

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

Volume 12 • November-December 2021



BOC OVERSHOOTS 2021 COLLECTION TARGET



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

2021 REVENUE COLLECTION

P645.765 B

↑ 104.7% Collection Efficiency

↑ (4.7%)

Compared to the Jan-Dec 2021
Target Collection of P616.749B

↑ (2.4%)

Compared to the Pre-Pandemic
Actual Collection of P630.31B

**based on preliminary report from BOC Financial Service*

Consistent with its mandate to collect lawful revenues for the country and despite the pandemic, the BOC, based on the preliminary report from Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG), surpassed its annual collection target for 2021 by 4.7% or P29.016 B, collecting a total of P645.765 B against its target of P616.749 B, even higher than the pre-pandemic collection of P630.31 B in 2019.

(See more in page 2)

BOC Donates Relief Goods to 'Odette' Victims



Bureau of Customs, through the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, conducted a turnover ceremony of imported foodstuff and footwear to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for donation to the victims of typhoon 'Odette' on December 24, 2021. The donated goods consist of 5,200 sacks of rice, 91,200 canned goods, and 81,200 pairs of footwear, which arrived at the Port of Batangas (POB) - [\(See more in page 5\)](#)

BOC Formally Receives Four Procured Mobile Container X-Ray Machines



As the Bureau of Customs (BOC) bolsters the nation's border security measures and trade facilitation, the X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) procured four new units of mobile container x-ray machines to boost the Bureau's scanning performance. The additional assets were officially turned over to BOC on November 5, 2021 in a Turnover Ceremony conducted at the XIP Designated Examination Area, ATI Premises. [\(See more in page 4\)](#)

Customs Appraiser, Examiner of Port of Manila Nabbed For Extortion



On 02 November 2021, the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducted a successful entrapment operation against Zosimo E. Bello (Bello) and Salvador V. Seletaria (Seletaria), a customs appraiser and examiner at the Collection District No. II-A (Port of Manila), respectively. The subject customs appraiser and examiner were previously reported to the Bureau by an importer to be extorting - [\(See more in page 7\)](#)



BOC OVERSHOOTS 2021 COLLECTION TARGET

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For the month of December, the BOC also exceeded its monthly revenue target by 20.8% with a total of P62.478 billion collection against its month-target of P51.705 billion.

Furthermore, 13 out of the 17 collection districts exceeded their target for 2021, namely the Port of San Fernando, Port of Manila, MICP, Port of NAIA, Port of Batangas, Port of Legazpi, Port of Iloilo, Port of Surigao, Port Zamboanga, Port of Davao, Port of Subic, Port of Clark and Port of Limay.

The BOC's positive revenue collection performance is attributed to the improved valuation, intensified enforcement operations against illegal importations, improved compliance by traders to customs laws, the gradual improvement of importation volume, and the government's effort in ensuring unhampered movement of goods domestically and internationally considering the pandemic situation.

Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero once again commended the collective efforts of the men and women of Bureau of Customs who, despite the risks to their health and safety, showed unwavering commitment and dedication to service.



BOC Collects P1.5 BILLION Additional Revenues Through Post Clearance Audit In 2021

Collection of additional revenues from
January to December 2021

Php 1,522,216,793.42

As part of the 349 Audit Notice Letters (ANL) issued.

In its bid to collect lawful revenues, the BOC through the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) reported its annual accomplishment and revenue collections during an Executive Committee Meeting of the BOC in January 2022.

In its report, the PCAG highlighted its successful collection of additional revenues from January to December 2021 amounting to Php 1,522,216,793.42 as part of the 349 Audit Notice Letters (ANL) issued. Said collection is 25% higher than its revenue collection from the previous year.

Additionally, PCAG stated that it is optimistic to legally collect more revenues from post clearance audits with pending status from 2019 to 2021. Presently, there are Fifty Five demand letters amounting to Php 12,468,110,546.82 billion which have become final and executory for failure of the audited importers to contest the same. These are now being referred to the BOC Legal Service for filing of the necessary collection suit.

Customs Disposes More Than 2,400 Containers, Generates P555 Million from Public Auction in 2021

**Public Auction
2021 Revenues**

P555,443,841.75

proceeds from 1,257 containers
of assorted items such as rice,
galvanized steel, among others.

The Bureau of Customs-Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCCG) together with the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division (ACDD) and the ACD units of all Collection Districts nationwide, disposed a total of 2,407 overstaying containers through condemnation and public auction in 2021.

Public auctions resulted in the revenue generation of P555,443,841.75 in proceeds from 1,257 containers of assorted items such as rice, galvanized steel, among others. While the remaining 1,150 containers of used clothing, rotten foodstuff, used oil, used furniture, other valueless used articles were condemned or destroyed accordingly.

These containers were forfeited after seizure or abandonment proceedings under Sections 1139 and 1141 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), which provides for the conditions and modes of disposition, respectively. Furthermore, in relation to CAO 17-2019, cargoes which weren't withdrawn within the regulatory period of 30 calendar days from payment of duties, taxes, and other charges shall be deemed abandoned, unless covered by duly issued alert order, and upon the finality of the Decree of Abandonment, the Bureau shall then determine the proper disposition among auction, condemnation or donation.



Philippines Formally Joins the Electronic Exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD)

Following the successful preliminary activities and connectivity testing, the Philippines was given the green light by ASEAN to join other ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the electronic exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) in November 2021.

The ACDD is a multi-purpose trade document used for facilitating the exchange of export declaration information in ASEAN. The objective of the electronic ACDD is to support Customs in the importing country to carry out their riskmanagement activities. The pilot electronic exchange also aims to benefit the participating exporters through the potential reduction in Customs clearance time for shipments which are supported by the ACDD and imported into exchange-ready AMS. It will also broaden economic integration, support the digitization of BOC processes, and maximize the potential of intra-ASEAN trade.



The Bureau of Customs, through the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) Project, spearheaded the activities in preparation for the electronic exchange of the ACDD. The technical assistance included the development of the ACDD Portal through an in-depth study of the infrastructure requirements, information security issues, and functionality design under the guidance of Ms.

Elaine Tan, who is the USAID API Chief of Party, Mr. Dennis Pantastico, who is the ASW Regional Advisor and Deputy Commissioner Allan C. Geronimo of the BOC-MISTG.

35th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs



Manila, Philippines, November 2021 – In conformance with the Bureau of Customs' commitments to the ASEAN, several Customs Officials composing the Philippine Delegation recently attended the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC), which took place via Video Conference from 23-25 November 2021, chaired by Collector Wilnora L. Cawile, Head of the External Affairs Office.

Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, the incumbent Chairman of the ASEAN Directors-General Meeting formally opened the event, noting his appreciation to the different Customs administrations of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) for their "individual efforts, hard work, and perseverance in upholding their roles and responsibilities to achieve the goals of the ASEAN Customs". Commissioner Guerrero closed his remarks by reminding the AMS that there is still more substantial work to be done in pursuit of the "ASEAN: One Vision, One Identity, One Community."

During the course of the three-day meeting, progress of ASEAN Customs Integration was reported by the Chairs of the three working groups. Consultations were also done with the ASEAN Customs dialogue partners and representatives from the private sector to strengthen Customs-to-Customs cooperation and recognize the importance of Customs-to-Business partnerships in the region.

COVID-19 VACCINES REPORT

(As of January 02, 2022)

COVID-19 VACCINES

Brand	Quantity
Sinovac	56,030,400 doses
Sinopharm	1,000,000 doses
Astrazeneca	36,970,550 doses
Pfizer-BioNTech	59,868,810 doses
Sputnik V	10,005,000 doses
Moderna	33,912,460 doses
Johnson and Johnson	12,561,650 doses
Sinopharm	100,000 doses

210,448,870

Total vials cleared since February 2021

313 - Running total number of shipments released by BOC



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The additional assets have features that allow non-intrusive scans at a rate of 120 containers per hour and can produce clearer pictures of items being scanned. The high-performance scanning capability of these additional assets will significantly improve the capacity of the Bureau in identifying smuggled commodities by allowing non-intrusive detection of goods within containerized shipments in a short period.

With the utilization of the 124 existing x-ray machines, the additional procurement of the advanced machines is expected to further enhance the Bureau's operations.

The newly acquired units will be deployed to ports with high-volume scanning operations, namely, the Manila International Container Port, Port of Cebu, Port of Subic, and Port of Cagayan De Oro.

BOC, AMLC Inaugurate Coordinating Center



As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to border protection, the BOC together with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on December 14, 2021 inaugurated the BOC-AMLC Coordinating Center.

The event was attended by AMLCS-Investigation and Enforcement Department Director Atty. Matthew M. David together with other members of AMLCS-IED. For the BOC, Enforcement Group Deputy Commissioner Teddy S. Raval attended together with Port of NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan and Enforcement and Security Service Director Yogi Filemon Ruiz.

In his opening statement Depcomm Raval stated that the BOC-AMLC Coordinating Center shall act as a quick-action

center between the two agencies and shall serve as a command center for joint operations. Raval stated that counting machines shall be present in the coordination center to aide examiners in border security efforts.

Director David for his Part stated that cross-border security is a team effort between BOC and AMLC. It will synergize efforts in ensuring that cross border security efforts are implemented and lead to better detection of false declarations of currency and the confiscation of the same. Director David is optimistic that the partnership between AMLC and BOC will result to increased confiscations and apprehensions of violators.

In her statement, NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan assured that BOC NAIA personnel are committed to exercise the Port's mandate to prevent the entry of misdeclared currencies that may be used to finance illegal activities. She also stressed that the coordination center will form part of the Port's enhancement of its capabilities.



BOC Donates Relief Goods to 'Odette' Victims

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- Manila International Container Port (MICP), and Port of Manila, respectively.

The 10x20 containers of rice and 1x40 container of footwear were forfeited pursuant to Section 1129 of the Customs and Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) after failing to file the corresponding goods declaration for the shipments within the prescribed period.

Meanwhile, the 2x20 containers of canned goods were seized and forfeited for violation of Section 1400 concerning Sections 117 and 1113 of CMTA.

Privado, on behalf of the DSWD, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to BOC for the untiring support to the agency especially in the facilitation of foreign donations at this challenging time.

In his message, Guerrero stressed that the Bureau will continue to support the agency in safeguarding the interest of the public and will ensure the speedy processing of donations received by the country to respond to the needs of the Filipino people, especially at this critical time.

The disposal through the donation of the said goods is under Sections 1141 and 1149 of CMTA.

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BOC Holds the First Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the Philippine Customs Modernization Project (PCMP)

The Bureau of Customs convened on October 28, 2021 the Project Steering Committee (PSC) created under Joint Memorandum Circular 01-2021.

The PSC is an implementation arrangement required by the World Bank for the Philippine Customs Modernization Program (PCMP) to provide overall policy direction and strategic guidance to ensure delivery of the project outputs and the achievement of project outcomes. The Steering Committee will help to steer the project from its start to completion.



Co-chaired by the Secretary of Finance and the Customs Commissioner, representation to the PSC is made up of the key agencies whose clients or stakeholders would be the intended beneficiaries of the output of the project. The PSC includes representatives from Department of Budget and Management, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Food and Drug Administration and Philippine Ports Authority.



BOC, PDEG-PNP, PDEA, NICA Seize Php 102M Worth of Shabu in Caloocan City



Representatives from PNP Drug Enforcement Group (PDEG), Bureau of Customs (BOC) through the Manila International Container Port-Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service Field Station (MICP-CIIS), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) seized an estimated 15 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or “shabu” in a buy-bust operation on Nov. 29, 2021.

An intelligence report was received by BOC relative to the illegal drug activities which prompted the conduct of the joint buy-bust operation in Caloocan City led by PDEG. The total estimated value of the seized illegal drugs amounted to Php 102,000,000.00.

The arrested suspects and seized drugs were turned over to PDEG for custodial investigation and inquest in violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Drugs Act and RA No. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

BOC Davao (Sub-port of Dadiangas), PNP Seize PHP 6.3M Worth of Smuggled Cigarettes

The Bureau of Customs-Port of Davao, through its Sub-port in Dadiangas, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) Municipal Police Station, Makilala North Cotabato intercepted 12,500 reams of illicit cigarettes loaded on an Isuzu Fuso Fighter truck on November 15, 2021.

The seized cigarettes were taken into custody by the Port's Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) and the five (5) suspects were temporarily withheld at Makilala Municipal Police Station for filing of appropriate charges.

A Warrant of Seizure and Detention was already issued against the smuggled items for violation of Section 1113 in relation to Section 117 and Section 1400 of Republic Act No. 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).



Cagayan De Oro Seizes Remaining Smuggled Onions Declared As "Chinese Steamed Bun"; Solon Commends BOC

Bureau of Customs-Port of Cagayan de Oro (CDO) resumed the spot-check inspection of 19 remaining containers consigned to EMV Consumer Goods Trading on Nov. 22, 2021, at MICTSI container yard in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Following the receipt of derogatory information from the Intelligence Group that the shipment may contain smuggled goods, Oliver Valiente, Chief of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service CDO Field Station requested District Collector Atty. Elvira Cruz to conduct a spot-check inspection against the shipment resulting in the discovery of the smuggled goods.

During the initial inspection of the said shipment last November 18, five containers of the same consignee were positive of smuggled red onions declared as “Mantou” also known as Chinese Steamed Bun.

Valientesaidthe19remainingcontainersalsorevealed red onions which have no Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance from the Department of Agriculture hence considered as smuggled goods and are unsafe for consumption. The haul has now a total worth of 67.2 million pesos.

BOC Seizes Php 2.5 Billion Worth of Counterfeit Goods in Pasay

Bureau of Customs-Intelligence Group, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Intellectual Property Division and Port of Manila seized approximately Php2.5 billion worth of counterfeit goods in an operation conducted in Pasay City on Nov. 19, 2021. Armed with a Letter of Authority (LOA) issued by Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, the implementing team inspected the warehouses resulting to the discovery of possible Intellectual Property Right (IPR)-infringing goods and suspected smuggled counterfeit goods bearing the brands: Christian Dior, Gucci, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, and Fendi to name a few. Further investigation is underway for possible violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (RA 8293) and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (RA 10863).





Customs Appraiser, Examiner of Port of Manila Nabbed For Extortion

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- P300,000.00 in exchange for the release of their shipment. Hence, the Commissioner immediately directed an entrapment operation against the duo.

Said operation was conducted at Harbor View Restaurant, Manila – the agreed meeting place of the importer accompanied by an NBI undercover agent and the subject customs personnel. Within the plain view of the NBI and BOC agents, a white envelope was handed by the complainant to Bello and Seletaria. Said agents immediately apprehended Bello and Seletaria and were apprised of their constitutional rights. The seized envelope during the operation contained the marked money amounting to P30,000.00.

Bello and Seletaria are temporarily detained at NBI and will be subjected to inquest proceedings. On the other hand, BOC is already preparing the appropriate criminal and administrative charges against Bello and Seletaria.



BOC Port of Manila Seizes Smuggled Jetskis and Motorcycles



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Manila (POM) seized one 40-footer container of used jetskis, used motorcycles, and other misdeclared items estimated to be worth Php 3.9 Million on November 2, 2021. The apprehended units and other items which arrived at the South Harbor on October 3, 2021, from Japan were consigned to Fastside Consumer Goods Trading.

Based on the initial report, the consignee declared the shipment as electric motors, e-bikes, sofa, and cabinet. Upon the request of Enforcement Security Service (ESS) personnel, the container was physically examined and yielded misdeclaration of goods as approximately 45 units of various used motorcycles and bicycles, used and brand-new rims, two units of jetskis, and other assorted household effects were found.

Subsequently, the derogatory information received from the Intelligence Group (IG) led to the issuance of an Alert Order on October 29, which is suspected to contain jetskis and other undeclared items.

District Collector Michael Angelo Vargas immediately ordered the issuance of Warrants of Seizure and Detention against the entire shipment for violation of Section 1400 “Misdeclaration, Misclassification, and Undervaluation in Goods Declaration” in relation to Section 1113 “Property Subject Seizure and Forfeiture” of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

BOC-Port of Cebu Seizes 42 Containers of Mature Coconuts For Export

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Port of Cebu seized forty-two (42) containers of mature coconuts, a banned export product, last Saturday, December 11, 2021. The overall export value of the two shipments bound for China is estimated at Php232 Million.

Export declarations filed with the Port declared the shipments to contain paper waste. Acting upon a derogatory information received by SP/Lt. Roland J. Biteng and SA1 Ronald M. Magbanua of the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), the Port immediately scheduled a spot check. Customs Trade Control Examiner Ma. Theresa S. Ricalde and the representatives from the ESS and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service conducted the examination in the presence of the exporter's agent. The examination confirmed the derogatory information.

Finding probable cause, District Collector Charlito Martin R. Mendoza immediately issued Warrants of Seizure and Detention against the export shipments based on Section 1113 (f) and (l) (3), (4), and (5) in relation to Section 118 (g) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, Executive Order No. 1016 series of 1985, and Resolution of the Inter-Agency Committee on Executive Order No. 1016 dated 19 June 1992 listing mature coconuts among the prohibited products for exportation. Immediately upon forfeiture, the mature coconuts shall be turned over to the Philippine Coconut Authority.





What is a SCAM?

A scheme used to deceive someone out of something, especially money. It involves unscrupulous individuals luring victims with a supposed unclaimed package at the Bureau of Customs.

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM?

- Scammers use dummies or fake accounts in social media, emails, text messages or phone calls to lure victims.
 - The scammer will then pretend that he/she sent a gift or package containing money and/or luxury goods to the victim.
 - The victim will then receive a message, call, or email from an individual pretending as a customs employee and asking for clearance fee payments for the release of the package.
 - Bogus receipts, tracking numbers of packages, and other documents are also sent to the victims to make the transaction seem legitimate.
 - The scams can also be sophisticated at times, involving a fake tracking website of the said courier/freight forwarder where victims would be asked to check the status of the supposed parcel.
 - Scammers do not usually provide the address of their office.
- The SCAMMER and the individual pretending to be a customs representative will convince the victim to pay the clearance fee and deposit it to any personal bank account, GCash or any money remittance center.
- No package will arrive.

HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED?

- Never provide any personal information to anyone you just virtually met in social media or dating apps.
- Never make a payment to someone you don't know personally especially through the following mode of payments: **Personal bank account, GCash and any money remittance centers.**
- Validate bogus receipts, tracking numbers of packages, and other documents with the BOC or the nominated courier.  <https://parceltracking.customs.gov.ph/kiosk.php>
- Verify if the named courier is in the list of DTI's Accredited Courier/Seafreight Forwarders.  <https://www.dti.gov.ph/konsyumer/accredited-seaflight-forwarders/>

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT...

The BOC solely assesses duties and taxes on parcels, and such can only be paid and collected through Accredited Agent Banks (AAB), Postal Money Order (Postal Office) or directly to a BOC Cashier upon pick up or prior to delivery of the parcel.

TO REPORT:

Kindly coordinate with the following agencies.

PNP's Anti-Cybercrime Group

CONTACT DETAILS:
Complaint Action Center / Hotline: (+63) 9985988116
Telephone: +63 (02) 414-1560
Fax: +63 (02) 414-2199
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anticybercrimegroup>
E-mail: pnp.anticybercrimegroup@gmail.com
infoacg@pnp.gov.ph



Department of Justice - Office of the Cybercrime

OFFICE ADDRESS:
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For more volume of Customs Gazette, SCAN THIS!



GUIDELINES ON BALIKBAYAN BOXES



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MAKABAGONG ADUANA MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

ARE YOU SENDING BALIKBAYAN BOXES?

QUALIFIED FILIPINOS WHILE ABROAD MAY SEND BALIKBAYAN BOXES. THIS INCLUDES:

- NON-RESIDENT FILIPINOS**
- OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**
- RESIDENT FILIPINOS**

HOW CAN I AVAIL EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF DUTIES AND TAXES?

TO AVAIL EXEMPTION BALIKBAYAN BOXES SHALL:

- NOT EXCEED PHP150,000 IN VALUE
- CONTAIN PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS ONLY
- NOT BE IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES NOR INTENDED FOR BARTER, SALE, OR FOR HIRE

THE PRIVILEGE MAY ONLY BE AVAILED UP TO THREE (3) TIMES IN A CALENDAR YEAR WHEN THE ABOVE CONDITIONS ARE NOT MET, AND THE FREQUENCY IN AVAILING EXEMPTION EXCEEDED, DUTIES AND TAXES SHALL BE COLLECTED BY BOC.

(CAO-01-2018)



WHAT ARE THE ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN BALIKBAYAN BOXES?

PROHIBITED GOODS, RESTRICTED GOODS UNAUTHORIZED BY LAW OR REGULATION, AND REGULATED GOODS WITHOUT NECESSARY PERMITS. YOU MAY SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE LIST.



WHAT ARE THE DOCUMENTS I NEED TO SUBMIT TO BOC?

- INFORMATION SHEET WHICH CAN BE SECURED FROM:**
 - WWW.CUSTOMS.GOV.PH
 - CONSOLIDATOR
 - VALUE ADDED SERVICE PROVIDER (VASP)
- PHOTOCOPY OF BIOGRAPHICAL PAGE OF PASSPORT**
- INVOICE OR RECEIPT, IF ANY.**

THESE SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONSOLIDATOR ABROAD WHICH SHALL TRANSMIT THE SAME TO BOC, THROUGH THE DECONSOLIDATOR/FREIGHT FORWARDER IN THE PHILIPPINES.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM BOC:

- TRANSACTION ONLY WITH DTI-ACCREDITED DECONSOLIDATOR/FREIGHT FORWARDER LISTED AT [HTTPS://WWW.DTI.GOV.PH/KONSYUMER/ACCREDITED-SEAFREIGHT-FORWARDERS/](https://www.dti.gov.ph/konsyumer/accredited-seaflight-forwarders/)
- COORDINATE WITH CONCERNED REGULATING AGENCY FOR REGULATED GOODS
- DECLARE THE CORRECT ITEMS AND VALUE TO AVOID PENALTIES

ANY QUESTIONS?

(02)8705-6000 (7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.)
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REFERENCE