

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

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BOC, BSP Conduct Webinar on Cross-Border Transfer of Local and Foreign Currencies

The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through its Public Information and Assistance Division and in coordination with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), organized a virtual conference entitled “Webinar on Importation and Exportation of Local and Foreign Currencies” held on August 17, 2021 semi-virtually via Zoom Conference and in the OCOM Conference Room.

(See more in page 4)



BOC receives 13 Multi-Currency Bill Counters from Bangko Sentral

The Bureau of Customs headed by Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) headed by Governor Benjamin E. Diokno, convened for a virtual event on the Signing of Memorandum of Agreement for the donation by BSP of 13 units of Multi-Currency Bill Counters to the BOC on August 27, 2021.

(See more in page 4)

Philippines ranks 3rd in Trade Facilitation among Southeast Asian nations

As the country continuously gears towards modernization to simplify and streamline trade processes and procedures, the Philippines posted 86.02% score in the implementation of trade facilitation measures in 2021, ranking third among ten other Southeast Asian nations based on the latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation of the United Nations.

(See more in page 3)



BOC Receives Procured Body-Worn Cameras

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) formally received 200 procured body-worn cameras in a turn-over ceremony held on August 27, 2021 in the Customs Operations Center (COC).

The cameras shall be used by the Enforcement and Security Service for inspection and enforcement.

(See more in page 5)



BOC exceeds July and August 2021 Target Collection

In spite of the effect of the continuing logistical restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic to trade environment, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) collected P58.183 billion against its P53.751 billion July 2021 collection target, posting a surplus of P4.432 billion or 8.2%, and a total of P54.050 billion against its P53.061 billion August 2021 collection target, posting a surplus of P989 million or 1.86%. Remarkably, the bureau consistently met and exceeded its monthly revenue collection target since January this year. Based on the preliminary report from the BOC-Financial Service, 14 of the 17 Collection Districts hit their target, namely the Ports of San Fernando, Manila, NAIA, Batangas, Legaspi, Tacloban, Surigao, Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga, Davao, Subic, Clark, Aparri, and Limay.

For the month of August, 6 of the 17 Collection Districts hit their target, namely the ports of San Fernando, Port of Manila, Surigao, Davao, Clark and Limay. Remarkably, the BOC was able to meet and exceed its monthly target collections since the onset of pandemic in 2020. Last year, the Bureau collected P539.687B or 106.23% of its target collection. Further, the Bureau maintains the feat by collecting P412.964 billion, reflecting the 67% of the 2021 collection target of P616.749 billion.

The BOC's positive revenue collection performance is attributed to the improved valuation and volume of importations while maintaining border security and trade facilitation, as well as the intensified collective efforts of all the ports to prevent revenue leakages and collect all lawful revenues.

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JULY 2021

P58.183 B (↑ 8.2%)

P53.751 Billion - Target Collection



AUGUST 2021

P54.050 B (↑ 1.86%)

P53.061 Billion - Target Collection

*based on preliminary report from BOC Financial Service

Professionalism

Integrity

Accountability



LTO, BOC Signs MOA For Real-time Transfer of Imported Vehicles' Taxes And Duties Payment Records

As part of the inter-agency cooperation and coordination, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on August 04, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the real-time transfer of the BOC's records on payments of customs duties and taxes for imported vehicles to the LTO's new Land Transportation Management System (LTMS).

The BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero and LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Edgar C. Galvante attended the virtual event. Also in attendance were senior officers and division chiefs of both agencies. With the new system, only vehicles whose importers paid the proper duties and taxes are allowed registration by the LTO.

In their joint statement, both heads of the agencies stressed that the new link-up minimizes human intervention in the transmittal of duties and payment records. The system will help improve the government's collection of duties and taxes and ensure that only legally imported vehicles will ply the roads of the country. It further strengthens the campaign against smuggled and surplus vehicles and streamlines the vehicle registration processes.





Philippines ranks 3rd in Trade Facilitation among Southeast Asian nations



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The UN global survey on trade facilitation covers 143 countries and is produced every two years. The 2021 result for the Philippines is significantly higher than its 80.65% score in 2019 prior to pandemic, as well as the 65% global average implementation rate of trade facilitation and paperless trade measures, and the 74.29% average trade facilitation rating for the whole of Southeast Asia.

Five categories were taken into account under the global survey, among which are transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and cooperation, paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade.

With the scores that the country gained for 2021, the Philippines placed third in the Southeast Asian region, following Thailand with a score of 87.1% and Singapore with a rating of 95.7%.

BOC Enhances Trade Facilitation Through Upgrading of the E2M System and other Processes

The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Management Information System and Technology Group (MISTG), implemented additional features in the E2M system and other processes throughout the first half of 2021 pursuant to its objective of computerizing and modernizing manual processes through ICT-related activities.

Among which are the Online Release System for Export Declaration, which was implemented at the start of the year, the Enhanced Value Reference Information System (EVRIS) which was upgraded with new additional features, the Automated Bonds Management System (ABMS) for transit declarations and the Informal Entry System for Express Shipments. MISTG also implemented online inquiry systems aside from the continuous enhancement of the E2M system, one of which is the General Transportation Surety Bond (GTSB) Online Inquiry.

The Authorized Economic Operator Online Portal and the Electronic-Advance Ruling System will be launched this year.

These projects are designed to align BOC's processes with international standards, gearing towards becoming a customs administration that is among the world's best.

Over 51M Covid-19 Vaccines, 16K PPE Shipments Cleared by Customs

As the government's arm involved in the supply chain of essential goods, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) continues to deliver and provide services to the public by ensuring efficient processing and release of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) vaccines and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the Bureau of Customs has cleared 16,015 shipments of PPE such as facemasks, face shields, test kits, and various medical equipment, and 85 shipments or 51,906,440 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, which arrived in the country from February 28 to August 31, 2021. Of the total cleared vaccines, 29.5 million are Sinovac, 8.43 million are AstraZeneca, 4.957 million are Pfizer, 4.30 million are Moderna, 3.24 million are Johnson & Johnson, 1million are Sinopharm, 380,000 are Sputnik V and 100,000 are Hayat-Vax vaccines.

Customs Welcomes Four Regulatory Agencies in the New NSW System

Four (4) Trade Regulatory Government Agencies (TRGAs) announced their onboarding in the TRADENET.gov.ph system starting August 2021. TRADENET will now accept online applications for the issuance of import and export permits from the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), and the DTI - Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB). Other regulatory agencies are also expected to use the system this year.

Other agencies who are using the TRADENET system since 2020 are the following: Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), National Tobacco Administration (NTA), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).



BOC, BSP Conduct Webinar on Cross-Border Transfer of Local and Foreign Currencies



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This is consistent with the Bureau's continuing campaign for effective and efficient information dissemination on the urgent concerns in physical cross-border transportation of currencies and bearer negotiable instruments. The virtual conference was broadcasted via Facebook live on the Bureau's official Facebook account.

Atty. Mel Georgie Racela, Executive Director of AMLC, graced the virtual event. Atty. Dennis Gamaya, Acting Deputy Director of the International Operations Department of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Atty. Ma. Lourdes Mangaoang, Deputy Collector for Passenger Service of BOC were the keynote speakers of the online discourse. On BOC's side, Atty. Vincent Philip Maronilla, Assistant Commissioner and Spokesperson, together with Deputy Commissioners Atty. Teddy Sandy Raval of Enforcement Group and Raniel Ramiro of Intelligence Group where physically present while the other head officials of the Bureau were in virtual attendance.

The topics discussed were regulations on local and foreign currencies, and importation and exportation procedures of local and foreign currencies talked through by Atty. Gamaya and Atty. Mangaoang, respectively. After the lectures, questions from the public raised via zoom conference and Facebook live were accommodated by the resource speakers.

BOC receives 13 Multi-Currency Bill Counters from Bangko Sentral

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The employment of the bill counters to the major ports of entry will ensure the proper examination and validation of local and foreign currencies brought in or taken out by any person. The machines will also supplement the facilitation of cash count and preparation of inventory list and serial number of notes, and the detection of counterfeit currencies.

Furthermore, the customs officers assigned to conduct examination or physical cash count and prepare inventory of such will undergo a three-day training to effectively utilize the 13 bill counters procured and donated by BSP for optimum impact.

The virtual event was also attended by BSP Deputy Governor Dr. Francisco G. Dakila Jr., AMLC Executive Director Atty. Mel Georgie B. Racela, NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, and NAIA Deputy Collector for Passenger Service Atty. Ma. Lourdes V. Mangaoang, and other officers from BSP and BOC.

Commissioner Guerrero expressed his appreciation to the BSP headed by Governor Diokno for the invaluable donation which will serve as a major boost to safeguard the integrity of Philippine monetary instrument.

The BOC will continue to be diligent in carrying out the

mandate of the Bureau of Customs in strictly implementing laws, rules, and regulations under customs jurisdiction, especially those on cross-border transfer of local and foreign currencies.

Based on existing rules, any person bringing in or taking out Philippine currency in excess of P50,000 shall secure prior written authorization from BSP. For foreign currencies and other monetary instruments exceeding USD10,000 or its equivalent in other currencies, the person shall declare the amount using the prescribed Customs Baggage Declaration Form and Foreign Currency Declaration Form.

On numerous occasions since 2020, the BOC successfully prevented attempts of currency-smuggling, and seized the subject local and foreign currencies and other monetary instruments amounting to more than P33M.





WCO & BOC launch INTEGRITY DIAGNOSTIC MISSION

The World Customs Organization and the Philippine Bureau of Customs jointly launched the month-long “Integrity Diagnostic Mission” last August 26, 2021, as a step towards further preventing corruption and increasing the level of integrity in customs.

This program, conducted virtually by WCO, involves self-assessment on the part of the bureau to determine its current integrity situation and identify areas and opportunities for further improvement.

Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero and WCO Deputy Secretary-General, Ricardo Treviño led the event, which was also attended by WCO integrity experts and other key BOC officials including the BOC Integrity Core Team that will facilitate the conduct of the Diagnostic Mission and BOC Integrity Contributors, in view of their expertise in areas or activities that have direct or indirect impact on the fight against corruption and promotion of integrity.



Port of Clark passes Final Audit for ISO 9001:2015 Certification, the 1st Freeport to be ISO Certified

The Bureau of Customs Port of Clark, on Thursday, August 5, 2021, successfully passed the last stage of audit and was recommended for issuance of ISO 9001:2015 Certification, making it the first freeport to be ISO Certified.

The audit was conducted by TuvSud Management Service, a German auditing and certification service provider, to determine Port of Clark’s conformity to ISO Standards to consistently provide services that meet regulatory and customer requirements. The TuvSud Management Service team led by Christine Anne Formalejo with Co-Auditors Adorable Aguilá, Xavier Lance Dy and Rosemarie Abatayo conducted audit in different areas of operations of the Port of Clark.

ISO Certification of Bureau of Customs’ units and offices is one of the 10 priority programs for 2021 of Commissioner Guerrero to raise the standard of service in the BOC.

BOC Receives Procured Body-Worn Cameras



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The ceremonial turn-over was attended by the Undersecretary of Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), Mr. Dave Almarinez. For the BOC’s part, Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, together with

Deputy Commissioner of Enforcement Group, Atty. Teddy Sandy S. Raval, Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence Group, Raniel T. Ramiro, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Administration Group, Donato B. San Juan, Deputy Commissioner of Assessment and Operations and Coordinating Group, Atty. Edward James A. Dy Bucó, and Deputy Commissioner of Management Information System and Technology Group, Allan C. Geronimo graced the event.

A live demonstration of the capabilities of the newly-procured body-worn cameras followed. The cameras shall be used by the Enforcement and Security Service for inspection

and enforcement. The device could record video and voice, serving as a communication device between the user and the monitoring facility. The recorded data could be transferred to the 17 docking stations for monitoring of the Customs Operations Center (COC).



Philippines commences engagement in ASEAN Customs Meetings



The Philippines as Chairman of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC) for 2021-2022, through the Bureau of Customs (BOC)

headed by Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, attended the 8th Meeting of the TSWG, a Sub-technical Working Group of the Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG) on August 3-5, 2021.

The TSWG regularly reviews the harmonization, simplification, uniformity, and transparency of the classification of goods in the ASEAN region through a series of virtual meetings.

Previously, BOC led off the Philippine chairmanship of the CCC with her

attendance at the 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Technical Sub-Working Group on Classification (TSWGC) from July 22-23 and the 21st ASEAN Trade Facilitation-Joint Consultative Committee (ATF-JCC) on July 26 and 28, 2021.

The ATF-JCC continuously addresses matters on progressing towards heightened cross-sectoral collaboration within the ASEAN, and likewise paves the way for enhanced cooperation with the Private Sector in the area of trade facilitation.

**BOC-NAIA and DENR seized smuggled 276 carnivorous plants**

Bureau of Customs-NAIA (BOC-NAIA) together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) seized illegally imported 276 carnivorous plants at Paircargo Warehouse in Pasay City on July 05, 2021.

The seized carnivorous plants were discovered during the 100% physical examination of imported ten (10) packages from Netherlands. Verification with the DENR revealed that the said plants were unlawfully imported into the country without the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance and CITES Permit from the said agency. The carnivorous plants were later identified as Drosera, Nepenthes, Dionaea, Sarracenia, Pinguicula, and Cephalotus, with an estimated value of P150,000.00.

**BOC CDO Destroys PHP 50M Worth of Misdeclared Cigarettes**

The Bureau of Customs Port of Cagayan de Oro (CDO) destroyed thousands of misdeclared cigarettes estimated to worth 50 million pesos inside the facility of Terra Cyliq Corporation in Brgy. Mantibugao, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, on July 28, 2021.

The shipment said to contain 1,700 master cases or 85,000 reams with brands "Two Moon", "Mighty", "Marvel" and "Royal", consigned to Denian Dry Goods Trading arrived in Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in Tagoloan from China on September 18, 2020, declared to be office furniture, were destroyed using road roller and backhoe. Upon examination by Customs Examiner, together with operatives of Customs Intelligence Investigative Service (CIIS) CDO Field Station and Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) CDO District, the shipment in two containers revealed to contain illegal cigarettes.

The destruction was led by Atty. Elvira Cruz, District Collector of Collection District X and Officer-in-Charge of MCT together with Coll. Elizabeth Delas Llagas, Deputy District Collector for Operations; Coll. Noe Espenilla, Deputy Collector for Operations, MCT; SP/Capt. Abdila Maulana, ESS District Commander; and IO1 Oliver Valiente, Chief of CIIS CDO Field Station.

**BOC-MICP Seizes Php 120 Million Worth of Yachts**

As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to border security, the Manila International Container Port (MICP), through the Port's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (MICP-CIIS) in coordination with Enforcement and Security Service (MICP-ESS) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), on August 22, 2021 seized 4 luxury yachts moored at Manila International Container Terminal (MICT), Manila.

The said vessels were seized by virtue of a seizure order issued by MICP District Collector Romeo Allan R. Rosales in accordance with Section 1113 of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA). The vessels were identified as Le Boss (approx 70 footer), Yuzhen8 (approx 55 footer), Yua Hal Ming Zhu (approx 110 footer, and Gu Cheng Gang Guan (approx 59 footer).

Estimated to have a market value of Php 120 Million, the yachts were being utilized as transport services, residence and were being commercially offered as venues for events and for private use without the necessary conversion permit for local use as well as the payment of proper duties and taxes.

BOC-NAIA, PDEA, IADITG nab Claimants of P9.58M-worth of Ecstasy

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Port of NAIA, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the NAIA Inter-agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (IADITG), arrested claimants of 5,637 tablets of Ecstasy "Party Drugs" concealed in Foot Spa Machine with estimated street value of Php9,582,900 during a joint controlled delivery operation in QC Philpost Office on July 12, 2021.

Records show that the subject package arrived last June 28, 2021, from Neuss, Germany, and was declared as "Childrens Toys, Somer Sandals, Bag, Socks, Pants, Rain Boots, and Birthday Stock".

Upon 100% physical examination conducted by the customs examiner, the subject package was found to contain 5,637 tablets of Ecstasy classified as a dangerous drug under the R.A. 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The claimants are currently undergoing custodial investigation by the PDEA for possible violation of RA 9165 also known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and Sections 1400 and 1401 in relation to Section 119 of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.





Customs Subic Seizes Php 86 Million Worth of Smuggled Onion



The Bureau of Customs Port of Subic, through its Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) Field Station and the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) Subic District Command, earlier this month seized 23 forty-footer containers of red onions from China. The containers, estimated at Php 86.250 million in commercial value

was consigned to a certain Duar Te Mira, arrived in two batches and were all misdeclared as “chapatti bread” in their manifests.

Upon the arrival of the first 11 containers last July 9, Subic District Collector Maritess Martin issued the pre-lodgment control order as requested by CIIS Subic Field Station and ESS Subic. The alert was ordered to verify a derogatory information received by CIIS on the shipment. Subsequent physical examination of the containers revealed red onions instead of chapatti bread with estimated value of Php 41.250 million.

Customs profiled and alerted the arrival of the second batch of said

containers. Collector Martin, together with CIIS, ESS, representatives from SBITC-Seaport Department, CBBI, and members of the Economic Intelligence Sub-Task Group on Food Security (DTI, DA and NICA and CIDG) oversaw the full physical examination on the containers, which confirmed these too contained Red onions. Part of the rigid examination was to tear down walls and ceilings of the container for possible drug concealment. The examination yielded negative presence of drugs. The estimated value for this batch was at Php 45 million. The BOC is now weighing options on how best to dispose of the contents of these 23 containers, with the official issuance of warrants of seizure and detention.

Import Traders Face Criminal Complaints for Unlawful Importation and Misdeclaration



The Bureau of Customs – Bureau's Action Team against Smugglers recently filed two (2) criminal complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Green Nature Alliance Venture Corp. and Humility Trading and their signing customs brokers for the alleged unlawful importation and misdeclaration

of smuggled goods.

Green Nature Alliance Venture Corp. and its customs broker were charged for alleged misdeclaration of 540 boxes of Marvels cigarettes and 500 boxes of Mighty cigarettes with a value of P56,374,355.20. This is a violation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA); Customs Memorandum Order No. 20-2006; Tax Reform Acceleration and Inclusion Law; National Tobacco Administration (NTA) Board Resolution 079-2005; National Tobacco Memorandum Circular No. 03, s. 2004; and the Revised Penal Code, as amended. The violation was committed on February 10, 2021 at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

Humility Trading and its customs

broker are also facing criminal complaint for their involvement in the alleged unlawful importation and misdeclaration of 79 bales of used bed sheets and 229 bales of used clothing last October 13, 2020 at the Port of Cagayan de Oro. The respondents purportedly violated the CMTA; Republic Act No. 4653 otherwise known as “An Act to Safeguard the Health of the People and Maintain the Dignity of the Nation by Declaring it a National Policy to Prohibit the Commercial Importation of Textile Articles Commonly Known as Used Clothing and Rags”; and the Revised Penal Code, as amended. The complaints were successfully filed through the combined efforts of BATAS, MICP, and Port of CDO.

BOC Seizes Php 7 Billion Worth Of Counterfeit Goods



As part of the intensified effort of the Bureau of Customs to fight smuggling and the proliferation of counterfeit goods, the Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) – Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) under

the Intelligence Group (IG) and Port of Manila District Office in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Coast Guard seized various counterfeit items in Bagong Milenyo, Pasay City on July 28, 2021.

The team was armed with a Letter of Authority and Mission Order issued by Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero. Upon inspection of the storage facilities, the team discovered various items bearing known registered marks such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Vans, Fubu, Tribal, Under Armour, Nike, Adidas, Zara, H&M, Calvin Klein, Old Navy, Guess, Lee, Tommy Hilfiger, Lacoste,

Havaianas, Freego, Wrangler, Burberry, Jordan, Gap, Bershka, Macbeth, Puma, Hollister, Reebok, Joe Malone and Bulgari, among others. The goods were estimated to have a value amounting to Php 7,429,638,000.00 located.

The imported counterfeit items were seized for violation of Section 108 (f) of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and RA 8293 otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines. The operation marks the Bureau of Customs' biggest accomplishment resulting from a single operation to date.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS



REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10863 CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT (CMTA)

For the effective implementation of the CMTA, Bureau of Customs officials, District Collectors, Deputy District Collectors, police officers, agents, inspectors and guards are authorized to effect search, seizure, and arrest. Such authority includes the power to search and detain travelers arriving from foreign countries. The dignity of the person under search and detention shall be respected at all times.

Can a person import/export local currency (Philippine Peso) or other bills of exchange?

Yes, the person may bring in or out of the Philippines legal tender Philippine notes, coins, checks, money order and other bills of exchange.

They are allowed to bring in or out up to **Php 50,000.00** without need of prior written authorization from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In excess of **Php 50,000.00**, the person is required to secure prior written authorization from BSP.

Can a person import/export foreign currency?

Yes, the person may bring in or out of the Philippines foreign currency or foreign monetary instrument.

They are allowed to bring in or out up to **USD10,000** or its equivalent in any other foreign currency-denominated monetary bearer instruments without making a written declaration and accomplishing the Foreign Currency Declaration Form.

In excess of **USD10,000** or its equivalent, the person is required to make a written declaration in the Customs Baggage Declaration Form upon arrival and accomplish the Foreign Currency Declaration Form which may be obtained at the Customs Arrival or Departure Area.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply with the existing laws shall subject the violator to sanctions under the **RA 10365 otherwise known as "An Act Further Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering Law" and RA 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act"**, including confiscation of the foreign currency, or monetary instrument involved.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY
From 7:00am - 7:00pm

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