

CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

Volume 17 • September-October 2022



BOC launches CSR activities

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) launched its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program with the theme "Ikaw, Ako, at BOC" last October 28, highlighting its role and contribution towards creating a progressive and inclusive nation. *(See more in page 4)*

BOC orders the release of abandoned and unpaid Balikbayan Boxes



In response to the plight of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has implemented several initiatives to release all abandoned balikbayan boxes to their rightful claimants.

The BOC announced on Oct. 29 that all abandoned packages shipped by Island Kabayan Express Cargo LLC and Win Balikbayan Cargo LLC (All Win, for brevity) would be received by the recipients.

Claimants only need to present any government ID, copy of the receipt and/or authorization letter if boxes will be received by their representative. *(See more in page 3)*

BOC Exceeds October Target with P75.5B in Revenue

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) collected a total revenue of P75.5 billion in October based on a preliminary report, sustaining its positive collection trend under the leadership of Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz.

The BOC posted a surplus of P11.8 billion in revenue, or 18.6 percent from this month's target collection of P63.7 billion.

(See more in page 2)



Rice Traders found Guilty of Agricultural Smuggling

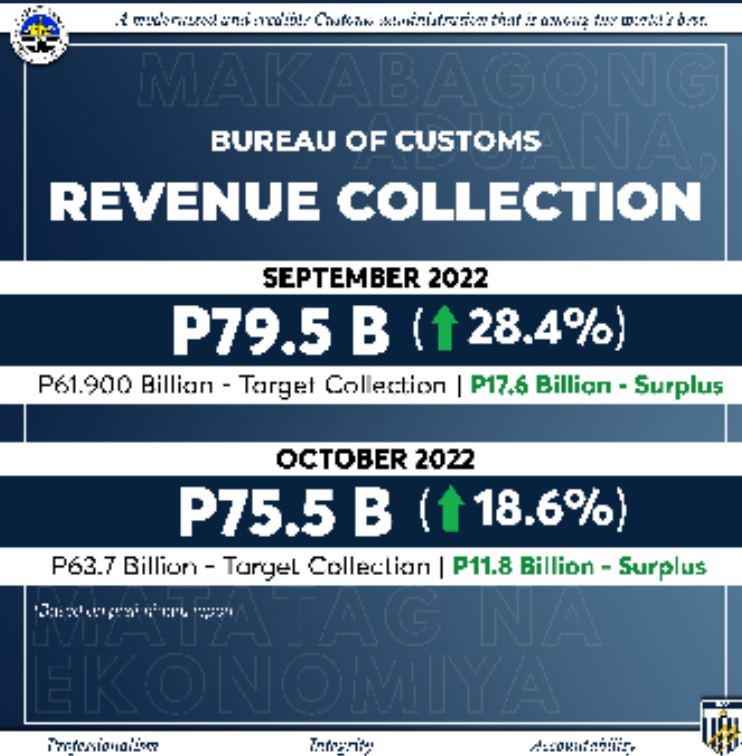
The Presiding Judge of the 3rd Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Orion-Pilar, Bataan convicted four (4) individuals on Sept. 9 who were found transporting smuggled rice in Orion, Bataan.

Last Feb. 24, 2021, the vessel "LCT Yellow River" was apprehended and multiple trucks were found discharging and loading smuggled rice and cigarettes at the Orion Dockyard, Orion, Bataan. *(See more in page 6)*





BOC Exceeds October Target with P75.5B in Revenue



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Comparing the Bureau's collection performance of P56 billion in October 2021 and P75.5 billion in the same period in 2022, revenues grew by P19.6 billion, up by 35 percent.

Last September, the BOC collected P79.5 billion, surpassing its monthly collection target by P17.6B or by 28.4%. This shows an increase of P21.9B in garnered revenues and a 38.1% collection improvement as compared to September of last year.

From January to October, the BOC collected P714.3 billion cumulatively and exceeded the P602.8 billion target by P111.5 billion or 18.5 percent. Compared to last year's P525.4 billion collection, revenues grew by 37 percent or by P188.9 billion.

The BOC continues to implement measures against revenue leakages, corruption, and smuggling while easing process bottlenecks.

Amid the nation's economic recovery, Ruiz is prioritizing the Bureau's modernization programs and process innovations to sustain outstanding performance and improve services to stakeholders.

TRADE FACILITATION



BOC Steadfast in Enhancing Trade Facilitation Mandate

The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG) and the Port of Manila (POM), continues to implement measures and work closely with its stakeholders in ensuring that effective trade facilitation programs and practices are in place.

The BOC-POM and the Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) together with the Association of International Shipping Lines (AISL) continuously implement the Empty Loadout Shipping Agreement (ELSA). Under the ELSA, vessels docked at the Manila South Harbor will load empty containers already in the terminal yard regardless of which shipping line owned such containers. The ELSA initiative is one of the measures implemented at the Port to free up the terminal yards of empty containers for load-out and repositioning in other countries and to maintain a healthy yard utilization rate.

Commissioner Yogi Filemon L. Ruiz also directed all the ports to expedite the disposition of all forfeited and abandoned goods through the modes provided under the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Moreover, the BOC also formed a Task Group to work closely with AISL and truckers on issues relative to the return of empty containers both at the terminal yards and at designated empty container yard depots.

A study is currently being undertaken on the proposal to automate the monitoring of movement of containers, particularly its return to the concerned shipping lines to further prevent congestion.

Under Customs Administrative Order 9-2019 implemented by Customs Memorandum Order 18-2022, empty container yard depots which is a type of Customs Facility and Warehouse (CFW) shall be required to undergo an accreditation process for more effective supervision and control by the Bureau.

In addition, to ensure that only legitimate importers and brokers transact with the BOC, the accreditation of importers and brokers whose shipments were issued Warrants of Seizure and Detention are automatically suspended. Suspended importers and brokers are allowed the temporary lifting of their accreditation and release of their shipments subject to strict monitoring by BOC as provided under pertinent customs laws.

Following due process, the BOC allows suspended importers and brokers to prove their non-culpability through a hearing in a proper forum, and if proven innocent, their accreditation will be restored.

Meanwhile, the shipping line charges and warehouse charges are beyond the jurisdiction of BOC as it is a private contract between the owner of the shipping lines or warehouse and the user. However, the BOC coordinated with the concerned shipping lines, AISL, and container yard depots to assist the stakeholders in their concerns.

Lastly, to ensure the integrity of the transfer of containers and prevent diversion, the Electronic Tracking of Container Cargo (E-TRACC) remains operational. The System enables the real-time monitoring of inland movements of containerized goods using an Information and Communications Technology-enabled system such as the GPS-enabled tracking device to secure its transport to the intended destination.



BOC Creates One-Stop-Shop for Cargoes of Diplomats, Foreign Dignitaries

The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG), established a One-Stop-Shop for cargoes of diplomats and foreign dignitaries.

The One-Stop-Shop in all collection districts of the BOC nationwide will facilitate the expedited processing and release of cargoes consigned to diplomats and foreign dignitaries.

It will be headed by the AOCG and composed of the Chief of the Informal Entry Divisions of the collection districts.

The One-Stop-Shop was created following the meeting among the BOC, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Embassy of the United States of America where Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz expressed commitment to further streamlining customs processes and procedures.



BOC orders the delivery of abandoned and unpaid Balikbayan Boxes



From page 1

BOC will not collect any fee for the release of balikbayan boxes.

For the welfare of the OFWs and their families, BOC shall release all balikbayan boxes directly to the recipients. As part of its long-term solution, the BOC is pushing for policy measures to thwart similar balikbayan boxes schemes of unscrupulous consolidators abroad.

Recently, the BOC met with the Department of Trade and Industry-Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (DTI-FTEB) to discuss collaborative measures.

Among these are the creation of a Balikbayan Box One-Stop-Shop and the drafting of an inter-agency

agreement between the DTI, the Department of Migrant Workers, and the BOC to stop similar illicit activities.

Moreover, BOC recommended DTI-FTEB to review and amend the Philippine Shippers' Bureau (PSB) - Administrative Order No. 06 series of 2005; reinstitute the accreditation of deconsolidators with BOC, and file appropriate cases against errant freight forwarders.

BOC Issues Implementing Procedures for Exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document

Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz signed Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 26-2022, which provides the guidelines and procedures for the exchange of the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) as part of the Philippines' commitment to implement the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Agreement.

The ACDD is a collection of "information parameters" structured with the ASEAN-set Process Specifications and Message Implementation Guide. It is electronically transmitted using the BOC's ACDD Management Portal, which is directly connected to the ASW System.

This initiative would deepen the Philippines' economic ties with ASEAN and its digital transformation, enhance the BOC's Selectivity System, open new opportunities for the BOC's ongoing trade facilitation initiatives like the trusted partnership program and risk profiling activities, and speed up the process of clearing import shipments through customs.

Under CMO No. 26-2022, which took effect on October 5, the exporter may register via the BOC's ACDD Management Portal (<https://acdd.customs.gov.ph>) and give their consent for the exchange of ACDD data with other ASEAN Member States.

The BOC's compliance with regional agreements, like the ASW Agreement with ASEAN, gives exporters easy access and creates a database of valuable data for the public sector and the business community.

The BOC will have the ceremonial launch of the BOC's ACDD Management Portal on November 23, with assistance from USAID's ASEAN Policy Implementation Project (API). All stakeholders will have access to the launching event in a hybrid format.



BOC launches CSR activities

From page 1

Aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to boost lawful revenue collection, funds garnered by the Bureau allow the national government to implement projects that benefit every Filipino citizen, which include the building of public infrastructures and maintenance of peace and other, among others.

Because of this, the BOC commits to providing meaningful services beyond its mandates of border protection, trade facilitation, and revenue collection. The BOC partnered with various government and non-government agencies to conduct several activities under its CSR program.

Various attendees participated in the job fair, blood donation drive, vaccination program, free medical consultation, and children's activity.

Moreover, one of the event highlights is the BOC Kwentuhan Tayo program, which provided an avenue for BOC stakeholders to address their concerns and queries on Hiring & Recruitment, Balikbayan Boxes, Online Scams, Processing of Parcel Items, and Guidelines for Arriving Passengers and Travelers.

Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz thanked all the attendees and online viewers of about 4,000 individuals who actively engaged with the Bureau.

The Commissioner also thanked its partner agencies, the Department of Health, the Philippine Red Cross, the Public Employment Service Office, the Local Barangays of the City of Manila, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Ruiz and with the mission orders from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the BOC pushes for the holistic development of the agency to implement and achieve its mandates effectively.

The activity stands as another milestone for the BOC in boosting shared values within the Bureau and creating a positive social impact on society.





BOC, AMLC Join Forces vs Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing



The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) expressed its full support and cooperation with the Bureau of Customs in curbing money laundering and terrorist financing in the country, as announced in a meeting between AMLC Executive Director Matthew David and Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz on Sept. 6.

Last year, the BOC and AMLC Coordination Center was inaugurated at the BOC-Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Ruiz said another coordination center will be established in the BOC Central Office to further enhance collaborative efforts between the agencies.

Executive Director David said that the AMLC will conduct trainings and workshops for the Deputized AMLC Financial Investigators (DAFIs) of the BOC to boost joint money laundering investigations on all smuggling cases which the BOC will file in the DOJ.

In addition, the AMLC will designate a point person for the BOC to ensure a seamless coordination between the agencies.

The Bureau will also work closely with the AMLC to further strengthen their working relationship as the agencies continue to work together in protecting the interests of the country and its citizens.

BOC, Chinese Embassy to Strengthen Bilateral relations

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz and the Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of China in the Philippines Counsellor Yang Guoliang met on October 5 to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in terms of customs policies.

Counsellor Yang expressed their commitment to greater cooperation with the Philippine Bureau of Customs (BOC) in a courtesy call to Commissioner Ruiz.

Commissioner Ruiz shared his appreciation for the counselor's support as the plans would help the speedy facilitation of the 7-point priority agenda of the BOC during his incumbency.

The Customs Chief also reiterated the Bureau's zero tolerance to all forms of smuggling, especially on drugs.

Commissioner Ruiz and Counsellor Yang also vowed to work together to ensure a solid customs-business partnership through the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program.

The AEO Program is one of the pillars of the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade which the BOC has committed to fully implement.

Commissioner Ruiz and Counsellor Yang showed mutual trust and pledged the success of this shared goal.

BOC Prepares to Implement a 24/7 Online Processing Payment System

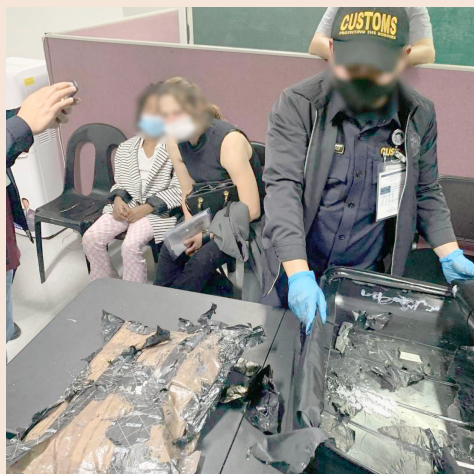
The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Management Information System and Technology Group (MISTG), fully implemented the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) Payment Application Secure System Version 6.0 (PASS 6) in its Electronic to Mobile (E2M) system on Oct. 1 which also allows the 24/7 processing of payments for stakeholders transacting through selected banks.

The BOC E2M System that enables stakeholders to access the services of the Bureau, anywhere and any time, will be integrated with the PASS 6 for efficient payment facilitation. Stakeholders who pay duties and taxes through Security Bank, Landbank, Asia United Bank, and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company will be the first to experience the round-the-clock payment service which can even be accessed from the comfort of their homes. Roll-out to other banks is also currently in the works.

BOC Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz expedites the digitalization of Customs services as he leads the Bureau in its modernization programs and initiatives. This is aligned with the administration's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda and directives of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to modernize infrastructures and systems to increase trade operational efficiencies to promote the growth of the Philippine economy.



BOC, PDEA, NAIA-IADITG nab another shabu courier Worth PHP 17.250-Million



Another illegal drugs courier from South Africa attempting to bring in P92.24M worth of shabu was nabbed by the joint operatives of Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG) in NAIA Terminal 3, Pasay city on October 28, 2022.

At around 11 p.m., a female passenger, 40 years old, arrived in the country via flight EK 334, originating from Johannesburg, South Africa.

The authorities found the drugs hidden in a false compartment of the luggage the woman was carrying.

A field test was immediately made by the Customs Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force (CAIDTF) and the substance tested positive for Shabu.

A joint inventory was conducted and found to contain 13,565 grams of shabu with an estimated value of P92,242,000.00.

Similarly, a Norwegian passenger was also arrested by the authorities on October 28 for attempting to bring in 8.34 kilos estimated at P56.7 million.

The passenger and the shabu shall be turned over to the PDEA for the institution of inquest proceedings for violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act 9165) in relation to Sections 118 (Prohibited Importation), 1113 (Goods Liable for Seizure and Forfeiture) and 1401 (Unlawful Importation) of the Republic Act 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

BOC Davao, PDEA XI, DCPO seize Luxury Vehicle misdeclared as Used Automobile Parts



Bureau of Customs, Port of Davao, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency XI (PDEA), Seaport Interdiction Unit, and the Davao City Police Office (DCPO), intercepted a luxury car misdeclared as used automobile parts in a joint physical examination conducted on September 1, 2022.

The discovery of the smuggled luxury vehicle stemmed from the intelligence report that was received from the Philippine National Police – Sasa Police Station.

During the opening of the container, its front content showed various used automobile parts. However, the said automobile parts were used to conceal one (1) Unit White Porsche 911 GT3 RS.

Furthermore, the said shipment was also inspected by elements of the PDEA Region XI for possible smuggling of drugs in the said vehicle. A thorough physical examination yielded negative of illegal substances.

District Collector Atty. Erastus Sandino B. Austria, CESO V, through the intelligence information given by PNP-Sasa, immediately issued an alert order against the subject shipment.

Based on its shipping documents, the shipment arrived from Japan on August 31, 2022, and was consigned to JJCTD Import and Export Trading Corp. The estimated value of the seized luxury vehicle is P15,308,486.14.

A Warrant of Seizure and Detention has been issued against the shipment for violation of Section 1400 concerning Section 1113 of R.A. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Rice Traders found Guilty of Agricultural Smuggling

From page 1

Through the assistance of the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS), various criminal cases were filed before the MCTC, Regional Trial Court, and Court of Tax Appeals.

In the cases pending before the MCTC, the presiding judge found all the accused GUILTY beyond reasonable doubt of violating the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and were sentenced to imprisonment for three (3) years and six (6) months to four (4) years and eight (8) months.



BOC Recognized Employees Completing Post-Grad Studies

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) recognized its employees who completed their respective post-graduate degrees this year during the Flag Raising Ceremony at the OCOM Grounds, BOC Compound, South Harbor, Manila on Oct. 17 and 24.

Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz presented the awards to 49 employees from the Office of the Commissioner, Port of Manila, Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Manila International Container Port for their commitment and dedication to pursue and complete a post graduate degree while engaged in serving the BOC stakeholders and the general public.

The activity is in line with the objective of the Bureau under the leadership of Commissioner Ruiz to promote a culture of recognition that encourages employees to pursue professional development for service excellence.

BASIC COURSE ON OPERATIONS NOW ACCREDITED BY THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS BOARD FOR LICENSED CUSTOMS BROKER AS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) PROGRAM



The Basic Course on Operations offered by the Interim Training and Development Division (ITDD) is now accredited by the Professional Regulatory Board for Customs Brokers as a Continuing Development Program (CPD).

Customs Brokers will obtain 36 CPD units upon completing the course which they can use to renew their license with the Professional Regulation Commission.

The course runs in four batches: (1) Oct. 20-27, Nov. 8-15, (3) Nov. 22-29, and (4) Dec. 1-9.

It covers customs processes and procedures on port operations, particularly on export clearance, customs bonded warehouse and facilities warehouses, and boarding inspection and formalities on free zones, transit, and transshipment and disposition of goods.

Employees who will undergo the training are expected to learn and understand the vital customs laws, rules, and regulations related to seaport operations.

BORDER PROTECTION



BOC seizes P228-M worth of smuggled imported sugar

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized 76 containers of refined sugar worth P228 million from Thailand on Oct. 17 after the consignee failed to present an import clearance from the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA).

Customs Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz led BOC agents in inspecting the containers after the Customs Intelligence, and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP) requested the issuance of an Alert Order on October 4.

Based on intelligence reports, the shipment, which arrived at the MICP on September 24, contained "misdeclared and undeclared" items.

As a result, the BOC issued two Warrants of Seizure and Detention against the shipment for violating Sections 117 and 1113 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Ruiz said the BOC was determined to stop any action that would jeopardize market prices, local production, and the impact of these on Filipino workers and consumers.

"I'm proud of what our team has done in this case. They didn't let this attempt to change consignees go through and were fast on their feet in making sure we stop another shipment from entering our local markets," Ruiz said.

CIIS Director and concurrent Intelligence Group (IG) OIC Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Tacio said there was initial information about the shipment's status as containing "misdeclared" and undeclared goods.

CIIS-MICP Chief Alvin Enciso reported an attempt by the consignee to change its name on October 10 after a request for the issuance of an alert order was received at the District Collector's Office on October 4.

Ruiz lauded the BOC's latest operation, particularly the blocking of the attempt to circumvent the law and change the consignment.

The operation is part of the marching orders of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to BOC to stop all forms of smuggling and other customs fraud in the country.



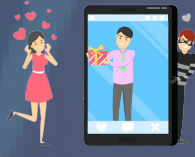
What is a SCAM?

A deceptive scheme or trick used by unscrupulous individuals to cheat a victim out of something, especially money.

How Does a Love Scam Work?



A Scammer creates a fake profile to court victims online.



The relationship and trust between the scammer and victim develop at a fast pace.



The scammer asks his/her victim for money and will vanish after receiving it.

How Can I Avoid Being Scammed?

- A. Never provide any personal information to anyone you virtually meet on social media or dating apps.
- B. Never send a payment to someone you do not personally know.
- C. Always ask for valid receipts, tracking numbers of packages, company names, and other documents to check with the BOC.
- D. If still in doubt, you may send us an email at boc.cares@customs.gov.ph or visit the nearest **BUREAU OF CUSTOMS office** in your area.

You may use these links to verify:



PARCELS:

<https://parceltracking.customs.gov.ph/kiosk.php>



COURIERS:

<https://www.dti.gov.ph/konsyumer/accredited-seaflight-forwarders/>

How Can I Spot A Scam?

A. Scammers may **PRETEND** to be someone you know.



- They may pose as a family member, a friend, a lover, or a government employee.
- They may even use names of employees from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to lure victims.

B. Scammers will say that a **PACKAGE IS ARRIVING** for you.

- They will say that you are in trouble with the BOC, and they will ask you to pay a certain amount of money to resolve the issue.
- They will say that someone from the airport is holding your package, or the sender is being held at the BOC.
- Scammers will ask you to keep the transaction secret.
- Most often, they will pretend to be your **LOVER** and manipulate your **EMOTIONS**.



C. Scammers will **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.

- They will inform you that it is urgent; forcing you to act before having the time to think.
- They will send fake images and tracking details that are searchable in their fabricated websites to deceive you that there is a package arriving for you.
- They will threaten to sue and have you arrested.



D. Scammers will tell you to **PAY** through unauthorized channels.



They will insist that you pay by sending money through money transfer/money remittances companies such as GCASH, or via personal **BANK** accounts.

A Friendly Reminder from the BOC

The Bureau of Customs is the sole authority in assessing duties, taxes, and other charges on all parcels. A parcel may only be paid or collected through **Accredited Agent Banks (AAB)**, **Postal Money Order (Postal Office)**, or directly to a **BOC Cashier upon pick up or prior to its delivery**.

To Report or File a Complaint

Coordinate with the following agencies:

PNP's Anti-Cybercrime Group

OFFICE ADDRESS: **Anti-Cybercrime Group Building Col. Lagman St., Bagong Lipunan Camp Crame, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1100**

CONTACT DETAILS:

Complaint Action Center / Hotline: **09985988116**

Tel: **+63 (02) 414-1560**

Fax: **+63 (02) 414-2199**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anticybercrimegroup>

Email: pnp.anticybercrimegroup@gmail.com, infoacg@pnp.gov.ph

Department of Justice – Office of the Cybercrime

OFFICE ADDRESS: **Office of the Cybercrime (OOC) 3rd Floor, De Las Alas Bldg. Department of Justice P. Faura St., Ermita Manila**

CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone Number: **526-2747/521-8345**

DOJ Website: www.doj.gov.ph

E-mail: cybercrime@doj.gov.ph

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