Philippines with other AMS using the ASW System. Other key highlights included consultation sessions with ASEAN

Dialogue Partners (DPs) such as China, Japan, Korea, and the United States to explore the expansion of the ASW through the resolution of legal and technical issues.

The BOC, as Chair of the NSW Technical Working Group, will continue leading the implementation of the NSW and ASW in the country. It aims to join the end-to-end test of the electronic exchange of e-Phyto Certificate under the endorsed ASW 2022 priorities, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI).





Ruiz Assumes the Post of Customs Chief

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Ruiz took his oath before President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. at the Malacañang Palace on July 20 as the Acting Commissioner of BOC.

Before his designation as Customs Chief, Ruiz was the Head of the Enforcement & Security Service (ESS) of the BOC for almost five (5) years since 2017. As ESS Director, he spearheaded several enforcement projects and handled the operations which greatly contributed to the intensified anti-smuggling campaign of BOC. The new Customs Chief also served the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as Regional Director for seven (7) years in different regions nationwide where he led numerous drug interdiction efforts.

In a speech during the turnover ceremony, Ruiz underscored his seven (7) priority programs: (1) zero tolerance for drug smugglers; (2) curb gun smuggling; (3) eliminate agricultural smuggling; (4) increase revenue generation; (5) fully digitalize Customs processes; (6) increase employee morale; and (7) eradicate corruption. The said priority programs are aligned with the mission order given by President Marcos Jr. to the new Commissioner.

Furthermore, the new Customs Chief thanked Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero for implementing the much-needed reformation of the Bureau, a historical legacy that is now his duty to continue. Ruiz vowed that he will “carry on the good governance and process reforms that were started.”

Meanwhile, outgoing Commissioner Guerrero congratulated and welcomed Ruiz, who according to him is “a public servant with a track record of accomplishments that will surely bring new energy to the Bureau.”

“Being part of the organization for several years now, you have the advantage of hitting the ground running, so to speak, and a familiarity with the ins and outs that will serve you in good stead as you steward our institution towards mission accomplishment,” Guerrero said to the incoming Commissioner.





BOC INSTITUTIONALIZES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CUSTOMER CARE CENTERS

To establish a modernized customer service center that will provide services in conjunction with the Bureau's modernization projects, the Bureau of Customs issues Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 04-2022 entitled "Institutionalizing Transparency in Delivery of Services Through the Establishment of the Bureau of Customs Customer Care Centers (CCCs)".

The CCC refers to a modern service center that will provide services such as centralized document receiving and releasing, information area for inquiry and other general concerns, payment center, pass control, and other customs services.

All Collection Districts and its Sub-ports shall establish a CCC composed of the Supervising Public Relations Officers, Assistant Head, Document Receiving Officer, Document Releasing Officer, Document Sorting Officer, Document Distribution Officer, and Client Service Specialist, National Collecting Officer, Pass Control Officer, and other customs officers. The CCC shall be under the direct supervision of the District Collector of the Port.

The CCC shall operate from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday, in compliance with existing rules and regulations on working hours.

BOC Opens Customs Office at Port of Curimao



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has inaugurated a new customs office at the Sub-port of Curimao in Ilocos Norte to enhance operations at the seaport and improve economic growth in the region.

On Wednesday, Fr. Hermoganes G. Saturnino, Jr. officiated the blessing of the new BOC Curimao office, the first of more sub-port offices to open under the leadership of Port of Aparri District Collector Elenita Abaño. Port Irene and Laoag International Airport and its sub-port offices will soon hold their inaugurations.

Abaño, Currimao Mayor Edward Quilala, Philippine Ports Authority Northern Luzon Port Manager Engineer Marieta Odicla, Currimao Police Chief PMajor Benjie Dairev Umalla, Currimao Coast Guard Station Commander Mark Larsen, witnessed the event.

"This new office is a milestone achievement for both the Sub-port of Currimao and the Port of Aparri. With the guidance of Collector Abaño, our team played well. We succeeded in having this new office," Ma. Luisa Relon, BOC Port of Currimao Officer-in-Charge, said in her opening remarks.

The Sub-port also awarded its top importers and stakeholders for their help in transforming its mother unit, the District Port of Aparri, into a billionaire port.

Abaño thanked those who helped make the new office a reality, including the importers for their revenue contributions, officers of the Sub-port, and owners of Omnico Natural Resources Inc. for providing a space in their building.

"My resolve to provide safe, convenient, user-friendly, and decent sub-port offices under the District Port of Aparri was strengthened when I saw the sorry condition of the BOC sub-port of Currimao during my first visit to this port," Abaño said.



BOC-Subic Seizes P253M worth of illicit Cigarettes in 2 Months



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Subic seized various illicit cigarettes worth P253 Million from June to July 2022.

In June 2022 alone, 972 master cases of cigarettes consigned to Thousand Sunny, valued at P40.09 million, were confiscated. 1,003 master cases of cigarettes worth P41.3 million, consigned to Russhi Knish Consumer were likewise seized by BOC-Subic.

The Port also intercepted another shipment of Thousand Sunny Enterprise which arrived at the Port despite the revocation of their accreditation. It contained 1,000 master cases of assorted cigarettes valued at P42.2 million.

In July 2022, the Port seized another 2,157 master cases of cigarettes consigned to Proline Logistics Philippines Inc., amounting to P84.9 million.

The BOC-Subic also received information that another shipment consigned to Proline Logistics Inc. will arrive at the Port.

The BOC immediately issued a Pre-lodgment Control Order against the subject shipment, which contained 1,122 master cases of Marvels Filter Kings Cigarettes valued at 46,276,890.00.

The Port issued Warrants of Seizure and Detention against the shipments for violation of National Tobacco Administration (NTA) Memorandum Circular No. 03 series of 2004, NTA Board Resolution No. 079-2005, and Bureau of Internal Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 79-2022, to Section 1113 (f) of the Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

BOC Tightens Security vs Banned Agri Products

From page 1

- and other government agencies resulted in the filing of a total of 46 criminal cases from January to June 2022 against 145 individuals composed of importers, exporters, and customs brokers for violations of the Republic Act No. 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and other pertinent laws.

Similarly, 11 administrative cases were filed against licensed customs brokers before the Professional Regulation Commission.

Data from BATAS show that the cases involved the unlawful importation and exportation of cigarettes valued at P250.6 million, agricultural products valued at P163.3 million, electronic devices valued at P137.9 million, general merchandise amounting to P77.3 million, motor vehicles valued at P49.4 million, used clothing valued at P23.1 million and other commodities valued at P18.4 million.



BOC-CLARK, CAIDTF, ESS, CIIS, XIP & PDEA Seize 2.5kg of Shabu



The Bureau of Customs–Port of Clark, together with the Customs Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force (CAIDTF), Enforcement & Security Service (ESS), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), recorded another successful drug bust as it seized 2.5 kilograms of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, commonly known as shabu, with an estimated value of Php 17.25-million and arrested one claimant in Pasay City.

The shipment, declared as food, non-perishable chocolates, coffee, and candy arrived on July 5 from Rockville, Maryland, USA. Suspicious images were seen in the x-ray scanning which prompted the 100 percent physical examination of the shipment. Discovered were assorted chocolates and candies including three (3) vacuum sealed plastic of crystalline powder suspected to be shabu.

The shipment was then subjected to K9 sweeping which indicated possible presence of illegal drugs. The CAIDTF also conducted field testing which yielded positive for the presence of “Methamphetamine”.

Representative samples were taken and turned over to PDEA for chemical laboratory analysis which confirmed that the samples are indeed shabu, a dangerous drug under R.A. No. 9165.

Warrant of Seizure and Detention was issued by District Collector Alexandra Lumontad against the shipment for violation of Sections 118 (g), 119 (d), and 1113 (f) of Republic Act No. 10863 in relation to Section 4 of R.A. No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

On July 08, joint elements of BOC and PDEA conducted a controlled delivery operations in Pasay City which resulted to the arrest of one claimant.



KOICA Conducts Capacity building for BOC Training Institute

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Korea International Cooperation Service in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, conducted the Capacity Building for the Establishment of Customs Training Institute (CTI) Philippines via online video conferencing as part of the Bureau of Customs' proposal for a three-year Fellowship Program with KOICA starting 2022 to 2024.

The fellowship program aims to enhance the effectiveness of the CTI (Philippines) by strengthening the operation and management capacity of the officials and employees of the Bureau of Customs and the CTI.

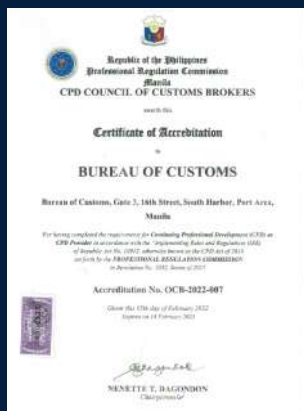
Personnel from the Interim Training and Development Division, Planning and Policy Research Division, and Human Resource Management Division, Philippine Tax Academy, and the CTI attended the said course.

The participants developed an Action Plan to provide solutions to the identified problems and issues currently faced by the newly established CTI which shall be executed after the program.

The three-year fellowship program will be followed by a visit to Korean Customs Border Control Training Center in 2023 and seminar and presentation in the Philippines in 2024.



PRC Accredits Bureau of Customs as CPD Provider for Licensed Customs Brokers



The Bureau of Customs is now a certified Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program Provider for Licensed Customs Brokers.

The Professional Regulation Commission (Continuing Professional Development Council of Customs Brokers) issued a Certificate of Accreditation to the BOC for having completed the requirements for "Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as CPD Provider" in accordance with R.A. No. 10912 or the "CPD Act of 2016."

Moreover, the Bureau of Customs recently got the approval for its first CPD-accredited seminar entitled "Basic Course on Assessment" for Assessment, Passenger Service, Export, Liquidation and Billing, Import Assessment Service, and Post Clearance Audit personnel.

With this continuing education program, the Bureau endeavors to proactively assist Licensed Customs Broker personnel of the agency in upgrading their professional competencies.

BORDER PROTECTION



Criminal, Admin Cases filed with DOJ reaches 57 in Mid-2022

Fifty-seven criminal and administrative complaints were filed against unscrupulous traders and individuals based on the mid-2022 report of the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) under the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG) - Legal Service.

The anti-smuggling efforts of the Bureau of Customs in coordination with the Department of Justice and other government agencies resulted in the filing of a total of 46 criminal cases from January to June 2022 against 145 individuals composed of importers, exporters, and customs brokers for violations of the Republic Act No. 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and other pertinent laws.

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I-DECLARE: ELECTRONIC CUSTOMS BAGGAGE AND CURRENCIES DECLARATION SYSTEM

If you are arriving at the NAIA Terminal 1, please take note of the following steps for a convenient Customs Clearance process:

1

Travelers and Crew Members arriving at NAIA Terminal 1 have the option to file their Customs Baggage and Currencies Declaration Form online by logging-in at <https://ideclare.customs.gov.ph> within 48 hours PRIOR to arrival.

2

Click the “**e-CBD Application**” button, and read and acknowledge the Privacy Policy and Important Information by ticking the appropriate boxes.

3

Fill out the e-CBD Form by providing the following information:

- a. Flight Details;
- b. Port of Departure and Arrival;
- c. Personal Information;
- d. General Declaration;
- e. Additional Documents, if any;
- f. Signature; and
- g. Email Address

4

If you are bringing in foreign or Philippine currency or monetary instrument exceeding 10,000.00 USD or 50,000.00 pesos, click “Yes” in the “**General Declaration**” section and fill-out the electronic Currencies Declaration Form or e-CDF.

5

 Submit

Once complete, click “**Submit**”

6

Download the **QR Code** automatically sent to your registered email and print or directly present it to the Customs Officer at the Arrival Area for clearance.

7

Please proceed to the **Green Lane** if you have “**Nothing to Declare**” or to the **Red Lane** if you have “**Goods to Declare**”.

In case you were not able to declare online prior to arrival, our Customs Officers shall gladly assist you in accomplishing the paper copy OR the electronic Customs Baggage and Currencies Declaration Form through the I-Declare Kiosks found at the Customs Area.

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
MANAGING DIRECTOR:
PROJECT ASSISTANT:
GRAPHIC ARTIST:
MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER:
CIRCULATION STAFF:
PHOTOJOURNALIST:

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