

BOC celebrates 119th Founding Anniversary: Makabagong Aduana, Matatag na Ekonomiya

Alongside the celebration of Bureau of Customs' the (BOC) breakthroughs and milestones for 2020, the Bureau on February 9, 2021 capped its 119th founding anniversary with the theme "Makabagong Aduana, Matatag na Ekonomiya".

The event was held at the Office of

Customs, Port Area, Manila and was graced by the Department of Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Undersecretary Antonette Tionko.

Among the highlights the of celebration are the destruction of forfeited motor vehicles and the

the Commissioner Grounds, Bureau of anniversary program proper which included the recognition of the Bureau's top performing units.

> The destruction of ten (10) forfeited motor vehicles was consisted of one (1) unit used Ford F-150 Super SVT Can Raptor Pick Up, 1-unit brand new 2015 Toyota Landcruiser, (See more in page 4)



Secretary of Finance visits **Customs Operations Center**

The Bureau of Customs' (BOC) newly inaugurated Customs Operations Center was visited by the Department of Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez and Undersecretary Antonette C. Tionko on January 5, 2021.

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero showcased Customs the newlv inaugurated Operations Center through an audio-visual presentation about the facility and its various functions. This was followed by a demonstration on the routinary activities and actions being conducted daily every two (2) hours by (See more in page 5)



Bureau of Customs surpasses 2020 and January 2021 revenue collection targets

Consistent with its mandate to collect lawful revenues for the country, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) surpassed its annual target collection for 2020 by 6.6% or P33.5billion.

For the month of December, the BOC once again exceeded its revenue target for the 7th consecutive month by 9.1%. Based on preliminary report from the BOC Financial Service, a total of P47.316 billion was collected against its December target of P43.368 billion.



BOC donates mobile gadgets to DepEd

As part of the efforts of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to adapt to the "new normal", the Bureau on January 29, 2021 donated gadgets to the Department of Education (DepEd) for use in the online learning program.

The turn-over was conducted at the Bureau of Customs Situation Room in Manila attended by Department of Education Secretary Leonor M. Briones and Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rev Leonardo B. Guerrero, with the virtual presence of Department of Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez.

REVENUE COLLECTION

MAKABAGONG ADUANA

MAKABAGONG ADUANA

2020 BUREAU OF CUSTOMS REVENUE COLLECTION **P 539.66 BILLION** P506.15 Billion - Target Collection; 106.6% - Efficiency Rate

MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

Bureau of Customs surpasses 2020 and January 2021 revenue collection targets

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In total, the BOC collected P539,660 billion for the year 2020, reflecting 106.6% of the target collection of P506.150 billion based from the initial report.

Furthermore, ten out of the seventeen collection districts exceeded their target for 2020, namely the Ports of Cebu, Tacloban, Surigao, Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga, Davao, Subic, Clark, Aparri, and Limay.

The BOC's positive revenue

collection performance is attributed to the improved valuation and intensified collection efforts of all the ports, gradual improvement of importation volume and the government's effort in ensuring unhampered movement of goods domestically and internationally considering the pandemic situation.

Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero once again commended the collective efforts of the men and women of BOC who, despite the risks to their health and safety, showed unwavering commitment and dedication to service. Meanwhile, for the first month of 2021 the BOC maintained its momentum from 2020 surpassing its January revenue collection target by 6.92% or 3.051 billion, collecting P47.143 billion against its P44.092 billion target with eleven out of the seventeen collection districts surpassing its January 2021 collection target, namely: Ports of Manila, NAIA, Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Tacloban, Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga, Davao, Subic. and Clark.

BOC raises revenues through post clearance audit



As part of the Bureau of Custom's (BOC) thrust on becoming a stronger revenue-generating agency, the Bureau, through the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) outlined its accomplishments for the year 2020 and for the first month of 2021.

The intensified post-clearance audit verification and investigation of importers suspected to have violated provisions of RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) resulted in the collection of Php 1.2 billion as part of the 168 Audit Notice Letters (ANL) issued for the 2020.

PCAG BOC collected PHP 191,383,743.21 additional duties and taxes for January 2021, with guarantine measures in place due to the

three (3) Demand letters collected and twenty-one (21) filed applications for Prior Disclosure Program (PDP).

For January 2021, PCAG reported the status of ANLs with six (6) PDP applications approved and five (5) Final Audit Reports (FAR) completed resulting to the issuance of two (2) new Demand Letters amounting to Php 14,708,501.21. Meanwhile. seven (7) importers were recommended for suspension. Further, 28 new ANLs were issued.

17.55 billion liters of fuel marked in 2020

Despite the economic slow-down and

COVID-19 pandemic, the BOC and BIR, through its partners SGS Philippines and SICPA-SA, marked 17.55 billion liters of fuel from September 4, 2019 to December 31, 2020. This is equivalent to Php147.78 billion and Php23.94 billion of duties and taxes collected by BOC and BIR, respectively under the Fuel Marking Program.

For 2020 alone, 15.69 billion liters of fuel were marked equivalent to P109.36 billion and P21.81 billion duties and taxes collected by BOC and BIR.

The significant increase in volume declarations in gasoline, diesel and kerosene were observed through the implementation of the Fuel Marking Program. In 2017 and 2018, total volume declarations were 7.75 billion liters and 6.31 billion liters, respectively equivalent to duties and taxes collected of Php26.88 billion and Php39.79 billion. In 2019, total volume declaration was at 11.16 billion liters or an increase of 77 percent from the previous year. This is equivalent to Php111.18 billion or an increase of 179 percent of duties and taxes collected for the government.

MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

TRADE FACILITATION

BOC completes 2020 Time Release Study

In its thrust to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Bureau's border procedures, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has conducted and completed its 2020 Time Release Study (TRS) in five (5) ports, namely Port of Manila, Manila International Container Port, Port of Davao, Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) in Cagayan de Oro and the Port of Zamboanga to determine bottlenecks on cargo clearance and release time.

The TRS showed that in all of these ports, the time for processing of imported cargo by the Bureau averaged only from 1 day, 22 hours and 9 minutes (MICP), 2 days, 9 hours and 44 minutes (POM), 2 days, 15 hours and 37 minutes (Port of Davao), and 1 day, 12 hours, and 5 minutes (MICT). There was no containerized cargo, however, that arrived in Zamboanga during the TRS period.

For exports, the findings presented expeditious processing of shipments, with the time average of only 27 minutes and 34 seconds (MICT), 1 day, 11 hours, 16 minutes (Zamboanga) and 21 hours, 21 minutes, 9 seconds (Port of Davao), 14 hours and 2 minutes (Port of Manila) and 7 minutes, 48 seconds (MICP).

The study manifested that the improved processing by the BOC can be attributed to the introduction of several new measures. The TRS also showed that the delay, if any, in the release of shipment was not within the customs jurisdiction but actually occurs before the formal lodgment of the declarations, which is considered as pre-customs, as well as after the BOC's on-line release to the arrastre, which is considered as post customs.

Bureau of Customs meets with Super Green Lane members

In the bid to enhance the facilitation of trade through the simplification and acceleration of customs clearance, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) conducted a semi-virtual conference with the Super Green Lane (SGL) members on February 4, 2021 at the OCOM Conference Room, Port of Manila. Among the topics presented were issues encountered by the SGL community with regards to certifications, examinations, charges due to private entities and status of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) applications of SGL members since its launching on November 19, 2020. The BOC also invited the SGL community to submit their intent to be accredited as an AEO to ensure that trade within the region shall flourish even more as the program allows importers and exporters to transact with AEO member organizations without the need to be accredited again.

SGL President, CJ Garcia commended the Bureau, under the leadership of Commissioner Guerrero, in addressing the recurring problem of port congestion that the SGL community has been experiencing. He underscored that the community has been consistently relieved of the dilemma of port traffic for two years. Vice President Atty. Transporto seconded the citation adding that the community has been properly served by the Bureau as far as customs clearance is concerned.

For his part, Commissioner Guerrero recognized the importance of the Super Green Lane community and the key roles of the member-companies in the nation's thrust towards economic recovery.







MICP inaugurates Customer Care Center

Completing the list of Collection Districts to open and operate the Customer Care Center (CCC), the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on January 18, 2021 inaugurated the Port's CCC which shall be a one-stop-shop making it easier for stakeholders to transact with the Port.

In compliance with RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Act, the Customer Care Center was created to promote trade facilitation and adhere to the "No Contact Policy" of Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero. The event was attended by MICP District Collector Romeo R. Rosales together with the Port's Deputy Collectors for Operations, Administration and Assessment. Also gracing the event was the Chief of the Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) Bienvenido R. Datuin Jr.

MICP CCC shall house offices that will receive and release documents that are filed through the Bureau's Customer Care Portal System. The center would also provide information to queries and concerns that stakeholders may have with the Port. The CCC shall also promote "No Contact Policy" as the center would also serve as the Port's Pass Control ensuring that only authorized transactions and individuals are allowed inside the Port.

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and 1-unit used 2007 Bentley Continental GT, which were seized by the Manila International Container Port (MICP) in August 2015, November 2017, and January 2019, respectively. Also part of the condemnation were five (5) units of used luxury vehicles seized by the Port of Cebu in 2019. These are 1-unit Land Rover 2012, 1-unit Range Rover Evoque 2019, 1-unit Porsche 911 2019, 1-unit Mercedes Benz 2019, and 1-unit Alfa Romeo 2019. Other condemned vehicles include 1-unit brand new Hyundai Starex and 1-unit used Renault Black Van seized by the Port of Manila in February 2020. The destruction of the vehicles which arrived from the US, Belgium, Japan, and Korea is a warning to all unscrupulous importers to stop the illegal importation of vehicles.

The second highlight of the event was the anniversary celebration proper which featured a recognition event where top performing ports and offices were recognized for their contribution to revenue generation and anti-smuggling efforts. The awardees included the ports of Aparri, Cagayan De Oro, Cebu, Clark, Davao, Subic, Surigao, Tacloban and Zamboanga for their outstanding performance in 2020.

Anti-smuggling efforts were highlighted through the recognition of ports and offices which contributed on the Bureau's anti-smuggling campaign. ISO Certified Ports and Offices such as Subport of Dumaguete and Port of Manila-Customer Care Center (CCC) were also awarded during the event. The Port of Cagayan de Oro was especially recognized for the successful re-exportation of illegal South Korean wastes.

Lastly, special awards were also given to the Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) for their role in promoting transparency as well as in complying with the Freedom of Information (FOI), and to the Medical and Dental Division (MDD) for its significant role in ensuring the safety of BOC personnel in the discharge of their functions amid the current health crisis.

2020 was indeed a difficult and challenging year, but the Bureau of Customs remains steadfast in the efficient delivery of its service as it gears towards a world-class customs administration through improved revenue collection, strengthened border protection, and enhanced trade facilitation.



IN THE NEWS

MAKABAGONG ADUANA, MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

Secretary of Finance visits Customs Operations Center

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a composite team from the Intelligence, Enforcement and Port Operation offices. The Head of the facility is BGen Noli Samarita (Ret.).

The Customs Operations Center is designed to house the different intelligence, enforcement, risk management and scanning systems of the Bureau. It aims to enhance the facilities and capabilities of the Bureau. It functions as command and control and enhances the intelligence and enforcement operations of the seventeen (17) Collection Districts nationwide.

Through Internet-based and wireless technologies, the facility serves as an important tool for the Bureau of Customs, being a border protection unit of the country continuously working to deliver its mandate of securing the borders along with facilitation of trade and collection of lawful revenues.

Previously, during the launching of the Customs Operations Center last December 16, 2020 Commissioner Guerrero recognized the Department



of Finance as instrumental in the establishment of the facility.

BOC donates mobile gadgets to DepEd





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A total of 5,038 devices were donated to DepEd composed of Oppo A9 and A31 mobile phones as well as Huawei Mate mobile devices. The gadgets were part of the apprehended items of the Port of Clark which were being transported out of Clark Freeport Zone.

As the country recovers from the impact of COVID-19, the Bureau of Customs continues to strive in providing public service and support to the public and the government.

Bureau of Customs completes 88.88% priority programs accomplishment rate

In support to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) mission to strengthen border protection, enhance trade facilitation and improve revenue collection, the Bureau implemented the 10 Point Priority Program for 2020 and has achieved an average accomplishment rating of 88.88%.

The BOC 2020 10 Point Priority Program is composed of the Full Automation of Frontline Transactions with accomplishment rating of 100%,

Improvement of Risk Management System with 100%, Implementation of Customs Modernization Program with 51%, ISO Certification of Customs Offices and PGS Compliance with 83.64%, Enhancement of Trade Facilitation with 91.38%, Rationalization of Penalty Regime with 89.70%, Filling-up of Vacant Plantilla Positions with 86.20%, Enhancement of Management and Technical Skills with 93.50%, Enhancement of Stakeholder

Engagement with 100%, and Intensification of Border Protection with 85.33% accomplishment rate.

Building on these gains, the BOC will be launching the 2021 10-Point Priority Program which will ride on the momentum of the initiatives and innovations of 2020 to help the Bureau achieve not only its targets but also accomplish its mission gearing towards a customs administration that is at par with global standards.

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BORDER PROTECTION

BOC-MICP apprehends medicines and cigarettes in series of operations in Parañague



As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment against smuggling, the Bureau through the Manila International Container Port's (MICP) Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) and Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) apprehended Chinese cigarettes and medicines in a series of operations in Tambo, Paranaque City.

Armed with Letters of Authority (LOA) signed by BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, the team in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) launched two operations on February 16 and 19 to inspect 2 storage facilities which led to the apprehension of Chinese cigarettes and medicines.

The first operation yielded an estimated value of Php 4 Million while the subsequent operation yielded an estimated Php 9 Million worth of cigarettes and medicines which are suspected to be used to treat COVID-19.

Further investigation is underway to determine those responsible for the storage facility as well as the possible filing of charges for violation of section 1400 of RA 10863 also known as the **Customs Modernization and Tariff Act** (CMTA).

Previously, on January 18, 2021, MICP with the PCG and NBI, apprehended illegal goods in Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Paranague City.

The inspection of the subject warehouse resulted to the discovery of various Chinese cigarettes, Chinese medicines, prohibited surgical mask, foodstuff, footwear, garments, and other imported goods. The said goods were estimated to have a value of Php 70 Million.

MAKABAGONG ADUANA

BOC-NAIA intercepts 25 various live reptiles

intercepted 2 venomous spitting cobras, 8 pit vipers and 15 sailfin lizards with market price of Php300,000, concealed in bamboo chimes and lanterns intended for export to Taiwan on February 18, 2021 in DHL warehouse.

The package declared as "souvenir items" by a certain "Adrian Lim" from Pasig City, was consigned to a certain "Ryan Su" of Taiwan.

The wildlife species concealed inside the native purses of the bamboo chimes and lanterns were discovered and apprehended thru the joint efforts of the Port of NAIA and offices under; Export Division, Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD), X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP), Customs Intelligence and Inspection Service (CIIS) and DHL in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Port of NAIA remains vigilant not only in the interception of illegal drugs but also on illegal wildlife trade. Furthermore, the Port of NAIA, last March 2019 and September 2020, was commended by the Traffic Asia for the confiscation of 1,529 freshwater turtles and tortoises concealed in suitcases and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

The Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA Service for the interception of a reticulated python concealed in a rattan basket, respectively.

> The BOC under the leadership of Commissioner Rev Leonardo B Guerrero. the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government and regulatory agencies, are committed to strengthen collaboration against illegal wildlife trade for the protection of wildlife, according to Port of NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan.

> The seized cobras, pit vipers, and sailfin lizards were immediately turned over to the DENR for proper handling and disposition, including the consequent profiling and case build up against the shipper and co-conspirators for illegal wildlife trade in violation of RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) and RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act).



Port of Manila seizes Php 20 million worth of ukay-ukay in Pasav

As part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to safeguard the country's borders from smuggled items, the Bureau through the Port of Manila (POM) apprehended various items of used clothing also known as (ukay-ukay) in a storage facility in Cuneta Avenue, (CMTA). Pasay on January 21, 2021.

Through Letter of Authority issued by BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, the team led by POM's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) in coordination with Enforcement and Security Service Quick Reaction Team (ESS-QRT), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) inspected storage facilities which revealed the existence of various items of used clothing. An approximated 4000 bales of used clothing were apprehended with leadership of Commissioner an estimated value of Php 20 Million.

A warrant of seizure and detention

has been issued against the items and are now under further investigation for possible filing of charges for violation of Section 1400 in relation to Section 118 of RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act

In his statement POM district Collector Michael Angelo DC Vargas stated that the Port would always ensure that prohibited goods are prevented entry into the country. Vargas further reiterated the importance of the close coordination between the BOC and other government agencies in protecting the borders.

As the nation embarks on a productive recovery at the start of 2021, the Port of Manila remains committed in its drive on border protection under the Rev Leonardo B. Guerrero.

BORDER PROTECTION

MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

Customs Cagayan de Oro busts Php 50 million worth of cigarettes



The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Port of Cagayan de Oro has intercepted two container vans containing illicit cigarettes worth of 50 million pesos from China.

The shipment consigned to LMRC 418 Direct Import Export Corp. arrived on February 14, 2021 at Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. Through the receipt of a derogatory information about the shipment, a Pre-Lodgement Control Order was issued by District Collector John Simon of the Port of Cagayan de Oro per recommendation of the CIIS.

Upon inspection, the shipment which was declared as furniture was found to actually contain smuggled cigarettes branded as Marvels and Two Moon.

District Collector John Simon commended the CIIS CDO Field Station headed by IO1 Oliver Valiente for their continued vigilance in border protection.

Meanwhile, a Warrant of Seizure and Detention has been issued for the shipment which will be scheduled for destruction.

BOC Port of Manila destroys Php **1.5** million worth of hog casings



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Manila (POM) destroyed one container of hog casings worth Php 1.5 Million on February 2, 2021 in San Pascual, Batangas.

The condemnation was witnessed by POM Auction and Cargo Disposal

declared as furnitures

Division Chief Enrico Turingan III, and representatives from Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Port Operations Service, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Commission on Audit (COA).

The goods were destroyed through shredding and rendering in a waste disposal facility of Joncyr Enterprises, Inc.

The condemnation is in accordance with the provisions of Section 1145 (Disposition of Goods Injurious to Public Health) of the Republic Act No. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

POM District Collector Michael Angelo DC. Vargas said that the condemnation was completed to ensure that goods injurious to public safety and health are properly disposed.

The activity is also in line with the directive of Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero to free-up storage facilities of abandoned and illegally shipped items to further improve trade facilitation.

Port of Batangas turns over 2 animal tusk and 11 mineral stones to DENR



The Port of Batangas Collector Atty. Ma. Rhea Gregorio and Deputy Collector for Operations, Atty. Filemon Mendoza, Jr. handed over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 2 Animal Tusks (Elephant and Rhino Tusk) and 11 Mineral Stones on January 12, 2021.

The said articles were concealed in a shipment of household goods and were seized for violation of Republic Act No. 9147 "An Act providing for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats".

The turnover ceremony was witnessed by the officials of the Port and representatives from DENR-CENRO, Asian Terminal Inc., PNP Maritime Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Commission on Audit.

BOC-BATAS files raps against 3 illegal importers



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through its Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS), filed criminal cases on 18-22 January 2021 before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against three (3) importers for the alleged misdeclaration and illegal importation of prohibited goods.

The first case is against Akiza One Six Eight Eight Eight Trading for alleged unlawful importation and misdeclaration of 100 sacks of used clothing, 450 sacks and 150 cartons of mixed fabrics and swatches. According to BATAS, the consignee declared its shipment as used surplus furniture and kitchenware. The commission of said violation happened on 25 October 2020 in the Manila International Container Port.

Summer Beast Enterprises Co. was also charged for alleged illegal importation and misdeclaration of 539 bales of used clothing and other goods such as inkjet glossy paper, yoga mat, wearing apparel, phone holder, various foodstuffs, air purifier, various cellphone accessories, cellphones, USB, vape, medicines, medical supplies, personal effects, and antennas. The consignee declared its shipment as Xueva brand paper products, Blue King brand led light strip, Medial brand yoga mat, Wellone Brand wearing apparel, and Topo brand phone holder. The violation was committed on 19 October 2020 in MICP.

The third case is against GT Enterprise for the alleged smuggling of 5 shipments declared as 6,060 cartons of ceramic kitchenware but found loaded with 9,102 cartons of Banma mosquito coils, 218 cartons of kitchen wares dinnerware, and 50 pcs Banma mosquito empty cartons. The commission of said violation happened last 19 August 2020 in the Port of Cagayan de Oro.

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STANDARD UNITS OF QUANTITY FOR IMPORTED GOODS

Pursuant to Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 02-2021, the following standard units of quantity shall be used and implemented on the mandatory filling-up of Box 41 in the lodgment of the Goods Declaration in the E2M system.

STANDARD UNITS OF QUANTITY	WCO CODE	EQUIVALENT E2M CODE
Carat	Carat	CRT
Kilogram	kg	KGM
Liter	I	LTR
Square Meter	m2	MTK
Cubic Meter	m3	MTQ
Meter	m	MTR
Number of Pairs	2u	NPR
1,000 KWH	1,000 KWH	MGW
Piece	u	PCE
Pack	u(jeu/pack)	PCK
Thousand of Pieces	1,000u	TPC

The appropriate standard units of quantity shall be automatically reflected in Box 41 of the goods declaration. Lodgment of entries shall only be accepted by the system once the supplemental unit has been filled out by the declarant.

For goods with an applicable standard unit of quantity under kilograms (kgs), the declaration in Box 41 shall no longer be necessary provided that the actual net weight of the goods is already reflected in the E2M goods declaration.

For further inquiries, you may contact us at:		
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