



PORT DIGEST

Vol. 10 Issue No. 66 May 2018

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



BOC DESTROYS P34.7-M WORTH OF SMUGGLED VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES

Fake cigarettes, tax stamps busted in Bulacan

The Bureau of Customs has raided three warehouses in Meycauayan City, Bulacan seizing several rims of alleged fake cigarettes and hundreds of sacks containing cigarette raw materials.

Also found are alleged fake Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) tax stamps stacked inside a small sack, old cigarette-making machines and several sacks with shredded plastics, Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said.

The raid stemmed from the directive of the Commissioner to inspect three warehouses

See FAKE page 3

Customs-NAIA foils more drug imports

The Bureau of Customs - Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA) foiled two shipments of shabu on separate occasions at NAIA Terminal in Pasay City.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said the two shipments weighing of 2,375.5 grams are estimated to be worth P11.87 million.

“One of the packages which contain 2,031 grams of shabu is consigned to JueyCuenca of Imus, Cavite and was intercepted on April 27. It was shipped by a certain Stephanie Morse.

See CUSTOMS-NAIA page 3

BOC-Davao seizes various smuggled goods

The Bureau of Customs -Port of Davao has seized four shipments containing misdeclared onions, magic sugar, candies, mosquito coils, and used clothing.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said two of the shipments from China have arrived at Sasa Wharf in Davao City on separate dates while the other two came from Indonesia and United States to Davao International Container Terminal (DICT).

“Customs authorities have intercepted in Sasa Wharf the shipments of Janrev Enterprises

See BOC-DAVAO page 4

BOC exceeds May revenue target

The Bureau of Customs has posted another revenue collection milestone in May after collecting P52.601 billion, 32 percent higher against the revenue collected for the same period last year.

Only one of the 17 ports failed to hit the collection target against the P50.628 billion target. The Bureau posted a P1.973 billion surplus which is 3.9 percent higher than the target, the preliminary data from the BOC Financial Service show.

The high revenue collection is attributed to the revenue performance of the 16 district ports: Port of Batangas gathered

See BOC EXCEEDS page 6



Customs Chief inspects alerted shipments

The Bureau of Customs led by Commissioner Isidro Lapeña and District Collector lawyer Erastus Sandino Austria on Friday inspect several alerted containers as part of the regular spot inspection at the Port of Manila.

Also inspected are containers of importers whose customs accreditation were previously revoked but has been granted temporary reactivation.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said the shipments are consigned to importers whose accreditation were temporarily reactivated namely Abundancegain Indent Trading Corp., and Megaabundancesteel Indent Trading Corporation. Their accreditation were revoked on March 26 for their alleged involvement in the release of the 105 containers at the Asian Terminal Inc. container yard on March 19.

The temporary reactivation was also granted to Abundanceprime Chemicals Trading Corp., Cymar International Incorporated, Herco Trading, Inc., and Yanyan International Phils. Inc.

"Pursuant to Memorandum No. 2017-06-029 dated July 30, the importer may write a letter request asking for a temporary lifting of such revocation on the shipments which arrived prior or on the date of revocation of their customs accreditation privileges.

"It may also be granted for shipments that are still in transit at the time of the suspension, cancellation or revocation provided the importer submits a letter request asking for a temporary lifting of such revocation on the shipments which arrived prior or on the date of revocation of their customs accreditation privileges.

"It may also be granted for shipments that are still in transit at the time of the suspension, cancellation or revocation provided the importer submits a letter request after their shipments have arrived at the port of destination," Commissioner Lapeña said.

In a separate memorandum, Commissioner Lapeña has directed the ports concerned to subject the shipments to a 100% physical examination and to submit a report once the release of the shipments covered by the temporary lifting has been completed.

Collector Erastus Sandino Austria said his office has already

issued an Alert Order to prevent the release of the remaining containers at the port.

"Despite the reactivation, we ensure the public that extra vigilance is strictly observed. All containers covered by the temporary reactivation shall be subjected to 100% physical examination. After the release of the shipment, the temporary reactivation shall revert back to revocation.

"If there are irregularities found during the physical examination, the same will be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings. We will not allow any contraband or smuggled goods to pass through our borders." Commissioner Lapeña said.

Under the present regulation, the request for temporary lifting of the suspension, cancellation, or revocation may only be submitted once. Subsequent requests from the importer will no longer be entertained by the Bureau.

BOC lists new requirements for importers, brokers accreditation

The Bureau of Customs has released new rules for accreditation of its stakeholders in line with the order of the Department of Finance to revert to the Bureau the power to accredit and register customs brokers and importers.

In a memorandum dated April 24 and signed by Commissioner Isidro Lapeña, BOC lists the documentary requirements for the accreditation supplementary to the revised guidelines for registration of importers and customs brokers stated in Customs Memorandum 11-2014.

In a bid to streamline the requirements for accreditation, Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) Number 5-2018 stipulates that the submission of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Importer Clearance Certificate (ICC) and Broker Clearance Certificate (BCC) is no longer required.

Instead of the two documents, new importer shall secure the AMO application form; BOC official receipt evidencing payment of P1,000 processing fee; affidavit designating authorized signatories in import entries; two valid IDs; NBI clearance; latest general information sheet; personal profile of applicant and responsible officers; company profile; address of warehouse; proof of lawful occupancy; list of importables (LOI); printed Client Profile Registration System (CPRS) notification; endorsement from the collector; BIR registration; latest income tax return; and Mayor's permit.

For importers who will renew their

accreditation with the bureau, they shall secure updated general information sheet; company profile; address of warehouse lawful occupancy; updated LOI; printed CPRS notification; income tax return for the past three years; and Mayor's permit.

Licensed customs brokers who are applying for accreditation with the bureau shall submit AMO application form; BOC official receipt evidencing payment of P1,000 processing fee; valid PRC card; list of clients with addresses and contact details; list of representatives with personal details, photos and specimen signature; printed CPRS notification; BIR registration; latest income tax return; NBI clearance; and certificate of good standing issued by the PRC-accredited national organization for customs brokers.

While customs brokers applying for renewal shall submit updated professional profile; valid PRC card; updated list of clients with addresses and contact details; updated list of representatives with personal details, photos and specimen signature; printed CPRS notification; income tax return for the past three years; NBI clearance; and certificate of good standing issued by the PRC-accredited national organization for customs brokers.

It can be recalled that Commissioner Lapeña directed the Account Management Office to facilitate the accreditation of the stakeholders, cutting the processing time from 1-2 months to five days.

CMO 5-2018 is effective May 17, fifteen (15) calendar days after its newspaper publication on May 2, 2018.

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BOC DESTROYS

One hundred sixteen motorcycles and six vehicles worth a total of P34.71 million were destroyed on May 30 by the Bureau of Customs.

President Rodrigo Duterte once again witnessed the destruction of 112 units of brand new Vespa scooters and used BMW motorcycle, Harley Davidson, two units Triumph motorcycle, Mitsubishi Pajero, two units of Land Rover, and Volvo car.

Simultaneously destroyed at the Port of Cebu are used 2002 Ford Ecoline E350 and 2005 Ford Ecoline E350.

The cars and motorcycles arrived on separate dates at the Manila International Container Port (MICP), Port of Subic, Port of Cebu, and Port of Iloilo.

The destruction of the vehicles was in line with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to warn all smugglers to pay the tax for their vehicle importations or have them crushed by a bulldozer. This is

also to stop fixing schemes of smugglers conniving with some Customs employees in the usual public auction of seized cars.

"The President's order is clear, sending a very strong message to smugglers, to stop what they have been doing. These smugglers have long been cheating the government. This has to stop.

"The connivance of smugglers with some customs employees in bringing smuggled vehicles back to the smugglers, disguised in a legitimate auction proceedings, has to stop as well, to level the playing field for the legitimate businessmen," Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said.

Previously, the Bureau of Customs destroyed 20 high-end vehicles worth P61 million during the Bureau's founding anniversary on February 6.

The destroyed vehicles include brands

such as classic 1969 Corvette Stingray, Jaguar, Audi, Mercedes Benz, Pajero, BMW, Ford Explorer, and Lexus.

The Bureau also seized 24 luxury vehicles including several "supercars" at the MICP which are now under litigation at the Law Division.

"I have directed those in charge of the case to facilitate the litigation of the 24 luxury cars. If the final decision of the case is in favor to the government, the same will happen to them. They will be destroyed," Lapeña said.

Eighteen of the 24 cars including 13 brand new Land Cruisers, two units of Chevrolet Camaro, two units of brand new Range Rover, and McLaren are now forfeited, however, the importer filed an appeal to the Court of Tax Appeals.

The remaining cars are still under legal proceedings.

BOC sets rules on advance cargo manifest

In a bid to further facilitate trade and protect the borders from the entry of high-risk cargoes, the Bureau of Customs will require the submission of advance cargo manifest from shipping lines and airlines starting May 7, 2018.

Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) 6-2018 signed by Commissioner Isidro Lapeña on May 7 mandated the electronic submission of Portable Document Format (PDF) file of the advance manifest, bill of lading, commercial invoice, packing list, stowage plan, container discharging list, load port survey report, and supplemental cargo manifest to the Bureau's Advanced Manifest System.

Cargo manifest or Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM) contains the detailed list of cargo on board the vessel or aircraft including information on the goods such as transport document numbers, consignors, consignees, marks and numbers, number and kind of packages, weight, description, quantity of the goods, and the destination.

Vessels with transit time from the port of origin to the port of entry of at least 72 hours, the shipping company, non-vessel operating common carrier (NVOCC), freight forwarder, cargo consolidator, or their authorized agents must electronically submit the cargomanifest, consolidated cargo manifest (CCM), stowage plan, and

container discharging list within 24 hours before the arrival at the port of entry. If transit is less than 72 hours, the cut-off time is 12 hours prior to the arrival of the vessel.

CMO 6-2018 provides that aircraft with port of loading is within Asia, the cargo manifest and CCM must be filed one hour before the arrival of the aircraft. For origin outside Asia, the cut-off time is four hours before the aircraft arrives.

The Bureau warned that failure to transmit the electronic manifest within the required time will be penalized with a fine of not less than ₱100,000.00 but not more than ₱300,000.00. Aside from the manifest, carriers, NVOCC, forwarders, consolidators, or their authorized agents are required to submit the electronic copy of the master bill of lading/airway bill and house bill of lading/airway bill, commercial invoice, and packing list to the Advanced Manifest System at least 24 hours before the arrival of the vessel or aircraft.

The Bureau's accredited cargo surveying company must also submit the load port survey report at least 24 hours before the arrival of the vessel.

Furthermore, the memorandum also provides that cargoes not listed in the IFM but are recorded in the stowage plan must be filed through a supplemental manifest not later 48 hours from the date of discharge of

the last package from the vessel. While those not listed in both IFM and stowage plan the prescribed cut-off time is 24 hours from the date of discharge of the last package.

Supplemental manifest of aircraft must be submitted not later than 24 hours from the discharge of the last package.

Shipments not included in the manifest and the supplemental manifest are considered un-manifested and shall undergo seizure and forfeiture proceedings of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

The advance information of cargoes destined to the Philippines will help the Bureau track and trace the movement of cargoes from the port of origin and evaluate the nature and degree of risk of incoming shipments.

"The new guidelines on cargo manifest will allow a qualified importer to process in advance the goods declaration prior to the arrival of the shipment and pre-assess the customs duties, taxes, and other charges as well as other needed documentary requirements," Commissioner Lapeña said.

Update: Pursuant to a memorandum dated May 29, the CMO is suspended until further notice.

Criminal raps filed vs logistics firm execs, cohorts behind illegal withdrawal of 105 containers from BOC custody

The Bureau of Customs has filed on Friday, May 4, supplemental complaints regarding the illegal release of 105 containers in view of the additional evidence gathered by the Investigation Division-CIIS, as contained in their Investigation Report dated April 27, including the identities of additional personalities involved in the unlawful importation and illegal release of the subject 105 containers.

Officers of Federal Fortunes Worldwide Logistics Services, as well as their agents a.k.a. "personeros", and another officer and employee of Asian Terminals Inc. were named as respondents.

In addition, a certain "Kimberly", which was later on identified by the Investigators as Julie Gamboa was included in the complaint after she was identified by witnesses to be the person who contracted the services of a licensed customs broker and trucking company, and the person who dealt with the owner of the warehouse where the recovered tiles were found.

The instant Supplemental Complaint was filed in compliance with Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña's directive to ensure that all individuals who perpetrated the surreptitious release of the 105 containers are held responsible.

"I will make sure that each and every individual involved in this reprehensible act will pay. No stones shall be left unturned. I have instructed the CIIS and Legal Service to exhaust all resources to ensure that everyone responsible for this illegal act will be put behind bars", said Commissioner Lapeña.

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CUSTOMS-NAIA

"The other was seized on April 23 containing 344.50 grams of shabu and is consigned to Susano Trinidad of Cubao, Quezon City. The sender is a certain Audio Schit, Commissioner Lapeña said.

The packages which came from California, USA were declared as medicine cabinet and pillow, respectively.

The shipments were uncovered based on the profiling of the Customs-NAIA examiner. The parcels underwent x-ray examination, K9 sweeping, field test using a chemical identifier and reagent which all indicated the presence of illegal drugs, Lapeña added.

Both packages were found to have fictitious consignees and delivery address.

"In support of the anti-drug campaign of President Rodrigo Duterte, we have intensified our anti-drug operations at the ports, and so we were able to apprehend eight drug shipments in March and April in NAIA alone," the customs chief said.

In March, BOC-NAIA busted 42 tablets Cyprotone Acetate & Ethinlestradiol found in an outgoing parcel to Canada and 33.06 grams of shabu and pouch of kush weeds concealed in a toy doll from an incoming shipment from California, USA.

While in April, Collection District III seized 962 pieces of Ecstasy tablets from Netherlands and 7517.6 grams of shabu from five incoming shipments concealed in Lego toys, baby crib, car seat, pillow & medicine cabinet from California, USA.

FAKE CIGARETTES

in Block 4 Lot 2, Block 4 Lot 2B, and Block 2, Lot 8, Panply Marketing Warehouse in Muralla Industrial Subdivision, Meycauayan City which is suspected to contain dutiable or prohibited goods.

"The Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) agents did not find any person inside the warehouse so they proceeded with the inspection which leads to the seizure of the fake cigarettes.

"The ESS conducted the operations together with the elements of the Bulacan PNP, Police Criminal Investigation Detection Group, local government unit of Brgy. Perez, Meycauayan City, and a product specialist from Japan Tobacco Industry," Commissioner Lapeña said.

Reports showed that the warehouses are owned by a certain Johnny Caluban and Panply Marketing Corporation.

"The owners still have 15 days from the date of inspection to produce evidence of payment otherwise, a warrant of seizure and detention will be issued by the Bureau," the Customs chief explained.

The suspected fake BIR cigarette tax stamps are still being authenticated by the BIR while the warehouses are now under-guarded.

According to ESS Director Yogi Ruiz, the estimated market value of the seized fake cigarettes, tax stamps and machines is P500-million.

The proliferation of locally made fake cigarettes and smuggled fake cigarettes from abroad are now being tracked by the BOC to prevent its entry to the Philippine market.

Last year, the Bureau of Customs led the crackdown of the local cigarette manufacturing company Mighty Corp. for selling cigarettes with fake tax stamps.

The BOC seized P5.407 billion worth of Mighty cigarettes found with fake tax stamps.

Recently, the Bureau seized more or less P20 million worth of smuggled various cigarette brands in the Manila International Container Port and P8.2 million worth of cigarettes at the Port of Manila.



Customs personnel, passengers nabbed at NAIA for jewelry smuggling



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) arrested Customs NAIA employee and two other suspects for alleged conspiracy to import smuggled 1.9 kilos of jewelry at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña said that the pieces of jewelry confiscated from the three conniving individuals are estimated to be worth P3 million.

The suspect, NAIA Customs Operations Officer V Lomontod Macabando assigned at the Arrival Area of NAIA Terminal 3, and other two suspects Abraham Mimbalawag and Bang-sa Mimbalawag were arrested by the Customs agents following a report from the acting customs examiner assigned at the Arrival Operations Division, NAIA Terminal 3 of a ploy to smuggle pieces of jewelry.

Abraham and Bang-sa arrived at Terminal 3, Port of NAIA on board Cebu Pacific Air Flight No. 5J015 from Dubai on May 5, 2018.

On the same day, the on-duty customs examiner noticed that an unidentified passenger handed over a black clutch bag to Macabando. Subsequently, the suspicious Customs employee hurriedly walked towards the exit of the Customs Arrival Area, Terminal 3.

The Customs examiner immediately reported the incident to the BOC-NAIA duty flight supervisor. Thereafter, Customs personnel tried to block Macabando from going out of the Customs premises but he was able to escape, prompting them to seek assistance from the security guards and airport police present at the area.

"Macabando was finally accosted and was eventually convinced to go back in the Customs Arrival Area and return the subject clutch bag to the owner thereof," said Lapeña.

After conferring with the arriving passengers Abraham and Bangsa-an, Macabando accompanied the two to Customs Arrival Area where they admitted ownership of the bag.

The Customs authorities then opened the bag for 100% examination and yielded 24 pieces of rings,

1,029 pairs of earrings, 155 pieces of pendants, 5 pieces of earrings with pendants, 19 pieces of bangles, 295 pieces of chains, and 101 pieces of bracelets.

The BOC-NAIA reported that the bag owner failed to declare the importation and provide required commercial documents or invoice.

A Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) against the subject jewelry was issued on May 7 by NAIA District Collector Carmelita Talusan pursuant to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of the CMTA.

The consignees and the Customs personnel involved were arrested and undergone inquest proceedings on May 6 at the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

They were released on the same day after being detained at the ESS-Port of NAIA Detention Facility with release order from the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office and ordered the preliminary investigation of the case on May 15 and 22, 2018.

Charges were filed against the suspects for violation of Sections 1401 (Unlawful Importation or Exportation), 1402 (Failure or Refusal of Party to Give Evidence or Submit Documents for Assessment), and 1404 (Failure to Declare Baggage) in relation to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of the CMTA, and Grave Coercion under Article 286 of the Revised Penal Code.

Likewise, the Commissioner ordered the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) to investigate administrative violations of Macabando, particularly Section 1431 (Statutory Offenses of Officers and Employees) of the CMTA for colluding with spouses Malimbawag to defraud customs revenue.

Customs chief attends 27th ASEAN Directors-General of Customs Meeting

Customs chief Isidro Lapeña attended the 27th meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs on May 2-4, 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia.

The heads and representatives of all ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the meeting chaired by Dato' Sri Subromaniam Tholasy, Director-General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department.

The meeting was focused on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) within this year, namely: (1) the onboarding of remaining ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the live operation and the expansion of ASEAN Single Window (ASW) with the inclusion of other document exchanges in the system; (2) implementation of ASEAN-wide Self Certification scheme; (3) proposed Feasibility Study (FS) of an ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO); and (4) urgency expressed by private sector on the need to expedite trade facilitation initiatives and the value of private sector participation in the monitoring and evaluation of AEC priorities and deliverables.

Reporting on behalf of the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC) headed by the Department of Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran and its working groups, Lapeña discussed before the ASEAN delegates the progress and achievements of the ASWSC in the development and implementation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) during the period of June 2017 to May 2018.

The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is a regional initiative headed by the Philippines that will connect and integrate the National Single Window (NSW) of ASEAN Member States towards streamlined cargo clearances. This initiative is also expected to promote ASEAN economic integration by enabling the electronic exchange of customs data among the ASEAN Member States.

The ASWSC is tasked with the development and implementation of the ASW in accordance with the "Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window" and "Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window."

During the meeting, ASEAN DGs of Customs Chair encouraged AMS to work together in achieving the goal of the ASW and the exchange-ready AMS to provide support and assistance to the remaining member States in their preparation to implement ASW.

At least five member states (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) are already using the ASW to exchange information on customs clearances, particularly the exchange of electronic certificate of origin.

As for the Philippines, since March 19, 2018, ASW End-to-End Test in the country and in other member states such as Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam had been conducted. The Philippines, along with Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia, agreed to intensify its efforts to ensure the success of the ASW End-to-End testing.



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BOC-DAVAO

which is declared to contain plastic plates but was found to contain 401 cartons of Snowbear candy, and 869 cartons of mosquito coil, and the imports of Bizreal Trading International found to contain apples mixed with 6,300 sacks of onion," Commissioner Lapeña said.

Also seized at the DICT are shipments of Mahmud Enterprises and Kobeasan Trading

for misdeclaring bales of ukay-ukay, 275 boxes of magic sugar, and 115 boxes of lotion.

The goods were declared as bedsheets, shoes, pillowcases, stuffed toys, and bags.

Meanwhile, another shipment at the DICT was subjected to an alert order after the x-ray machine revealed images appearing to be "sacks of onions" which is different from the

declared item. It was also consigned to Bizreal Trading International.

"We are alerting all agricultural products arriving at the port as per directive of the Commissioner. We are closely monitoring the imports of agricultural products to prevent the entry of smuggled products," District Collector Atty. Romalino G. Valdez said.

The Office of the District Collector has issued warrants of seizure and detention (WSD) upon the recommendation of the X-ray Inspection Project, CIIS, and ESS for violating Section 1400 and Section 1113 paragraphs of RA 10853.

The seized ukay-ukay also violated RA 4653.



At a glance: Bureau of Customs -Port of Legazpi

One hundred and forty-six years ago on May 18, 1872, Legazpi was declared as an open Port for foreign trade by a Royal Decree from the King of Spain. During that time, the Philippines was seen as a trading post for international trade that created great demands for raw materials as a market for manufactured goods.

During the American Regime, the Philippine Legislature enacted a law to formally open not only the Port of Legazpi but of Tabaco as well. In 1983, Sub-port of Jose Panganiban (formerly Mambulao) was established with jurisdiction over the provinces of Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte. In 1940, Sub-port of Masbate was created pursuant to Executive Order 254 Series of 1940 and R.A. No. 5708. The island of Masbate enjoys pivotal geographical location making it accessible to Manila, Cebu, Negros, Iloilo, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao.

Operations were suspended on December 12, 1941, when the Japanese invasion forces landed in Legazpi. After the war, it was re-opened upon the representations of various exporters and businessmen in the Bicol Region.

This started the exportation of traditional products like copra, abaca and hemp. In the 1970's, exports began to include sugar, molasses, crude coconut oil, copra cake pellets and expellers, and cottage industry products.

Importations consisted mainly of

American flour and rice. When the Geothermal exploration started in Tiwi, Albay, importations such as drilling equipment, heavy machinery and power plant facilities began arriving at Ports of Legazpi and Tabaco. This also encouraged other importers to open various industries in the Bicol Region. From then on, industries of paper pulp mills in the towns of Daraga and Malinao in Albay, sugar milling in Camarines Sur and coco milling began to flourish in the province.

Today, Bureau of Customs-Legazpi has seven sub-ports, namely, Subport of Tabaco, Virac, Bulan, Masbate, Jose Panganiban, Pasacao & Nato and Paracale. Unfortunately, only three (3) of these sub-ports are currently active due to lack of foreign vessel arrivals.

Based on records, the only regular importer of the Port is the Goodfound Cement Corporation in Palanog, Camalig, Albay, which imports raw material for cement manufacturing. Other import items being discharged at the Port are white rice, palm olein, portland cement, and yellow corn. The Phil. Gold Processing & Refining Corporation in Masbate which ships Gold Dore to Switzerland is currently the only exporter of the Port.

Port of Legazpi, although considered as a small port, responsibly contributes in the generation of public funds and as watchmen of the Philippine borders in the region. (Mitchelle Ann Mamaid)

Port of Legazpi welcomes the Customs chief

On May 10, 2018, Bureau of Customs, Collection District V, welcomed Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña accompanied by Deputy Commissioner for Internal Administration Group, Gladys F. Rosales and Chief of General Services Division, Gladys F. Estrada, on their second port visit.

Most of the concerns of the Port revolved around the welfare of the personnel and on how to improve public service. The Commissioner assured the port's personnel that they will be given the appropriate trainings and seminars that will enable them to perform their key functions effectively. Also, when it comes to the request for promotion, Lapeña said that the selection process will be by point system and everyone shall be given a fair chance.

The Commissioner explained how the collection performance had improved as evidenced by the first four months of this year and said that this can positively continue, if only all employees will cooperate and stop corrupt activities. According to him, graft and corruption will be addressed if the welfare of the personnel of the Bureau is well taken care of.

Another issue discussed during the meeting is the lack of offices at the Subports of Legazpi. There is a pending request for modified container vans to be used at the PPA Port of Legazpi as well as Sub-port of Tabaco. The provision of

service vehicles to be used for regular inspection, examination and monitoring at the sub-ports was also discussed.

The Commissioner also met Engr. Rafael Borbe to review the blue print and lay-out for the construction of the new Legazpi Customhouse. A brief meeting with Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Legazpi's Acting Port Manager, Ms. Fatima D. Reaso and the Acting Terminal Supervisor, Engr. Antonio L. Balacano, Jr. also took place. The group, accompanied by District Collector Arsenia C. Ilagan and other BOC Legazpi officials also met with PPA Tabaco Division Manager, Mr. Romeo B. Perez, Jr., and discussed the possibility of having a customs office thereat, by sharing a portion of an abandoned lot within the port zone.

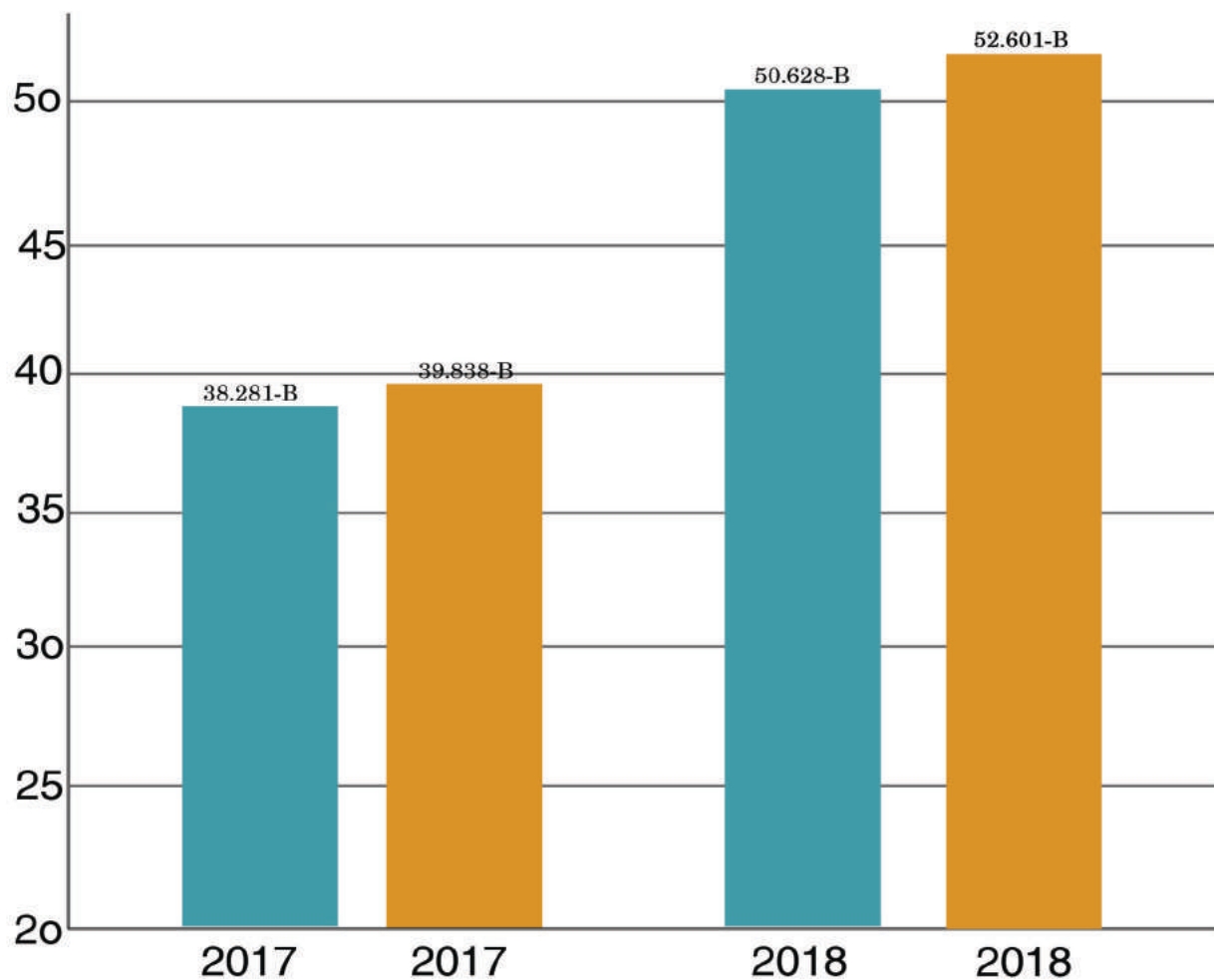
Lapeña stressed that so much is expected from each personnel and everyone has different important roles to play. Though it is a heavy burden to carry, he assured that he will give the necessary support, and equipment needed to deliver the objective of a revenue collecting agency like the Bureau of Customs.

The Commissioner concluded his visit by assuring the port personnel that he is ready to give them support. "I want to make myself available and accessible to you," he said. He uplifted the morale of the employees with an emphasis that not everything reaches him since the distance makes it harder to communicate easily, which is similar with other Outports like the Port of Legazpi.





May 2018 vs 2017 Revenue Collection



Legend: ■ Target ■ Actual



16 of the 17 Collection Districts were able to hit and surpassed their May 2018 revenue collection target.

Source: Financial Service

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BOC EXCEEDS

the highest collection, posting P14.454 billion in revenue which is 23.3% or P2.733 billion above the target; Port of Manila posted P8.083 billion revenue, up by 6.2% or P472 million; Port of Limay posted P3.462 billion revenue, up by 12.4% or P381 million; NAIA posted P3.155 billion revenue, up by 5.2% or P155 million; Port of Cebu posted P2.395 billion revenue, up by 5% or P114 million; Port of Davao posted P1.936 billion revenue, up by 19.2% or P311 million; Port of Cagayan de Oro posted P1.866 billion revenue, up by 30.5% or P436 million; Port of Subic posted P1.853 billion revenue, up by 1.7% or P31 million; Port of Iloilo posted P323 million revenue, up by 17.8% or P49

million; Port of San Fernando posted P298 million revenue, up by 7% or P21 million; Port of Clark posted P173 million revenue, up by 30.3% or P40 million; Port of Zamboanga posted P58 million revenue, up by 142.2% or P34 million; Port of Tacloban posted P47 million revenue, up by 102.4% or P24 million; Port of Legazpi posted P25 million revenue, up by 4% or P1 million; Port of Appari posted P16 million revenue, up by 213.6% or P11 million; and Port of Surigao posted P2.2 million revenue, up by 7.7% or P200 thousand. Meanwhile, the Manila International Container Port was unable to hit its revenue target of P15.611 billion, collecting only P14.199 billion in May.

The improved revenue collection

performance of the Bureau of Customs is also attributed to the increase in the volume of imports by 3.3% in May, Customs chief Isidro Lapeña said.

“The value of imports also grew by 17.8%. I will say this is because of the continuing application of correct valuation and tariff classification of goods,” Lapeña added.

BOC-Financial Service also reported

that increase in foreign exchange and oil price, and growth in the importation of motor vehicles, crude oil, foodstuff, iron and steel, and petroleum products contributed to the May collection.

This is the fourth time the BOC was able to hit its collection target for this year. More than P230.18 billion revenue has been collected by the bureau from January to May 2018.



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.

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Customs chief uncovers misdeclared shipments in MICP

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña and Manila International Container Port District Collector Maritess Martin on Thursday discovered seven containers with misdeclared agricultural products, ukay-ukay, and cigarettes.

The containers from China which arrived on separate dates at MICP were declared to contain non-woven interlining and woven interlining, industrial fur, fresh apple, and household ware.

“However, the actual contents found by the Customs authorities are very different from what was declared. They found inside are 947 cartons of More cigarettes and 53 cartons of Marvels cigarettes, 950 boxes of Mighty cigarettes, boxes of apples mixed with onion, apples mixed with boxes of fresh carrots, and bales of ukay-ukay mixed with food without Food and Drug Administration permit” Commissioner Lapeña said.

Commissioner Lapeña said the market value of the goods is estimated to be worth P36.5 million.

The accreditation of the consignees – Trixcean Trading, Marid Industrial Marketing, Khalevskies Enterprises, Ashton & Ilyze Trading, and Yohann Rein Trading will be revoked as well as their signing customs brokers, Lapeña added.

“We will be filing cases against the consignees and brokers for violating Section 1400 (Misdeclaration, Misclassification, Undervaluation in Goods Declaration) in relation to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act,” Commissioner Lapeña said.

Moreover, Trixcean and Marid will be penalized for violating Intellectual Property Rights for importing fake cigarettes; Yohann Reid will also face charges for violating the Food and Drug Administration Act; while Khalevskies and Ashton violated the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act.

The Office of the District Collector of MICP will issue the warrant of seizure and detention against the shipments.

“I appeal to you, importers and traders to do your business legitimately. Do not fool and short-change the government because in return you are short-changing your fellow Filipinos.

“I am telling and warning you. I will not stop issuing alert orders and conduct immediate inspection of alerted shipments,” Commissioner Lapeña stressed.

P33-M WORTH OF VARIOUS GOODS SEIZED IN TWO MANILA PORTS

The Bureau of Customs busted nine 40-footer containers worth more or less P33 million of rice, houseware, vape, makeups, fake branded shoes, ukay-ukay, office chairs, and wheel rims at the Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said the shipments seized at POM came from China, which arrived on separate dates are consigned to IT Malingco Trading Corporation, Abundanceprime Chemicals Trading Corporation, Archerson Trading, Sto. Nino Marketing, and Fastworth Marketing.

The signing customs brokers are Erlinda Dumalaog, Mohammad Salman Cosain Amerol, Christian Lao, Christine May Burlaza, and Henry Ferrer, respectively.

“A warrant of seizure and detention were already issued by the Office of the District Collector for their high disregard to the customs laws implemented by the Bureau,” he said.

The shipments declared as grocery items, glass cups, bottles, mugs, wheel rims, footwear, and general merchandise were found to contain misdeclared air freshener, toothpaste, shampoo, make-ups and vape without the necessary Food and Drug Administration (FDA) permit, undeclared sacks of rice without the National Food Authority (NFA) permit, ziplock, houseware, wheel rims, and fake shoes.

“The white substance found inside the container of Abundanceprime and examined by Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Taskforce tested negative for illegal drugs,” Lapeña said.

The shipment of Fastworth Marketing declared as general merchandise was found to contain undeclared sacks of rice. “We cannot yet divulge the actual number of sacks inside the container since the customs examiners are still doing an inventory of the smuggled rice,” Lapeña said.

Meanwhile, BOC-MICP seized P8 million worth of goods which include ukay-ukay and executive office chairs.

Chuanshun Electric (Phils) Inc. declared its shipment as transformer from Hongkong but contains office chairs.

Three shipments of Epad Freight Forwarder of personal effects were seized after it revealed boxes of used clothings, or ukay-ukay.

Entry declarations showed Christopher Siate as the signing customs broker of Chuanshun while Manuel Tolentino is the broker of Epad.

Lapeña said the permit to import of the importers and customs brokers are automatically suspended following the discovery of the illegal acts.

“We will continue the ground inspection to remind the importers that we are serious in our campaign against smuggling. They have to correct their ways and stop the rampant misdeclaration and undervaluation as it defrauds the government of its rightful revenues,” Lapeña said.

CONDEMNATION OF SMUGGLED MOTOR VEHICLES

MAY 30, 2018 | PUC PARKING LOT, BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

