

# PORT DIGEST

Vol. 10 Issue No. 66 APRIL 2018

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



## BOC INTENSIFIES CAMPAIGN VS SMUGGLING; SEIZES PORSCHE, MISDECLARED JET SKIS

### BOC files smuggling raps vs ATI, importers, brokers of illegally withdrawn 105 containers

The giant port operator of South Harbor, and several importers and customs brokers are facing smuggling raps for the connivance in the illegal release of 105 containers despite the standing alert order.

The Bureau of Customs through the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) has filed the case before the Department of Justice on April 6 against Asian Terminal Incorporated's assistant vice-president for South Harbor Operations Steve Realuyo and shift manager Darwin Dalmacio.

The same charges were filed

(Continued on page 2)

### BOC seizes P2.1-M ukay-ukay at MICP

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized on Wednesday, April 11, a 40-footer container of used clothing also known as 'ukay-ukay' at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

"A shipment from Hong Kong, declared under import entry number 055599 said to contain personal effects and household goods, yielded suspicious image similar to bales of ukay-ukay after x-ray scanning," said Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña.

This prompted Customs examiners to conduct a physical examination on the said container.

"BOC agents uncovered P2.1

(Continued on page 3)

### BOC seizes P18.5-M worth of smuggled cigarettes

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) intercepted on April 10 a 40-footer container of misdeclared cigarettes estimated to be worth P18.5 million at the Manila International Container Port.

"The shipment consigned to Marid Industrial Marketing located at 2090 Batangas Line, Paco, Manila was declared as 890 cartons of industrial artificial fur texture but upon examination it was discovered to contain 914 cartons of cigarette brands Jackpot, Fortune, John, Marvels, and U2," said Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña.

(Continued on page 2)

### BOC busted misdeclared payload, forklift

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) busted a 40-foot container on Thursday at the Port of Manila after the x-ray revealed an image of a payload and forklift which appeared to be misdeclared.

The shipment consigned to Green Aphelion Marketing with office address at Unit B 1205 Estrada St., Brgy. 762, Sta. Ana, Manila came from China which arrived on February 27.

Documents showed that the exporter is Xiamen XGMA International Trading and a certain Ferdie Alipio of BF Homes,

(Continued on page 3)



## BOC FILES SMUGGLING RAPS...



against the owners, officials and customs brokers of Premiere Oak Lumber & Wood Products Corporation, Spectrum Highlands Marketing Corporation, Megaabundancesteel Indent Trading Corporation, Abundancegain Indent Trading Corporation, Paragon Platinum International Trading Corporation and Imperialfoods and Agricultural Prod.

Indicted are the following corporate officials and customs brokers of the six involved companies:

- Premiere Oak Lumber & Wood Products Corporation:
  - o Juden Eslao, President
  - o Gerly M. Ebias, Director
  - o Severino G. Aycocho, Director
  - o Meldy A. Sayon, Treasurer

- o Customs Brokers Homaidi Sarip Ibrahim, Mohammad Salman Cosain Amerol and Malik Nooman Regaro Molok.

- Spectrum Highlands Marketing Corporation:

- o Rhea H. Tolosa, President
- o Meldy S. Sayon, Director
- o Customs Broker Mohammad Salman Cosain Amerol

- Megaabundancesteel Indent Trading Corporation:

- o Erin Jorge T. Sumile, President
- o Mark Leo D. Magpayo, Vice-President

- o Arwind Jay Caparros, Director
- o Leonard S. Sualdito, Director
- o Customs Brokers Homaidi Sarip Ibrahim, Malik Nooman Regaro Molok, Mohammad Salman Cosain Amerol and Bernadine I. Miranda

- Abundancegain Indent Trading Corporation:

- o Abraham Torrecampo, President
- o Allan V. Cajuban, Vice-President
- o Jake T. Tordesillas, Director
- o Mark Leo D. Magpayo, Treasurer
- o Customs Broker Mohammad Salman Cosain Amerol

- Paragon Platinum International Trading Corporation:

- o Erin Jorge T. Sumile, Corporate Secretary/Operations
- o Customs Broker Malik Nooman Regaro Molok

- Imperialfoods and Agricultural Prod:

- o Bernardo Lu Chong, President
- o William S. Tan, Treasurer
- o Emerson C. Tan, Director
- o Alexander M. Lao, Directors
- o Customs Broker Bernadine I. Miranda

"The cases were filed in compliance with the directive of Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña to go after those involved in the incident by filing the appropriate charges against them," said lawyer Balmyrson Valdez, director of

Legal Service and executive head of BATAS.

### Grounds for indictment

As part of the protocol of the Bureau of Customs, all alerted shipments must be subjected to 100% examination before its release.

"In the case of the 105 containers, the examinations were not conducted as the officers of the six corporations, with the assistance of their customs brokers and ATI all connived to secure the release of the containers from the ATI premises without the necessary examination," customs chief Lapeña said.

All the 105 alerted containers were released by ATI without the required lifting order authorized by the Customs Commissioner.

The illegal withdrawal of the subject containers is a blatant violation of Sections 1401 (Unlawful Importation or Exportation) and Section 1424 (Removing Goods from Customs Custody) of the Republic Act No. 10863 otherwise known as Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016.

The total dutiable value of all the shipments amounts to Php 69,675,171.00.

"We will make sure that importers, brokers and arrastre operators who blatantly violated Customs rules and regulations will face legal action and revocation of Customs accreditation. The BOC shall remain vigilant and will continue to carry-on the fight against those who disrespect and disregard the rule of law."

"We will also make sure that after our thorough investigation, those BOC personnel who are proven to be connected to this incident will be charged accordingly. Despite this case filing, our investigation will continue. We are probing deeper. Everyone who is responsible for this shameful act must pay," Lapeña added.

## BOC INTENSIFIES CAMPAIGN VS SMUGGLING; SEIZES PORSCHE, MISDECLARED JET SKIS

A 40-footer container of used personal effects which turned out to contain two misdeclared brand new Kawasaki jet skis valued at \$8,000 each were seized on March 27 by the Bureau of Customs -Port of Cebu.

The 2017 model jet skis were discovered in the container upon x-ray examination.

It was shipped from the United States and arrived on February 6. The container was consigned to Imerex Group of Companies Inc. with office address at J. Several St. North Reclamation Area, Cebu City. The customs broker was identified as Christopher Saavedra with office address at Jakosalem, Cebu City.

The X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) office recommended the issuance of warrant of seizure and detention (WSD) against the misdeclared shipment while the rest of the declared personal effects were recommended for continued processing until released.

Cebu district collector lawyer Elvira Cruz issued the corresponding WSD against the undeclared jet skis on March 27 for violation of Section 1400 (Misdeclaration, Misclassification and Undervaluation in Goods Declaration)

in relation to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Meanwhile, BOC-Cebu also seized a used 2008 Porsche after the consignee failed to present the required import permit.

The sports car was estimated to be worth P1.5 million.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña disclosed that the goods are currently stored in the container area of Port of Cebu.

### Intensified campaign vs smuggling

Commissioner Lapeña said the newly-installed x-rays are proven useful in the campaign against smuggling.

Some packages and containers which passed through x-ray machines are found to contain misdeclared items and taxable items.

"The BOC's strict border security and monitoring results to higher returns in revenue collection of the bureau," he said.

A portion of the additional budget of P1.4 billion for 2018 will be allocated in buying 56 additional x-ray machines, Lapeña said.

## BOC SEIZES...

On April 10 agents from X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) found irregularities on the x-ray image, prompting recommendation to alert the said shipment.

On the same day, alert order number A/OCOM/20180410-001 against said shipment was issued by Lapeña.

The branded cigarettes arrived from China on April 4 and was filed under Import Entry Number C-88031 on April 5.

Based on the import documents, the shipment under the bill of lading number 772810004102 was processed by customs broker Carme Ann S. Rollon with office address at Cluster 3, Unit 3-1 Numancia Residences, Urbiztondo St., San Nicolas, Manila.



The shipment will undergo seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Section 1400 ( Misdeclaration, Misclassification, and Undervaluation in Goods Declaration) of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Lapeña added that the accreditation of the importer and customs broker will be revoked or suspended accordingly.



from page 1

## BOC BUSTED MISDECLARED PAYLOADER...



from page 1

## BOC SEIZES P2.1-M UKAY-UKAY...

million worth of ukay-ukay from the shipment of Proline Logistics Phils. Inc. with office address at 302 & 302A The Centennial Escolta St., Binondo, Manila" said Lapeña.

The shipment was processed by customs broker Salvador Labiano, Jr.

Proline's shipment arrived at the MICP on February 27 under bill of lading number 0228A20595 and entry was only filed on March 6, 2018.

Subsequently, an alert order no. A/OCOM/20180307-076 was issued on March 7 by then MICP District Collector lawyer Balmyrson M. Valdez to prevent the release of the prohibited shipment.

The shipment will undergo seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of the Republic Act No. 4653 or "An Act to Safeguard the Health of the People and Maintain the Dignity of the Nation by Declaring it a National Policy to Prohibit Commercial Importation of Textile Articles commonly known as Used Clothing and Rags." The importer also misdeclared the goods which is a

violation of Section 1400 Misdeclaration, Misclassification, and Undervaluation in Goods Declaration of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

"We will be filing charges against the importer and broker involved in the illegal importation of prohibited goods. And if warranted, we will suspend their Customs accreditation," said Lapeña.

Meanwhile, Lapeña awarded twelve of the 17 BOC district collectors who have exceeded the March collection target during the Tuesday's (April 10) flag raising ceremony.

The Customs chief reiterated his directive to all the customs officials and personnel to stop corruption. "Stopping corruption will remain a priority for the agency."

"We are not just after the target but more so in addressing corruption within the bureau. Even if you hit the target, but you do corrupt practices, you will also be subjected to one strike policy,"

Parañaque was the signing customs broker of Green Aphelion.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said that after a dubious x-ray image was discovered, 100% physical examination was conducted which verified that the shipment contains a brand new payloader and a brand new forklift which is different from what was declared in the entry which is 11 packages of machinery and parts.

"The owner of Green Aphelion and the signing broker could face charges for duping the Bureau by misdeclaring the actual contents of the container," he added.

An alert order was already issued by the Office of the District Collector to prevent the release of the illegal shipment while awaiting the issuance of Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) against Green Aphelion for a violation of Section 1400 and Sec. 1401 of the Customs Modernization and

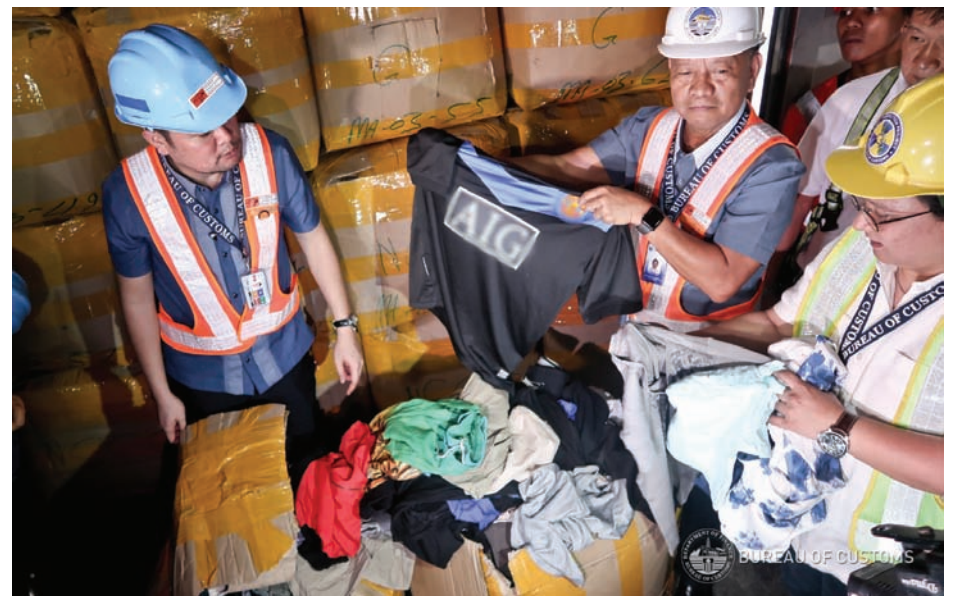
Tariff Act of 2016 (CMTA).

The shipment was valued to be worth more or less P30 million.

"We have already discovered the modus operandi of these smugglers which is why the Bureau of Customs has been continuously seizing illegal shipments. I have instructed POM Collector lawyer Erastus Sandino Austria and lawyer Zsae Carrie de Guzman, our X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) office head to make sure that all our x-rays are functioning and our people are closely checking the images.

"Soon, we will also identify the names of customs employees who are conniving with smugglers so we can weed them out of the Bureau."

"The accreditation of Green Aphelion Marketing and customs broker Ferdie Alipio with the Bureau of Customs has been revoked by the Account Management Office," said Lapeña.



Lapeña said.

Also, a certificate of tax refund was given to Petron Corporation with a total value of P652,553,660.67. The public awarding of tax credit certificate is part of the continuing transparency campaign of the bureau.

"We will increase government transparency and see to it na walang ibang monkey business along the way.

"All that we are doing here are based on the marching order of the President which is stop corruption and increase revenue collection," Lapeña said.

## Customs chief conducts spot inspection of alerted shipments at Port of Cebu, MICP

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña, together with Customs examiners, inspected on Friday, April 6, the alerted shipments containing smuggled brand new tires, used truck, cabinets, and other containers subjected to physical examination at the Port of Cebu.



Bureau of Customs Chief Isidro Lapeña with Department of Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol and MICP Collector Maritess Martin conducted a spot inspection of alerted shipments in North Harbor. Inside the containers were the declared apples mixed with undeclared boxes and sacks of onion from China.







# CUSTOMS 101

## FAQs

### Can a person import/export local currency (Philippine Peso)?

YES. A person may bring into or take out of the Philippines, or electronically transfer legal tender Philippine notes and coins, checks, money order and other bills of exchange in an amount NOT MORE THAN PHP 50,000.

### Can a person still import/export an amount exceeding Php 50,000?

YES. A person may still bring into or bring out of the Philippines an amount exceeding PHP 50,000 as long as a prior written authorization is secured from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

### What happens if a person imports/exports more than PHP 50,000 without BSP written authorization?

The local currency brought in or intended to be taken out shall be subject to seizure (and/or forfeiture).

[www.customs.gov.ph](http://www.customs.gov.ph) @BureauOfCustomsPH @CustomsPH

Infographics courtesy of PUBLIC INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE DIVISION (PIAD).

## FAQs

### Can a person import/export foreign currency?

YES. A person may bring into or take out of the Philippines foreign currency, as well as other foreign currency-denominated bearer money instruments, in an amount NOT MORE THAN USD 10,000 or its equivalent.

### Can a person still import/export an amount exceeding USD10,000 or its equivalent?

YES, provided that the person importing/exporting such foreign currency (or monetary instrument) shall DECLARE THE SAME IN WRITING and furnish information on the source and purpose of the transport of such currency (or monetary instrument).

### Is there a form that must be accomplished?

YES. The person bringing in or taking out such foreign currency (or monetary instrument) must fill out a Foreign Currency Declaration Form upon arrival at, or before departure from a Philippine airport.

[www.customs.gov.ph](http://www.customs.gov.ph) @BureauOfCustomsPH @CustomsPH

Infographics courtesy of PUBLIC INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE DIVISION (PIAD).

## Commissioner's Port Visit PORT OF ILOILO

Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña visited the Port of Iloilo on April 20 to meet with the port officials and employees and conduct inspection on port's operations. Lapeña also visited Iloilo Commercial Port Complex (ICPC) and Dumangas Port, and attended a meeting with Kalibo International Airport personnel. He is accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Gladys Rosales of Internal Administration Group.



## SUB-PORT OF ISABEL

Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña visited the Sub-Port of Isabel, Leyte on Tuesday, April 17. He was joined by Deputy Commissioner Gladys Rosales of the Internal Administration Group.







# PORT OF SURIGAO

## i n f o c u s

### Surigao port overshoots target, posts early surplus in April

The District Port of Surigao, with its two subports in Nasipit and Bislig, as early as April 27 posted an initial surplus of Php 1,795,213 or a record high 121.30 percent increase over the Php 1,480,000 monthly target in April 2018.

On a year-to-year comparison, the current Php 3,275,213 April collections are way up higher by almost 24 percent over the duties and taxes of Php 2,643,383 in the same period a year ago.

APRIL 2018 COLLECTION PERFORMANCE  
As of April 27, 2018

Month and Year	Target	Actual Collection	(+) Surplus (-) Deficit	
April 2018	1,480,000.00	3,275,213.00	1,795,213.00	121.30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,480,000.00</b>	<b>3,275,213.00</b>	<b>1,795,213.00</b>	<b>121.30%</b>

"Raising the bar of collection performance only serves to excite and spur the Customs men and women in this part of the country to continually outdo themselves," district collector Maria Liza Sebastian remarked, adding that these collective efforts in Surigao district port provide the much needed momentum to excel further and to collect more for the "build and build" infrastructure program under the watch of president Rodrigo Duterte.

So far, Surigao port and its subports are assigned to collect at least Php 19 million for this year 2018. (Jay Herbert A. Senaca)

### Ombudsman conducts ITAPS seminar for Customs personnel

Personnel and staff from the three ports comprising the principal Port of Surigao and the component Subports of Bislig, Surigao Sur and Nasipit, Agusan Norte converged in Surigao City last April 12 at a local hotel conference room to attend the one whole day ITAPS seminar "Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in Public Service."

"Attendance on seminars like this has been compulsory", said District Collector Atty. Maria Liza Sebastian, adding that the crusading administration of President Rodrigo Duterte is hell bent on transforming the bureaucracy for the better to truly serve the sovereign Filipino people.

Lawyers representing Deputy Ombudsman for Mindanao Honorable Rodolfo Elman came over to lecture on pertinent graft and penal laws and on the core values of government workers which include integrity, transparency and accountability in the service. Lawyer Ma. Gemma Teresa Gavine talked about Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees, illuminating further the concepts of, among others, nationalism and patriotism, commitment to public interest, professionalism, responsiveness to the public, and simple living.

"Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skills", Ombudsman lawyer Gavine expounded. "They shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of the roles as dispensers or peddlers of undue patronage... Trabaho lang ito, walang personalan."

Also discussed rather lengthily were the various incidence of corrupt practices as enumerated in Section Three of Republic Act

numbered 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. One of such acts is the "Persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rule and regulations... or allowing himself to be persuaded, induced or influenced to commit such violation or offense."

Receiving of gifts is likewise forbidden, according to another resource speaker Graft Investigator lawyer Jay Visto. Paragraph (b) states "Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present, share, percentage or benefit for himself... in connection with any contract or transaction between the government and any other party wherein the public officer in his official capacity has to intervene under the law."

President Duterte has taken a hard-line stance against corruption. It is simply unconscionable to treat government as a source of "milk and honey". "Those in government service must lead a simple life commensurate with what they honestly earn," Attorney Visto told the seminar participants.

Finally, as the seminar ended, each participating official and employee was reminded to imbibe and actually demonstrate the concepts of integrity and honesty in each and every transaction in every working day in government service.

In all, there were forty-four Customs personnel in attendance. Port of Nasipit was headed by Collector Jonah Herbert Dollano, while Port of Bislig came under the guidance of Collector Alberto Reniedo. (Jay Herbert A. Senaca)

### Customs workforce attends gender development, equality seminar

Port of Surigao personnel as well as those from the outports of Bislig and Nasipit showed up in Surigao City in Hotel Tavern conference hall for a one-day forum and seminar last April 13 of this year on Republic Act numbered 9710 or the "Magna Carta of Women", which is a landmark legislation championing the cause of

the beleaguered women sector.

"Women taking increasingly more leadership roles to level the playing field either in government or private endeavors is now the order of the day," Surigao district port collector Attorney Maria Liza Sebastian emphasized, adding that women are no longer bystanders and instead key players in the pursuit of financial affluence and political excellence.

According to the main resource speaker lawyer Allen Gasulas of the Civil Service Regional Office in Butuan City, "the law on women's Magna Carta aims to eliminate office discrimination against women workers and to recognize, protect, fulfill and promote their rights in no uncertain terms" noting strongly the chauvinistic scheming to nullify due recognition for women as an equal counterpart and partners of men in the political, economic, social, cultural and any other field of endeavors.

The Magna Carta guarantees basic women's rights and privileges, foremost of which are the "equal treatment before the law, equal access and elimination of discrimination against women in education, non-discrimination in employment in the military, police and other similar services, protection from all forms of violence, and protection and security in times of disaster, among others."

Gender sensitivity particularly in office setting is now dutifully observed. Even in writing official correspondence the so-called "sexist language" has been barred administratively.

A Civil Service memorandum circular noted that "the use of non-sexist language in preparing letters, memoranda and other issuances will encourage government officials and employees to make conscious efforts to avoid implicit and explicit discriminatory language against women or men."

Forty-four Customs officials and employees were in attendance. Collector Jonah Herbert Dollano spearheaded the subport of Nasipit, and Collector Alberto Reniedo brought in the Bislig port delegation. (Jay Herbert A. Senaca)



# BOC exceeds April collection target

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) made another revenue feat for April as it hit above its collection target by 2 percent.

Based on the preliminary data released by BOC-Financial Service, a total of P47.394 billion has been collected in April with P930 million in revenue surplus against the collection target of P46.464 billion.

This is 50.4% percent higher than the P31.503 billion collection for the same period in 2017.

Fourteen (14) collections districts have significantly contributed to this positive collection performance. These ports are:

- Port of Batangas collected P11.905 billion, up by 10.7% against the P10.758 billion target;
- Port of Manila collected P7.418 billion, up by 6.2% against the P6.985 billion target;
- Port of Limay collected P2.920 billion, up by 3.3% against the P2.827 billion target;
- Port of Cebu collected P2.177

billion, up by 4% against the P2.094 billion target;

- Port of Davao collected P1.807 billion, up by 21.2% against the P1.491 billion target;
- Port of Subic collected P1.683 billion, up by 0.6% against the P1.672 billion target;
- Port of Cagayan de Oro collected P1.619 billion, up by 23.4% against the P1.312 billion target;
- Port of Iloilo collected P308 million, up by 22.3% against the P252 million target;
- Port of San Fernando collected P261 million, up by 3% against the P254 million target;
- Port of Clark collected P166 million, up by 35.7% against the P122 million target;
- Port of Tacloban collected P27 million, up by 28% against the P21 million target;

• Port of Zamboanga collected P24 million, up by 7.9% against the P22 million target;

• Port of Aparri collected P8 million, up by 91.2% against the P4 million target; and

• Port of Surigao collected P3 million, up by 227.5% against the P1 million target.

Customs chief Isidro Lapeña said that the enhanced revenue collection performance is attributed to the improved and correct valuation and tariff classification being implemented on the ground.

Lapeña added that the Bureau generated higher excise tax this month due to the effective implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law.

BOC-Financial Service also reported that volume and value of imports are comparably higher than last year of the same period.

The increase in oil price and the peso-

dollar exchange ratio also contributed to the increased April revenue of the BOC.

Meanwhile, these are the ports which were unable to hit their respective monthly targets:

• Manila International Container Port collected P13.450 billion, 6.1% lower than the P14.328 billion target;

• Ninoy Aquino International Airport collected P3.482 billion, 19% lower than the P4.299 billion target; and

• Port of Legazpi collected P15 million, 33% lower than the P22 million target.

The Bureau has consistently improved its performance for three (3) consecutive months from February to April amounting to more than P3 billion revenue surplus.

Lapeña said, "I always tell the Bureau officials and employees, we can hit the target every month. We only just have to apply the correct valuation and collect what is due the government. I think we can continue this trend until December."



## Customs reshuffles officials anew



The Bureau of Customs has reassigned 66 of its personnel to various offices as part of the major reshuffle of the organization.

In several Customs Personnel Order(s) signed by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, the 66 personnel included the district collectors of the ports who failed to meet their March revenue target.

Lawyer Erastus Sandino B. Austria, former district collector of Port of Davao, officially assumed as new district collector of Port of Manila replacing lawyer Vener S. Baquiran. Baquiran has been transferred to the Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU).

Export Coordination Division chief lawyer Romalino G. Valdez of Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group will fill in the

vacated position of Austria as district collector of Port of Davao.

District Collector Maritess T. Martin is now the new district collector of Manila International Container Port (MICP). Martin was replaced by lawyer Lilibeth S. Sandag of Revenue Collection Monitoring Group (RCMG) to head Port of Clark.

Former MICP collector lawyer Balmyrson M. Valdez has been given new designation to head the Legal Service of the RCMG while lawyer Yasser Ismail Abbas is now the director of Financial Service, RCMG.

Aside from Austria and Martin, Wivina B. Pumatong of sub-port of Mactan assumed as the district collector of Port of Iloilo.

"I have given Austria and Martin

bigger responsibilities to head the major ports since they are consistently hitting their targets with huge surpluses since I assumed as Commissioner," Customs chief Isidro Lapeña said.

It can be recalled that the two major ports, POM and MICP, collected only P5.776 billion and P12.625 billion which is 14.9 percent and 9.28 percent lower than the target, respectively.

Lapeña further clarified that the district collectors of Port of Zamboanga and Ninoy Aquino International Airport will not be affected by this recent reshuffling since they assumed office only by mid-March.

"Their revenue performance in April will determine whether they will stay in their position as district collector," Lapeña added.



PORT DIGEST, 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 Street South Harbor, Port Area Manila 1009. Tels: 527-1968/ 527-8259.

Editorial Team:  
**Maria Gerty D. Pagaran**  
**Jessil F. Garlando**  
**Mary Joy T. Lopez**  
**Karren April A. Noronio**

Photographers:  
**Jerome L. Monta**  
**Francisco R. Javier**

Circulation staff:  
**Mark Kevin C. Pilar**  
**Joanne D. Agudo**

PORT DIGEST welcomes your feedback. Kindly email to [piad@customs.gov.ph](mailto:piad@customs.gov.ph)



## BOC seized P10-M worth of drugs in separate ops in Pasay



Bureau of Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña turns over to Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) more or less P10 million worth of illegal drugs seized in separate occasions at the FEDEX Warehouse in Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Approximately 2.06 kilograms of methamphetamine hydrochloride commonly known as shabu and 127.60 grams Kush weeds were seized by the BOC NAIA.

The two shipments were sent separately on different dates by

different senders but both originated in California, USA.

Packages were consigned to a certain Savannah Valdez of General Trias, Cavite and Emmer Soncruz Medina of Quezon City, which arrived last March 23, 2018 and April 18, 2018 respectively.

Both packages underwent risk assessment by Customs Examiner and showed suspicious image during x-ray examination.

The packages yielded unbranded, colorless crystalline substance. Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force did the initial drug test which resulted positive for methamphetamine.

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña's thrust is not only to hit the Bureau's revenue target but also to intensify BOC's campaign against the smuggling of illegal goods in the country.

NAIA District Collector Carmelita "Mimel" Talusan and the NAIA team continues to plug all revenue leakages and remains vigilant in the Port of NAIA.

## Suspects nabbed for importing shabu; P20-M worth drugs seized



A joint operation of the Bureau of Customs, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and other agents from the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (IADITG) on Friday resulted in the arrest of two drug suspects and the seizure of P20 million worth of illegal drugs in separate occasions in Makati and Manila City.

The operation stemmed from a tip from the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

"In the afternoon of April 27, the joint elements NAIA-IADITG nabbed Antonio Lobiano Baguinbin, 38 years old, a resident of Sta. Ana, Manila and Gundelina B. David, 64 years old, a

resident of 182 Pedro Gil St. Malate, Manila," Commissioner Lapeña said.

Baguinbin was arrested after importing two kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu worth P10 million concealed in a package declared as home furniture - car seat booster. Inside the package are two pouches of 821.4 grams and 1,251.4 grams of white colorless crystalline substance, respectively.

It was shipped from 24900, Anza Drive, Valencia, California, US by a certain Schiit Audio which arrived on April 23 at the FedEx Warehouse. The package was originally consigned to Arnel Montilla of Montojo St., Makati City.

Meanwhile, David was also nabbed for importing two kilos of shabu worth P10 million concealed in a parcel declared as baby crib.

The package was sent by Robert Knight of California to a certain Phoy M. Delacruz with address at 1605 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila.

Baguinbin presented an ID bearing the name of the Phoy DelaCruz while David showed an authorization letter from Montilla.

Lapeña said the packages were subjected to controlled delivery to identify the personalities involved in the importation of the illegal drugs.

RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 defines control delivery as an "investigative technique of allowing an unlawful or suspect consignment of any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical, equipment or paraphernalia, or property believed to be derived directly or indirectly from any offense, to pass into, through or out of the country under the supervision of an authorized officer, with a view to gathering evidence to identify any person involved in any dangerous drugs related offense, or to facilitate prosecution of that offense."

The suspects are now in the custody of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and will be charged for violation of Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002

## BOC holds Orientation on Regulated Optical Media Products



Forwarders, consolidators and BOC officials and personnel attended the orientation on Regulated Import and Export Commodities of Optical Media Board conducted by the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG) at the Port of Manila.

Issues concerning the clearance of regulated optical media products were discussed.

## Newly-promoted



In line with the BOC's reform program to further strengthen the bureau's ranks and improve the Customs services, forty-four (44) newly promoted Customs employees took their oath of office before Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña on Monday, April 23, at the Port of Manila.

## PDEA Inauguration



Customs Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña graced the inauguration and blessing of the new office building of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Region VIII.

## New Subic Collector



In the exigency of the service, former Port of Manila Deputy Collector for Assessment Segundo Sigmundfreud Barte Jr. officially assumed office on April 17 as the new District Collector of Port of Subic.





# GALLERY

## Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) 30th Founding Anniversary



"Through our Customs police, we successfully carried out the bureau's operational and preventive measures against illicit trade, ensuring a secured border and efficient trade." - Comm. Isidro S. Lapeña

