

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

Volume 8 Number 1 • March-April 2021



World Bank Group supports launching of BOC Modernization Program

As part of efforts to modernize and streamline processes, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on March 26, 2021 formally launched the Philippine Customs Modernization Program (PCMP). With the theme BOC's Road to Modernization by 2024, the event was held at the OCOM Conference Room,

South Harbor Manila.

The formal launch was attended virtually by Undersecretary Antonette Tionko representing Secretary Carlos G. Domiguez and representatives from the members of the Project Steering Committee namely, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Budget

and Management, Department of Agriculture, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine Ports Authority, and Food and Drug Authority. For the part of the BOC, Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero was joined by various Deputy Commissioners,

[\(See more in page 4\)](#)



BOC signs manifesto against corruption in support of PACC

As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to cleanse the Bureau and curb corruption, the Bureau on March 30, 2021 signed a Manifesto against corruption as part of its support to the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission. The activity was held in the Ocomm Conference Room Port of Manila South Harbor, Manila.

The event was attended by PACC Chairman Greco Antonious Beda Belgica and was joined by PACC Executive Director Fortunato Guerrero. For the Bureau of Customs, BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero

[\(See more in page 5\)](#)

BOC clears 3.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines

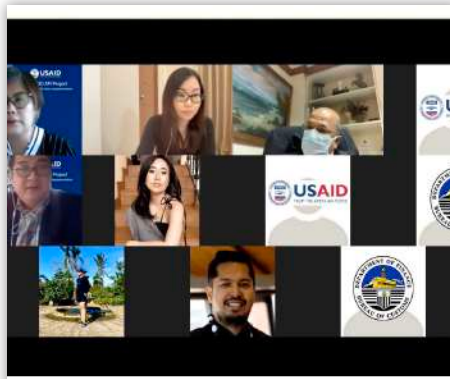
The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Port of NAIA, has so far cleared 3.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, tallying a total of seven (7) released shipments consigned to the Department of Health, as of April 22, 2021.

Of the said figure, 3 million doses are Sinovac, while 525,600 doses are AstraZeneca. The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrive at the country last February 28, 2021,

[\(See more in page 3\)](#)



BOC partners with USAID for the NSW Public Awareness Campaign



The Bureau of Customs and the USAID ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) project on April 6, 2021 discussed further plans to develop a Public Awareness Campaign on the National Single Window including the onboarding of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) to meet Philippines' ASEAN commitments in trade facilitation.

In December 2020, the Bureau of Customs together with the

[\(See more in page 3\)](#)



4.19B liters marked for 1st quarter 2021 under the Fuel Marking Program

As the Bureau of Customs (BOC) continuously implements its mandate to mark fully paid imported petroleum products under the Fuel Marking Program, a total of 4,193,480,138 liters of kerosene, diesel and gasoline were marked for the 1st Quarter of 2021 equivalent to P35.84 billion duties and taxes collected.

The markers serve as identifiers during field testing to determine the presence of illicit fuel in the market.

The Fuel Marking Program aims to raise revenues while curbing fuel smuggling and leveling the Philippine oil industry's playing field. Beginning its implementation in September 2019 to March 2021, the BOC and BIR marked a total of 21.7 billion liters of fuel and have collected Php211.73 billion in duties and taxes under the program.

BOC exceeds March and April collection target

Consistent with its mandate to collect lawful revenues for the country and despite the effects of pandemic, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) surpassed its March and April 2021 collection target by 14.2% or P6.8 billion and by 4.2% or P2.077 billion, respectively based on the preliminary report.

The P54.5 billion March collection exceeded the P47.7 billion collection target for the 3rd month of 2021. Meanwhile, BOC collected P51.277 billion against its P49.200 billion April 2021 collection target. The revenue surplus for the month of March and April continues to highlight the Bureau's consistent and positive monthly collection.

Based on the preliminary report from the BOC-Financial Service, thirteen of the seventeen collection districts exceeded their target for the month of March namely, the Port of San Fernando, Port of NAIA, Port of Batangas, Port of Iloilo, Port of Cebu, Port of Tacloban, Port of Surigao, Port of Cagayan De Oro, Port of Zamboanga, Port of Davao, Port Subic, Port of Clark, and Port of Limay.

For the month of April, eleven collection districts surpassed its collection target; namely, the Port of San Fernando, Port

of Manila, Manila International Container Port, Port of Iloilo, Port of Tacloban, Port of Surigao, Port of Zamboanga, Port of Davao, Port of Subic, Port of Aparri, and Port of Limay.

Since January 2021, the Bureau consistently exceeded its monthly revenue collection target. Casting up April preliminary collection report, the bureau collected P200.459 billion against the January to April 2021 collection target of P183.174 billion, posting a running surplus of P17.285 billion or +9.4%. The collection includes additional revenues from the Tax Expenditure Fund (TEF) collection of P219.34 million and Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) collection of P300.59 million from January to April 2021. Notably, this year's quadrimester collection is also higher by P20.720 billion or +11.5% compared to 2020.

The BOC's positive revenue collection performance is attributed to the improved valuation and intensified collection efforts of all the ports. Despite this, the Bureau maintains its border security measures against undervaluation, misdeclaration and other forms of technical smuggling and collect lawful revenues.

BOC-PCAG generates additional revenues for 1st quarter of 2021

In line with the Bureau's mandate to collect lawful revenues, the Bureau of Customs - Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) generated additional Php 287,036,700.02 customs duties and taxes for the 1st quarter of 2021 through intensified post clearance audit efforts.

The PCAG indicated that the additional revenue was collected from 51 Prior Disclosure Program (PDP) applications filed with the Office, accounting for Php 258,363,867.77 of the revenue collected, and from demand letters issued to importers amounting to Php 28,672,832.25 after the conduct of post clearance audit. 13 filed PDP applications were also approved during the period, while 4 were denied for continuation of the audit being conducted on these importers.

In furtherance of its successful revenue collection efforts, the PCAG remains optimistic that additional revenues may still be generated for the remaining months of the year as 57 new Audit Notice Letters (ANL) have so far been issued in 2021. In addition, there are also 13 final demand letters issued to importers amounting to Php 7,145,789,073.15 which remain unpaid and for referral to the Bureau's Legal Service for filing of the corresponding collection suit.

The Bureau of Customs, through the PCAG, assures the public that it remains steadfast to its commitment of protecting government revenue through intensified post clearance audit efforts. The PCAG continues its vigilance with enhanced risk-based profiling of importers and the conduct of post clearance audit to determine whether fines and penalties shall be imposed on errant importers found to have committed violations of the CMTA and other customs rules and regulations.



BOC clears Php 3.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines



From page 1

followed by six similar shipments, all of which underwent advance processing at the Bureau of Customs NAIA One-Stop-Shop and were immediately released.

Bureau of Customs under Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero remains committed in supporting the Covid-19 vaccination program of the national government by assuring the immediate processing of vaccines while protecting the border against fraudulent attempts to import unregistered vaccines and related medical goods.

NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan stressed that amidst continuing threats of COVID-19, active coordination and cooperation with concerned government agencies are continuously undertaken to further streamline and improve clearance processes of vaccines and related medical goods as the Bureau's intangible contribution to the nation's quest to combat the dreaded virus.

BOC partners with USAID for the NSW Public Awareness Campaign

From page 1

Department of Finance of the Philippines started working with the USAID ASEAN Policy Implementation project to improve the Philippines' National Single Window Implementation (NSW) by providing technical assistance to enable the NSW to exchange the ACDD. With more than two months passed since the technical assistance started, a public awareness campaign will be

created as one of the important national activities to be reached within this year. The goal is to increase greater awareness as well as e-Form D (electronic Certificate of Origin) as well as the ACDD (Export Declaration).

Campaign will be released and communicated via the Bureau of Customs' mainstream



social media platforms and the USAID ASEAN webpage.

Paperless Trade Agreement enters into force

The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific entered into force last February 20, 2021. In 2016, Member States conferred to adopt the framework agreement at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to accelerate trade digitalization - the electronic exchange of trade-related information across borders.

The Framework Agreement is an inclusive and highly flexible cooperation and capacity building platform where countries can participate regardless of their levels of development. In the most

recent regional trade facilitation report by ADB and ESCAP, the latest estimates suggest that the Framework helps reduce trade cost by more than 20% in most of the developing countries of the region. The five countries that have ratified or acceded to the treaty - Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines - are committed to regional cooperation in this critical area. Armenia and Cambodia signed the treaty in 2017 while several other ESCAP members are in the process of completing their accession this year.

The Philippines will benefit from the Framework Agreement in further

developing national and cross-border activities on exchanging electronic data and documents to comply with commitments it has made through bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements, including in developing its National Single Window as part of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Agreement. The Framework Agreement would also provide the Philippines opportunity to promote and leverage the cross-border paperless trade solutions it has adopted as part of ASW implementation in electronic data exchange with non-ASEAN trade partners.



World Bank Group supports launching of BOC Modernization Program



From page 1

Service Directors and Division Chiefs of the Bureau.

The event kicked off with an opening remarks from Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip C. Maronilla, and a message from Ndiame Diop of the World Bank Group. This was followed by the message and introduction of Commissioner Guerrero of the PCMP and the Ceremonial Video Launching of the program which presented its key components.

Among these components to be implemented under the program is the Customs Processing System (CPS). It serves as one single and unified system that combines all the key elements and customs procedures. The CPS ties in another project of the Bureau Remote Image Analysis Center (RIAC) which enables the remote access of x-ray images and the sharing and storing of such images.

In terms of infrastructure, the PCMP would establish a state-of-the-art Data Center which would also serve as the Bureau's Recovery Facility that will safeguard Customs data

in case of disasters. Lastly, the project will enlist a third-party turn-key provider that will establish an Administrative Back Office Enterprise Resource Planning System (ABERPS) that will enable the reorganization of BOC to a more efficient and effective workforce.

The Ceremonial Video Launching was followed by the signing of the Joint Memorandum Circular by the Project Steering Committee, and was capped by a pre-recorded message from Secretary Dominguez as the head of the said Committee and a message of support from House Representative Sharon Garin as the principal author of RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Through the grant provided by the World Bank Group to the Bureau of Customs, these modernization projects shall be implemented and shall run through until the year 2024. Along with other BOC projects, the Bureau's modernization and reformation is in full swing as it stays true to its battle cry "Makabagong Aduana, Matatag Na Ekonomiya".



BOC signs manifesto against corruption in support of PACC

From page 1

led the delegation together with all the Deputy Commissioners, District Collectors and Division Chiefs of the Bureau who attended virtually.

The Manifesto is aimed to support anti-corruption initiatives of the government which will be supported by the Bureau's internal culture change and cleansing initiatives such as the enrollment of the Bureau of Customs to the Performance Governance System (PGS).

In his statement Commissioner Rey Guerrero reiterated the commitment of the BOC to cleanse its ranks and weed out unscrupulous individuals from the Bureau. Commissioner Guerrero was also optimistic that with the Bureau's move to modernize its facilities and systems, corruption will no longer have a place in the Bureau.





BOC-MICP apprehends Php 65 million worth of smuggled items in Manila

In line with the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) anti-smuggling campaign, the Bureau through the Manila International Container Port's (MICP) Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) and Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) apprehended various items including medical supplies in Binondo, Manila.

The operation was done on April 21, 2021 in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) through the implementation of a Letter of Authority (LOA) and Mission Order (MO) signed by BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero.

The team inspected the storage facility and discovered various items such as BL Creams, Lotions, Speakers, 3M, and AIDELAI facemasks which are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The seized items were estimated to have a market value of Php 65 Million.

Further investigation and inventory is being conducted for possible violation of Sec. 1400 of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tarrif Act (CMTA).

BOC-ESS apprehends Php 131 million worth of cigarettes making machines and counterfeit cigarettes in Bataan

As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to border security, the Bureau through the simultaneous operations launched by the Enforcement Group's Enforcement and Security Service Quick Reaction Team (EG-ESS QRT) on March 01, 2021 apprehended cigarette making machines, counterfeit cigarettes and other paraphernalia used for cigarette making in storage facilities located in barangay Balagtas, Orion Bataan.

Armed with a Letters of Authority (LOA) signed by Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, members of BOC-ESS in coordination with the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) inspected two storage facilities and discovered the presence of an

estimated Php 131 Million worth of illegal goods.

The first operation led to the discovery of cigarette making machines and other paraphernalia such as rolling paper, foil and plastic packaging estimated at a value of Php 84 Million. The second operation yielded the discovery of 1,262 master cases of counterfeit cigarettes with various brands such as More, Two Moon, Seven Star, Winston, Fort, Mighty, and Marvels estimated to have a value of Php 47 Million.

The apprehended items were transported to the BOC facility in Manila for inventory and further investigation for possible case filing for violation of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

BOC NAIA, PDEA, NAIA-IADITG intercept Php 13.62 million worth of shabu

Bureau of Customs NAIA, BOC Quick Response Team (QRT ESS), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Region III and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG) apprehended another claimant of illegal drugs during a controlled delivery operation in Sta. Maria, Bulacan on March 5, 2021.

At around 5:00 PM, the consignee, a certain "Jayson Quiloy", 38 years old, claimed the package containing 2,003 grams of metamphetamine or "shabu" concealed inside 2 hotpot grills. The said package of shabu is estimated to have a street value of Php13,620,400.

The package declared as "Kitchen Appliances - steamboat grill" arrived last February 16 in the Port of NAIA and was shipped by a "Glus Sdn Bhd. (MBE Sri Gombak)" from Malaysia.

The illegal drugs were initially

discovered during the conduct of x-ray inspection, wherein an irregular image appeared, which prompted the 100% physical examination of the subject package by NAIA Customs personnel. In the course of the physical examination, the package was found to contain white crystalline substance inside a hotpot grill. Subsequent PDEA Chemical Laboratory Analysis confirmed that the seized white crystalline substance as "Shabu". Last February 15, a claimant of package containing "Ecstasy" was also arrested by the authorities in the Manila Central Post Office during an operation.

The claimant and the illegal drugs are now in the custody of PDEA, with claimant being subjected to custodial investigation for violation of



the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act 9165) in relation to Section 118 (Prohibited Importation), Section 1113 (Goods Liable for Seizure and Forfeiture) and Section 1401 (Unlawful Importation) of the Republic Act 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).



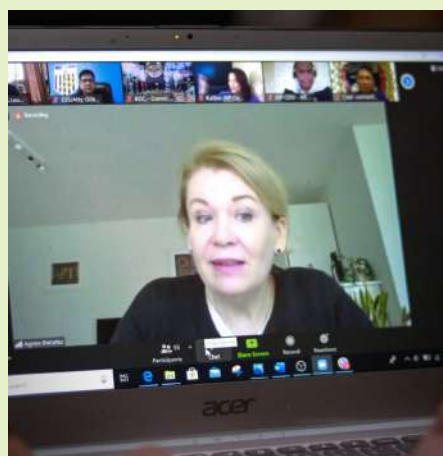
BOC launches National Customs Enforcement Network (NCEN) System

The Bureau of Customs, through the Risk Management Office (RMO), held the Ceremonial launching of the National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN) System at the OCOM Conference Room on March 26, 2021.

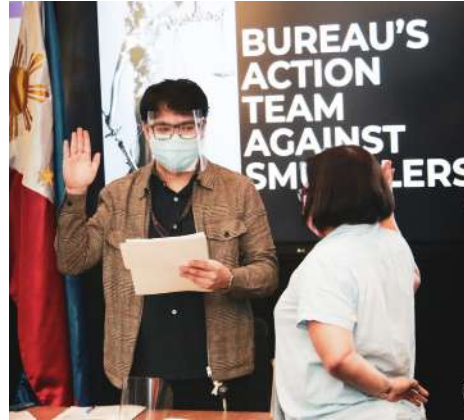
The launching was in line with the implementation of CMO 8-2021 or the Guidelines on the utilization of the National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN) System of the World Customs Organization (WCO) which took effect on February 8, 2021.

The nCEN and global CEN data will aid the Bureau in further developing countermeasures to combat smuggling and other forms of customs fraud. The database will ultimately help to efficiently gather credible intelligence information and generate accurate analysis that will significantly contribute to the quality of service that the Bureau of Customs can provide to national and global counterparts.

The Risk Management Office serves as the National Contact Point (NCP) for NCEN Philippines and shall be responsible in data sharing with the Global Customs Enforcement Network and will oversee the maintenance of the database of all smuggling cases, seizures and offenses, suspicions, and related data of consignees uploaded in NCEN for risk assessment. To date, 2,196 seizure cases were uploaded in the nCEN database which can be utilized for analysis of illicit trade and necessary for identifying trends applied in enforcement.



BOC files smuggling raps vs. importers, customs brokers of general merchandise, chemicals



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through its Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS), filed on April 8, 2021, before the Department of Justice smuggling cases against the three importers and its customs brokers for the alleged violation of various Customs laws, rules, and regulations.

A criminal case was filed against JOBADEC INTERNATIONAL TRADING and its customs broker for the alleged importation of various infringing and counterfeit merchandise last November 1, 2020, at the Manila International Container Port (MICP). The total value of the said goods amounts to P729,730.14.

Another criminal case was filed against CWON-PAMPANGA MOTORS TRADING INC. and its customs broker for alleged misdeclaration of a 40-footer container of various general merchandise with a total value of P2,756,271.65. The said violation was committed on November 26, 2020, in MICP.

A separate criminal case was also filed against AGILITY SOLUTIONS INC. and its customs broker due to alleged unlawful importation of regulated chemicals amounting to P8,870,127.56 on October 22, 2020, in MICP.

The Customs Brokers involved in the alleged illegal importation will also face administrative cases before the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

From January 1 to April 8, 2021, the BOC has filed 24 criminal cases against various importers and customs brokers.

BOC boosts cargo monitoring through E-TRACC

As part of the Bureau's thrust to automate Customs operations and

processes towards enhanced trade facilitation and strengthened border protection, the Electronic Tracking of Containerized Cargo (E-TRACC) System pursuant to CMO No. 04-2020 dated 4 February 2020 was rolled out starting 1 June 2020 in various ports nationwide.

In a nutshell, E-TRACC is a system that shall enable the Bureau real-time monitoring of inland movements of containerized goods using an Information and Communications Technology-enabled system such as the GPS tracking device to secure its transport to the intended destination and is being utilized at Customs Operations Center.

In line with this, the cargo transport report for the period of January to April 17, 2021, through E-TRACC, shows a total of 63,642 completed trips, of which 54.98% of the majority of trips from the port of discharge are intended to PEZA. While the remaining 45.02% of the completed trips consist of 15,578 trips for Cold Storage Warehouse, 7,518 trips for Customs Bonded Warehouse (CBW) Imports, 4,370 trips for Container Yard / Container Freight Station accounts, 1,003 trips for CBW Exports, and 183 for Condemned trips. The report on completed trips involves Port of Manila, Manila International Container Port, Port of Batangas, Port of Subic, Port of Cebu, Port of Davao, and Port of Cagayan De Oro where E-TRACC is being fully implemented.

Furthermore, among the total number of completed trips, the system has recorded 19 Apprehensions or Alerts responded by the Enforcement Security Service - Quick Response Team (ESS-QRT) from January 1 - April 17, 2021.

Through the use of E-TRACC, the unhampered transfer of goods is being secured and facilitated, dispensing the need for physical underguarding, and complements the "Tag Released-Tag Arrived" system, with the real-time record of departure from the origin to its intended destination. Consequently, the E-TRACC is an effective means of preventing erroneous delivery of containers, thus this prevents the issues on missing containers or unauthorized diversion of the carriers and misdelivery.

Your direct line to efficient public service

Maaaring idulog ang mga sumusunod sang-ayon sa
Section 21 ng Republic Act No. 11032 o ang Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018

a.

Pagtanggap ng tumanggap ng application o request kahit kumpleto ang requirements na walang maayos na dahilan;

b.

Pagingi ng karagdagang requirements na hindi nakasaad sa Citizen's Charter;

c.

Pagdagdag ng bayarin na wala sa Citizen's Charter;

d.

Hindi pagbibigay ng written notice ukol sa disapproval ng application o request;

e.

Hindi pagsunod sa nakasaad na processing time ng application o request na walang karampatang dahilan;

f.

Hindi pagtugon sa application o request ng kilyente na nasa loob na ng opisina o ahensya bago ang pagtatapos ng office hours o habang lunch break;

g.

Hindi pagbigay ng official receipt; at

h.

Fixing o kaya'y pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga fixer para sa kita o iba pang pakinabang.

Send feedback on government services, whether positive or negative, to the Contact Center ng Bayan via the following access channels:

SMS : 0908 881 6565

Email: email@contactcenterngbayan.gov.ph

Web: <https://contactcenterngbayan.gov.ph/>

FB: <https://facebook.com/civilservicegovph/>

Call: 165 65

P5 +VAT per call anywhere in the Philippines via PLDT landlines

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

CUSTOMS GAZETTE, the official newsletter of the Bureau of Customs is published by Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) with editorial office at Rm. 103 OCOM Bldg., 16th St. South Harbor, Port Area, Manila 1009

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

MGen. Bienvenido R. Datuin Jr. (Ret.)

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Dexter A. Buted Jr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Karren April A. Noronio

Irish Shane Escritor

Paolo L. Espinell

Jessil F. Garlando

Joanne D. Agudo

Jelyn Antoinette Berja

Angelito H. Espiritu

Jerome L. Monta

Dexter O. Gatoc

Ermie P. Macasieb

MANAGING DIRECTOR:

PROJECT ASSISTANT:

DESIGN:

CIRCULATION STAFF:

PHOTOJOURNALIST:

For more volume of Customs Gazette, scan this!

