

# CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

Volume 18 • November-December 2022



## BOC hosts ASEAN AEO Joint Validation, Inaugurates New AEO Office

The Interim Authorized Economic Office (AEO) and the Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) conducted a site walk-through with the ASEAN delegates to showcase the validation procedure conducted by the Philippines for the accreditation of AEO companies, such as the CCBPI. Among the criteria validated are the supply chain management, premises, and cargo and conveyance security of CCBPI. In addition, the new Bureau of Customs (BOC) AEO office was inaugurated on December 19 to institutionalize and further improve the services of the AEO Philippines.

*(See more in page 4)*

### Senate Committee on Ways and Means Conducts Ocular Inspection at the BOC



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Dec. 12, 2022 welcomed Senators Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian with Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito with key officials and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SCWM) and Senate Tax Study and Research Office (STSRO) for an ocular inspection and a walk-through to see the modernization program that the BOC implemented.

*(See more in page 5)*

### BOC Garner Highest Annual Revenue Collection in History



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) achieved its highest annual revenue collection in history, amounting to Php 862.929 billion, exceeding its target collection of Php 721.52 billion by Php 141.409 billion or by 19.6% based on a preliminary report for 2022.

*(See more in page 2)*

### BOC, USAID Launch BOC ASEAN Customs Declaration Document Portal



Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz led the Ceremonial Launching of the Bureau of Customs-ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) Management Portal with representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on December 6 in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

*(See more in page 3)*



## BOC Garner Highest Annual Revenue Collection in History

January to December 2022

# P862.929 B ↑ (19.6%)

**P721.52 Billion - Target Collection | P141.409 Billion - Surplus**

### Continuation from page 1

The 2022 revenue collection performance shows an increase of Php 219.367 billion or 34.1% compared to the Php 643.562 billion revenue collection in 2021.

It is the first time in the BOC history that all Ports exceeded their annual collection targets as reported by the BOC Financial Service.

The Post-Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) collected Php 1.840 billion deficient Customs duties, taxes, penalties, and interests as part of the 2022 BOC revenue collection, surpassing its 2021 collection of Php 1.522 billion by 21% and its target collection of Php 1.584 billion by 16%.

The Group bolsters the BOC Post Clearance Audit and Post Modification through the Computer-Aided Risk Management System (CARMS), implemented last August 2022, which provides critical information of traders to measure and improve Customs compliance.

The BOC also raised Php 292 million from public auctions of overstaying cargoes. The public auction of seized, forfeited, or abandoned containers generates additional revenues for the government and decongests the ports of the Bureau for more efficient trade facilitation.

Additional revenues also include the Php 22.8 billion rice tariff collection of the BOC. The Rice Tariffication Law helps consumers and farmers by lowering the retail prices of rice and providing assistance to farmers through excess tariff revenues.

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz warns unscrupulous individuals against smuggling and other forms of Customs fraud as the Bureau continues to heighten its border protection efforts to combat revenue leakages and increase the collection of lawful revenues for the Philippine government.

Commissioner Ruiz continues to lead the BOC in implementing the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to boost revenue collection, strengthen border control, and enhance trade facilitation while curbing corruption and gearing toward a modernized Customs administration.

## TRADE FACILITATION



### BOC Davao, UNODC Launch New Port Control Office

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Port of Davao, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – World Container Control Program (CCP), launched the new Port Control Office on November 23-25.

The activity is in line with the 8-point economic agenda of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to uphold public order and safety, peace and security, and Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz's directive to prevent smuggling and maintain zero tolerance for illegal drug importation.

The Container Control Program aims to strengthen the capacities of national agencies responsible for security at ports and airports.

It seeks to improve risk management, supply chain security, trade facilitation and prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods.

The CCP is operational in over 70 member states and equipped to exchange information with counterparts in other countries, which provides access to information, allowing users to share information about high-risk containers and verify their identification numbers.

Furthermore, there was a thorough discussion regarding the technical needs assessment that will serve as a basis for UN support, such as equipment and the overview of required program activities.

The event was attended by the regional head of the CCP, together with representatives from the Davao Customs Office, Risk Management Office, Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Major Shipping Lines, Chamber of Customs Brokers Inc and the Davao International Container Terminal Inc.





## BOC, USAID Launch BOC ASEAN Customs Declaration Document Portal



### Continuation from page 1

More than 140 stakeholders and representatives from the Philippines witnessed, both in person and virtually, the unveiling of one of the landmark digital tools of the Bureau under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The Philippines has joined seven other ASEAN Member States, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand, in digitizing trade processes and enhancing regional economic connectivity.

The project was made possible with technical support from USAID's ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) Project.

This project includes the electronic exchange of export declarations to member customs administration.

To maximize the potential of intra-ASEAN trade, the BOC ACDD Management Portal enables the Philippines to electronically transmit ACDD data through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) regional trade facilitation network.

During the event, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) urged the participants to pursue greater efficiency in government service delivery through the Signing of the Pledge of Commitment Towards Customs Digital Transformation Through the National Single Window (NSW).

With ongoing support from USAID, the Philippines will be able to speed up its compliance with additional regional ASEAN-endorsed commitments.

The NSW and ACDD tutorial video presentations, including the short clip of the ACDD launching event, are available on the official Youtube Page of the Bureau of Customs.

## World Bank Visits MICP to Bolster Trade Facilitation Efforts

The Bureau of Customs Project Management Unit (BOC-PMU), led by Dona Bolea, and World Bank representatives visited the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on December 6 for the Philippine Customs Modernization Project.

Alexandre Hugo Laure represented the World Bank while lawyer Marlon Agaceta, Deputy Collector for Administration, welcomed the guests.

Meanwhile, Florante Ricarte, Deputy Collector for Assessment, discussed the clearance procedures of consumption entries.

The project aims to improve the operational efficiency of the Bureau while lessening trade costs. The initiative will also strengthen the economic state of the nation.

The team also had a walk-through at the Customer Care Center to inspect the processing of documents at the Port.

Darren James Saligue and Jose Antonio Lacson facilitated the site visit at MICP facilities and a run-through of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) processes to conclude the tour.



## BOC-Davao Works With BIMP – EAGA Counterparts on Trade Facilitation, Border Security

The Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Davao officials recently met with its international counterparts in the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) to enhance international trade facilitation and border security efforts.

The BIMP-EAGA meetings, held on November 23–26 in Pontianak, Indonesia, explored the conduct of a Time Release Study (TRS) as one of the priority projects. The data from a TRS can help the Port of Davao improve its processes to comply with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s policy of improving bureaucratic efficiency.

Members also discussed plans for training on intercepting contraband and drugs for the customs officers of the four countries. A virtual launch of an international network to counter drug trafficking and illicit goods trading are also in the works.

The Port of Davao's participation in these projects equips its personnel with better tools and knowledge to intercept contraband, helping the Bureau fulfill Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz's policy on zero tolerance for smuggling and illegal drugs.

In a recent 2022 TRS conducted by the Port of Davao, the typical clearance time at the KTC Container Terminal was shorter by 23 percent — at two (2) days, 31 minutes, 34 seconds — compared to the 2020 Port of Davao average.

In the 2020 BOC study, the clearance of cargoes at the Port of Davao averaged two (2) days, 15 hours, and 37 minutes.



## BOC hosts ASEAN AEO Joint Validation, Inaugurates New AEO Office



### Continuation from page 1

The BOC hosted the physical Joint Validation for the Philippines under the ASEAN AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AAMRA) negotiations at the Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) office in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on December 14-15. ASEAN Member-States from Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, and Myanmar attended the meeting.

The AEO Program is a partnership program pursued globally by most customs administrations to secure and facilitate trade by providing incentives to traders with improved supply chain security.

Through the ASEAN AEO MRA, the BOC will be able to adhere more closely to the Customs-to-Customs pillar of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade.

Also, AEO members will enjoy reduced intervention for imports and exports from the partner countries of the Philippines.

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz said these initiatives are consistent with the region's dedication to improving government service delivery, securing trade, and realizing the ASEAN's end goal of economic integration.

The new BOC AEO office was also inaugurated on December 19 to institutionalize and further improve the services of AEO Philippines.

During the inauguration ceremony, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation and Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. were added to the roster of AEO Members with the awarding of their AEO Level 1 Accreditation.

AEO Level 1 members will be entitled to exemption from renewal of accreditation; self-assessment; filing of supplementary goods declaration; and access to a dedicated help desk.

Ambassador Huang Xilian and Minister Counsellor Yang Guoliang from the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines, Director Kwon Taehue from the Korea AEO Association, Hannah Faith Montana and Lee Yoonyoung from the Korea International Cooperation Agency and Mitsuo Suzuki from the Japan International Cooperation Agency graced the event.

Senator Cynthia Villar, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Assistant Secretary Dakila Elteen Napao, Commissioner Ruiz and other BOC officials were also present.



## BOC Plants 4,500 Trees Nationwide

Employees of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) from the Central Office and the 17 Collection Districts joined the nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity on November 26.

A total of 4,500 seedlings were planted as part of the Bureau's Customs Social Responsibility (CSR) Program with the theme, "Ikaw, Ako, at ang BOC."

The initiative, dubbed "Puno ng Kinabukasan," signifies nature bringing a bountiful future.

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz led the joint tree-planting activity of the Central Office, Ports of Manila, Batangas, Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and the Manila International Container Port at Sitio Bulihan, Barangay Tabangao Ambulong in Batangas City.

The Ports of Tacloban, Surigao, Subic, Clark, Davao, Cebu, Cagayan De Oro, Limay, Zamboanga, Aparri, Iloilo, and Legazpi also held their tree planting activity programs in their respective cities.

Among the seedlings planted during the simultaneous activity were narra, molave, mahogany and mangrove, to name a few.

As directed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to all government agencies to make tree planting a part of programmed activities that help strengthen the country's flood resilience capability through tree planting and other environmental campaigns, Commissioner Ruiz aggressively pursues innovations and development of Customs programs to boost employee morale while supporting similar advocacies as part of his priority programs.



## Senate Committee on Ways and Means Conducts Ocular Inspection of the BOC Modernization Program



### Continuation from page 1

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz led the walk-throughs at the Customs Customer Care Center (CCC), X-ray Inspection Program (XIP), and the Customs Operations Center (COC).

Key officials of the Bureau conducted briefings on the Customs Processing Systems, BOC Dashboard, Electronic Value Reference Information System (eVRIS), Philippine Customs Modernization Program (PCMP), and the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program.

Currently, the BOC automated 91% of its processes, and as of this year, the BOC implemented six additional digitalization projects.

"President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. is set on his mandate and the implementation of the eight-point socioeconomic agenda – emphasis of which being the prioritization of ensuring sound macroeconomic fundamentals by improving bureaucratic efficiency and ensuring sound fiscal management as well as enhancing the digital economy," Ruiz said during his welcome remarks.

"On this day, we open ourselves to the constructive feedback of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Tax Study and Research Office in hopes of further improving our facilities and reaching our goal of becoming a modernized and credible Customs Administration among the world's best," he added.

Under Commissioner Ruiz's leadership, the BOC ensures the expedited implementation of digitalization projects to ensure the efficient delivery of government services and to combat corruption, smuggling, and other Customs fraud, among others.



## Government Agencies Seize P149.60M worth of Illegal Drugs

Joint government operatives seized 22 kilos of suspected shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) valued at P149.60 million and arrested five suspects in Ayala-Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, on November 18.

The operation was conducted by the Bureau of Customs-Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service Manila International Container Port (BOC MICP CIIS) Field Station, Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), CIIS Intelligence Division, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The operation stemmed from information stating that there are foreign nationals allegedly exporting shabu and cocaine to Australia.

The BOC and PDEA conducted a series of case conferences and exchanges of information among point persons before the joint operations.

Also seized were various controlled precursors and essential chemicals in different volumes used to manufacture illegal substances and various laboratory materials and equipment, identification cards, mobile phones, and other pertinent documents.



## BOC – Port of CDO Seizes Smuggled Onions



The Bureau of Customs- Port of Cagayan de Oro seized two containers of smuggled onions concealed in bread and pastry products following a spot-check at Mindanao Container Terminal Port, PHIVIDEC Compound, Tagoloan in Misamis Oriental on December 21.

District Collector Alexandra Lumontad, issued Pre-Lodgement Control Order (PLCO) against the subject shipment following a joint request from Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS CDO Field Station) led by lawyer Justin Geli and Enforcement and Security Service CDO (ESS CDO) led by SP/Capt. Abdila Maulana Jr.

The shipment, which arrived on December 6, 2022, from China, was declared “Bread and Pastries”.

A spot-check inspection by a customs examiner, however, showed red onions. BOC officials and representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) 10, and Chamber of Customs Brokers, Inc. (CCBI) witnessed the inspection.

The two containers weighing 50,000 kilograms have an estimated market value of P20 million.

Warrants of Seizure and Detention were issued against the shipments for misdeclaration in violation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and DA regulations.

## BOC Files Criminal Complaints vs Forwarders

Deconsolidators involved in abandoning hundreds of balikbayan boxes at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) have been charged criminally by the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

The BOC has filed eleven criminal complaints before the Department of Justice against officials of the FBV Forwarder & Logistics, Inc., CMG International Movers & Cargo Service, Etmar International Logistics Corp., and Cargoflex Haulers Corporation for failure to lodge the goods declaration or to claim the goods within the prescribed period, without valid justification.

Commissioner Ruiz assured the public that the Bureau would go after unscrupulous forwarding companies that continue to defraud Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

Under the leadership of Commissioner Ruiz and aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the BOC remains firm in performing its mandate towards efficient customs administration.

## BOC Zamboanga Destroys P395M Worth of Smuggled Cigarettes

The Bureau of Customs Port of Zamboanga destroyed at least P395 million worth of smuggled cigarettes on December 13 during the simultaneous public condemnation activities in Pavillion, Dao in Pagadian City in a customs-rented warehouse in Brgy. Baliwasan in Zamboanga City.

The BOC, along with representatives from the Commission on Audit, the local government unit, stakeholders, partner agencies, and other operating units, disposed more than 11,219 master cases of cigarettes.

The contrabands were seized during separate anti-smuggling operations in Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi last May to November 2022.

District Collector Segundo Sigmundfreud Barte Jr. reported that this was the 2nd condemnation activity of the Port of Zamboanga for the year following the May 2022 destruction of Php 110 million worth of illicit cigarettes.

The BOC shares the accomplishment with the Task Force for Anti-Smuggling in ZAMBASULTA, composed of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Marines, the Philippine Navy, the National Bureau of Investigation, Joint Task Force Zamboanga, the Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the local government unit.



## BOC Partners with WCO for National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy



The Philippine Bureau of Customs (BOC) partnered with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to organize the National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy for the BOC on November 28 to December 2, 2022 at the Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila, in line with the mission of the BOC to strengthen border control.

The workshop aimed to enhance the BOC's Intellectual Property Rights knowledge, and to propose effective enforcement strategies.

During the training, operational targeting and risk management activities at a port and/or airport was conducted. The WCO's secure communication tool "IPR CENcomm" was presented, including the

pre-arrival information template to familiarize the participants with the use of the communication tool in the exchange of relevant information on IPR border enforcement with other WCO members.

Participants were also given access to the web-based Search Engine and/or Information Sharing Portal (ISP). Participants were frontline supervisors, officers from mobile units or other offices who have experience in the field of IPR enforcement and risk management.

Aside from BOC personnel, the Workshop was also attended by Right Holders Association invited by the WCO to enhance their awareness against illicit items and counterfeits.

Resource persons for the Workshop were Yoshihiko Yoneyama, Customs Officer, Tokyo, Japan Customs, Vinh Ha Hoang, Customs Officer, International Cooperation Department, General Department of Viet Nam Customs, and Yusuke Inoue, Technical Attache of the WCO.

## ITDD Conducts Train-the-Trainers Workshop

The Interim Training and Development Division (ITDD) spearheaded the first Train-the-Trainers (TTT) Workshop on November 22-24, 2022 at the Learning Room 5, Learning Center, Bureau of Treasury, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila.

The training is pursuant to Customs Memorandum Order 22-2020 on the competency development of the members of the BOC Pool of Trainers.

The said workshop aims to build the participants' existing instructional and presentation skills while giving them opportunity to improve the way they design and conduct a learning and development program and to learn the best practices on adult learning and development.

LTC EDDIE BALUNSO, Executive Officer of the Air Education, Training and Doctrine Command of the Philippine Airforce was the resource speaker for the workshop.

The new members of the BOC Pool of Trainers under Customs Special Order (CSO) 40-2022 and personnel from the ITDD attended the workshop.



## BOC, CI-PTA Attend Customs Modernization Workshop



To enhance the Learning and Development Programs of the Bureau of Customs and Customs Institute – Philippine Tax Academy, the BOC and CI-PTA coordinated with the Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan to conduct Workshop on Customs Modernization for Bureau of Customs held on December 6 to 8, 2022 in Kashiwa, Japan.

The Workshop aimed to orient participants with Japan Customs' practices on Human Resource Management and Training Management for consideration and practical application of the Bureau and CI-PTA.

The said Workshop was attended by the following BOC officials and personnel: Bienvenido Datuin, Jr. Director, Financial Management Office, Gladys Cabugawan – Chief, Central Records Management Division, Khristine Jane Melencio, Acting Chief, Human Resource Management Division, Jesus Paulite, Acting Chief, Budget Division, Kristin May Vista, Exec. Assistant III, Office of the Commissioner, and Nicole Headerre Alarcon, Acting Chief, Interim Training and Development Division.

# CAN I BRING IN VEGETABLES AND SPICES INTO THE PHILIPPINES?



Travelers **may not bring** in vegetables (regardless of quantity) into the Philippines **without** the required **Plant Quarantine Clearance** (for personal use) or **Sanitary & Phytosanitary Import Clearance** (for commercial use) from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Source: Bureau of Plant Industry - Plant Quarantine Service NAIA



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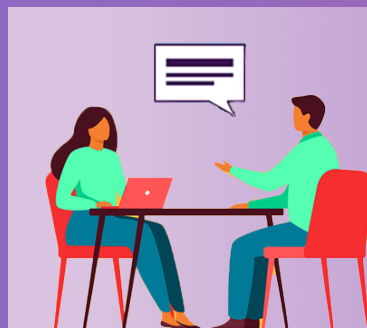


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## DID YOU KNOW?

THAT THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF ABANDONMENT?

The **Republic Act 10863**, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), **stipulates** that there are two types of abandonment: **Implied Abandonment** and **Express Abandonment**.



### EXPRESS ABANDONMENT

is when the owner, importer, or consignee of the imported goods **expressly notifies** the **district collector** in writing of their decision to abandon the items.



### IMPLIED ABANDONMENT

occurs when the owner, importer, consignee, or interested party **fails to file/lodge, pay, submit required documents, claim and failure to mark the goods** within the specified time frame after receiving due notice.

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