

PORT DIGEST

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The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



BOC turns over donation to DSWD for Ompong victims

The Bureau of Customs, on September 24 donated various forfeited goods to the Department of Social Welfare and Development as an aid to those affected by the typhoon Ompong.

"To help our kababayan who were affected by the recent calamity that devastated several areas in Northern Luzon, the Bureau of Customs decided to provide our fellow-Filipinos with humanitarian aid through the DSWD" said Commissioner Isidro Lapeña.

The Bureau of Customs - Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) donated 374 sacks of rice and 5,040 canned goods. The said rice and canned goods are from previous seizures in implementation of a LOA and all were already subjected to forfeiture proceedings.

Mr. Ronald Reonal, representative from the DSWD - National Response and Logistics Management Service personally accepted the donations in the ceremonial turn over during the Bureau's flag raising ceremony early Monday morning, September 24.

This effort is pursuant to the order of the Secretary of Finance, Carlos Dominguez, and Customs Commissioner Lapeña to identify goods which could be donated to the victims of typhoon Ompong.

Last week, the Manila International Container Port (MICP) also extended their help by giving 109 packages of emergency survival blankets, 153 packages of face masks, 350 boxes of bedsheets, blankets, and towels, and 1,332 boxes of brand new clothes.

The BOC - Disaster Relief Team, headed by Deputy Commissioner Edward James

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CUSTOMS NABS 2 SUSPECTS FOR FIREARMS SMUGGLING

Two suspects were nabbed by the Bureau of Customs in a controlled delivery operation of balikbayan boxes in San Marcelino, Zambales on September 22 for smuggling of regulated firearms accessories estimated to be more or less P5.5 million.

"Through the issuance of warrant of seizure and detention by the collector of the Port of Manila and in compliance with the instructions stated in the mission order of the Commissioner, the elements of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service, Enforcement and Security

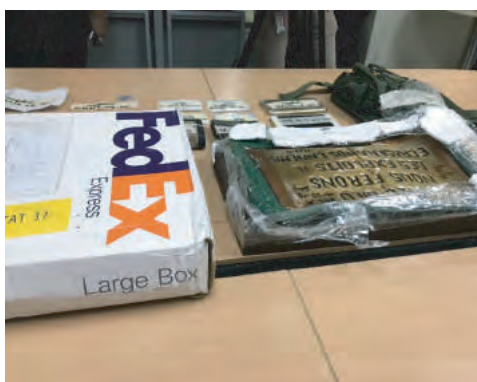
Service (ESS), Philippine National Police, and the deconsolidator conducted the controlled delivery of balikbayan boxes to Zambales and effected the arrest of the suspects," ESS Director Yogi Ruiz said.

The six balikbayan boxes from California, United States of America were used to conceal gun accessories such as more or less 6,000 Rounds Live Ammunitions of TulAmmo 7.62x39 mm caliber, 166 pieces Chip Mc Cormick Power Magazine 10 Rounder .45 ACP, 39 pieces Troy Industries Inc. Part Number

Mac 30, Glock Magazine 30 Rounder, Roger Box, Troy Battle Ready Magazine 30 Rounder, 92 pieces 30 Rounder Glock 9mm Magazines, 29 pieces Carbine Extended Magazines, 29 pieces Kim Pro .45 Magazines, 60 pieces Troy Industries Inc. Mag 30 Case 3E21, 30 pieces Pro Mag Saiga Magazine 12 gauge, water canister, and other gun accessories. Also found on top of the boxes are merchandises like coffee, peanut butter, brown rice to conceal the contrabands.

Arrested during the operation were 54-

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P5.4-M worth of drugs seized in Cavite

The joint operation of the Bureau of Customs - Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF) and Ninoy Aquino International Airport-Inter-Agency Drugs Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG) nabbed two drug suspects on Saturday night, September 22, in a convenience store along Paliparan

Road, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The suspects arrested in the controlled delivery operation were Joy Middle also known as Joy Bido-Mariel who was later identified as Julie Ann A. Lozada, and her alleged live-in partner, Cyril Garcia Cabigan. Lozada and Cabigan, both 28

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BOC turns over donation to DSWD for distribution to Ompong victims

Dy Buco, in coordination with the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division (ACDD) of the MICP, identified said goods eligible for donation and were considered viable for donation by the DSWD.

According to Lapeña, the donated goods were declared abandoned for lack of interest on the part of the consignee and were deemed property of the government on January 14 and 15, 2018.

These shipments were covered by abandonment proceeding numbers A.P. 018-2016, A.P. 019-2016, A.P. 020-2016 and A.P. 022-2016.

Aside from these goods from the ESS and MICP, the Port of Cebu also donated 14

containers of rice which were forfeited in favor of the government. Also, 6,921 bags of glutinous rice were donated by the Port of Zamboanga to DSWD for distribution to Ompong victims.

Under section 1141 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, "goods subject to disposition may be donated to another government agency or declared for official use of the Bureau, after approval of the Secretary of Finance, or sold at a public auction within thirty (30) days after a ten (10)-day notice posted at a public place at the port where the goods are located and published electronically or in a newspaper of general circulation."

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BOC, IADITG nabs 2 suspects; P5.4-M worth of drugs seized in Cavite

years old, are residents of B81 L13 Zone 9 Bautista Property, Brgy. Sampaloc IV, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The operating team seized more or less 800 grams of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride also known as shabu estimated to be worth P5.44 million.

The operation stemmed from a tip from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) that a parcel from the Democratic Republic of the Congo contains illegal drugs.

"We closely monitored the arrival of the shipment and when the package arrived on Friday, it immediately went through x-ray examination, K9 sweeping, and field test using a chemical identifier and reagent which all indicated the presence of illegal drugs," Lt. Ernie Pracale, head of CAIDTF said.

The parcel with tracking number 811220547010 from Congo was consigned to a certain Joy Middle/Bido Mariel of Blk 81 Lot 13 Zone Brgy. Cavite. It was sent by a

certain Asumani Lofeta of 5EM Rue Industrielle Kinshasa, CD and declared as art table.

"The shabu was surreptitiously hidden under the art table and was placed inside the wood frame," Lt. Pracale said.

When asked on the alibis of the suspects, the CAIDTF head said the suspects claimed that the parcel was originally intended to a foreigner whom they refer to as alias "Negro."

The drugs and the suspects are now in the custody of PDEA. Lozada and Cabigan will be charged for violation of Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña lauded the efforts of the BOC-NAIA, CAIDTF, and NAIA-IADITG. "The success of this operation relied on the close coordination of the agencies tasked to protect the borders against the entry of illegal drugs," he said.

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CUSTOMS NABS 2 SUSPECTS FOR FIREARMS SMUGGLING

year old Vicente P. Hilario of San Isidro, San Marcelino, Zambales and 69-year old Jun B. Navarro of Sta. Maria, Castillejos, Zambales who received the packages on behalf of Gregorio Dela Cruz, the consignee of the balikbayan boxes. The package was sent by Anselmo Dela Cruz of 1899 Fleming Ave. San Jose, California.

Hilario and Navarro denied any knowledge of the concealed gun accessories and pointed Dela Cruz as "the final recipient of the balikbayan boxes." As of writing, the ESS agent said Gregorio Dela Cruz is still at large.

The operation stemmed from a tip from a reliable source that the balikbayan boxes declared as personal effects which arrived in May 2018 were used as a conduit to smuggle firearms in the country.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said that according to the reports received by the

PNP, the seized gun accessories could be used for insurgency.

The suspects will be facing charges for violating Section 119 (Restricted Importation, and Exportation), Section 1400 (Misdeclaration, Misclassification, Undervaluation in Goods Declaration), Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to Republic Act 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulations Act.

Commissioner Lapeña has warned all unscrupulous individuals who are trying to bring in smuggled goods and contrabands through balikbayan boxes to stop. "We are closely coordinating with deconsolidators and freight forwarders and we are upgrading our x-ray capabilities. These can deter the entry of illegal goods in the country."



Lapeña debunks port congestion, delays

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña on September 6 said there is no port congestion and delays in releasing shipments in the two biggest ports in the country, pointing out the 86% and 88% port utilization percentage of Manila International Container Port and Port of Manila, respectively.

"Earlier, I went to International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) container yard to inspect and see for myself the alleged congestion at the ports. And I saw that there was no congestion at MICP. Getting the data of yard utilization of MICP, it shows that, at present, it is at 86% and that is within the normal operations of the port," Commissioner Lapeña told the newsmen in a press briefing.

The Port of Manila, on the other hand, has 88% yard utilization which is also within the normal operations of the port. As of press time, there are no vessels waiting to dock at South Harbor.

He said the weather conditions in the Philippines has caused the delays in the berthing of vessels and unloading of containers in the yard. Nonetheless, the Bureau is closely coordinating with the terminal operators to be ready for the influx of cargoes for the holidays.

"The vessels are arriving simultaneously and the terminal operator cannot accommodate all

vessels in the berthing area. They have to wait for their scheduled berthing in the breakwater," he said.

Once the containers are unloaded, the Bureau chief said he directed all district collectors to expedite the releasing of shipments especially the basic commodities.

According to the Commissioner, a memorandum was issued to all port collectors to expedite the processing of essential food such as rice, sugar, pork, and chicken and to closely monitor the movement of vessels anchored in the breakwater. This is to aid supply issue caused by artificial shortage.

"We are issuing alert orders on shipments with derogatory reports to balance our trade facilitation and border protection efforts. All shipments found with no irregularities are cleared immediately," he said.

Alerted general shipments shall be examined within 48 hours while perishable goods shall be examined within 24 hours from the issuance of the alert order. Shipments found with no irregularities shall be released within 48 hours.

"We are only asking the importers to give what is due to the government and to declare their items accordingly. If they are doing things by the law, we do not have any reason to issue alert orders," the Bureau chief added.



BOC, PNP raid warehouses for storing alleged smuggled rice

Operatives from the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) of the Bureau of Customs, together with the Philippine National Police on Tuesday, September 11, raided several warehouses in Marilao, Bulacan after receiving information that large quantities of smuggled rice are stashed inside.

According to BOC authorities, more or less 125,000 sacks of imported rice, with an estimated market value of P300 million were discovered inside the seven (7) warehouses located at the Federal Corporation (FedCor) Compound at Barangay Ibayo, Marilao, Bulacan.

Initial information showed that the sacks of rice are reportedly imported from Thailand, China, and India.

Representatives from the National Food Authority (NFA) in Bulacan were present when the BOC-CIIS and PNP raided the compound.

Seven (7) out of the total of 11 warehouses inside the compound were being used to store the thousands of sacks of rice.

Meanwhile, Customs authorities are waiting for the warehouse owners, lessee or the owner of the imported goods to present proof that payment of duties and taxes has been made for the imported rice. The Bureau is stepping up its operations in thwarting rice smuggling given the price hike in the country's staple grain. It can also be recalled that President Rodrigo Duterte made a pronouncement that the government will go after rice hoarders who contribute to the increasing cost of rice in the country.

Customs commissioner Isidro Lapeña has given strict directives to the Bureau's Intelligence and Enforcement Groups to go after suspected rice smugglers and hoarders of imported rice and other agricultural products.

Statement of Comm. Isidro Lapeña Clarifying Alleged Delays in Releasing Rice Shipments

"I would like to address the issue being reported that the spike in rice prices in the country was caused by the delays in the release of rice shipments by the Bureau of Customs.

"To set the record straight, I would like to clarify that there is no delay in the customs clearance of rice imports in all ports. In fact, I have ordered all district collectors to expedite the processing of essential food such as rice, sugar, pork, and chicken to aid the supply issue."

"It cannot be avoided that in some instances, the customs clearance procedure cannot be completed without the corresponding import permit from the National Food Authority pursuant to NFA Memorandum Circular No. AO-2018-05-001." "Knowing the importance and urgency to release these shipments, I have sent a letter request to the Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority dated September 10 to expedite the release of the import permits since it cannot be released on our end without such permit.

"NFA permits must be secured prior to the

arrival of the rice shipments to the country, however, some importers would comply with the requirement on the date of arrival or even three to five days after the arrival of their rice shipments. If only NFA permits were submitted to the Bureau before the arrival of these shipments, then an efficient and faster Customs clearance process can be made.

"This is how important NFA import permits are in the clearance of rice shipments. Prompt issuance of import permits by the NFA coupled by timely submission to the Bureau of Customs will in effect make customs clearance of rice shipments on schedule.

"I, together with the men and women of the Bureau of Customs, is with the President in alleviating the current situation on the supply and price hike in our country's staple grain.

"I assure the public that we will closely coordinate with our private and public partners to be ready for the influx of cargoes for the holidays. We hope that in the coming months, the price of basic commodities will stabilize."

BOC busted P12-M and 16-M worth smuggled onions at MICP

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña on Sept. 6 inspected six 40-footer containers intercepted at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) which were found to contain misdeclared onions.

According to the apprehending office, the Xray Inspection Project (XIP)-MICP field office, the shipment is estimated to be worth P12 million.

XIP office chief, Atty. Zsae Carrie de Guzman, the shipment from China were declared as fresh apples and arrived at the port on August 14. It was consigned to ASD Total Packages Enterprises Inc.

Customs chief Isidro Lapeña said that the XIP office, after receiving a tip against the shipment, recommended for the issuance of the alert order to the Office of the District Collector-MICP.

Upon inspection, it was found that each container is loaded with 2 layers of cartons of apples at the front but filled with bags of onions inside.

The owner of ASD Total Packages Enterprises Inc. and the customs broker,

of the accreditation of the consignee and the customs broker involved. Again, I am warning all unscrupulous traders, stop your smuggling attempts. I will definitely catch up with you," Lapeña said.

In another incident, sixteen million worth of red onions smuggled from China were also busted by the Bureau of Customs on September 21 at the Manila International Container Port.

Through the directive of the Commissioner to alert all incoming shipment of consignees with smuggling record, another shipment of ASD Total Package Enterprises Inc. suspected to contain misdeclared agricultural products was intercepted at the port. The eight suspected containers arrived at MICP on August 14 was declared to contain 20,000 cartons of fresh apple.

Acting on the alert order issued by the MICP Office of the District Collector, MICP authorities found bags of red onions covered by boxes of apples.

Like the previous modus, the



Michael Miranda Sumile who processed the shipment, will face criminal raps 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.

They will also face charges for violating Republic Act No. 10845 (An Act Declaring Large-scale Agricultural Smuggling As Economic Sabotage, Prescribing Penalties Therefor And For Other Purposes) also known as Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016.

MICP district collector lawyer, Balmyrson Valdez will issue the corresponding warrant of seizure and detention against the shipment.

"I have already ordered for the revocation

said ASD are misdeclaring onions to evade paying correct duties and taxes.

When asked why importers would choose to smuggle onions into the country, the Commissioner said it will be a win-win situation for them if these shipments slipped past our ports. They will ride with the high prices of basic commodities in the market.

The ASD shipment will face criminal raps 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.

Similarly, the owner and the signing customs broker, Michael Miranda Sumile, will face charges for violating Republic Act No. 10845 also known as Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016.



Commissioner Lapeña's One year Anniversary
BOC employees honored the Customs chief in celebration of his one year in office.

CASE FILING

BOC files criminal raps vs employees, consignees over MCT smuggling scheme

The Bureau of Customs (BOC), on September 7, filed criminal charges before the Department of Justice against four (4) consignees, customs broker, and five (5) customs employees involved in "swing operation" and "release now and file entry later" schemes at the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) - Phividec for violation of Section 1401 (Unlawful Importation) in relation to Section 1424 (Removing Goods from Customs Custody) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

The cases were filed after the discovery of smuggling schemes of unscrupulous importers in connivance with BOC employees at the Sub-Port of Tagoloan, MCT-Phividec. The schemes involve the unlawful releasing of containers from Customs before the filing of its entries and before the payment of corresponding duties and taxes.

Under the "swing operation" scheme, shipments were released from Customs custody thru the use of a Pre-Assessment-Single Administrative Document (SAD) print out from the Value-Added Service Provider (VASP) with stamp of "SUBJECT FOR X-RAY" or "FOR TRANSFER TO MICT-CCA", then spirited out from the port.

In this method, the release of shipments is without the corresponding import entry being filed; thus, no payment of duties and taxes.

While under the "Release and File Entry Later" scheme, the shipments were immediately released from Customs custody with its corresponding import entry filed several days after the release. This method is adopted to avoid timely detection by

alerting offices and proper examination of shipments.


The above charges are filed against the owner of General Success Merchandise, Sherbet Sabillo Alazas, and its licensed customs broker, Raul Mercado De Leon, Jr., the owner of Melea RPL Enterprises, RP Joegen Lisondra, the owner of Mave Trading, Meljane B. Mejos, and the owner of FVV Gracias Enterprises, Francis Victor V. Gracias.

Other personalities indicted are Jose Mari G. Fernandez, the Terminal Manager of Mindanao International Container Terminal, and Customs representative Geneva C. Cedeño, alias "BEBANG", who personally facilitated the unlawful release of the containers from customs premises.

Likewise, five (5) Customs employees were charged namely: Liling Comayog, Officer-in-Charge, Cargo Control Division of the Sub-Port of Tagoloan, whose name and signature were found on the Pre-Assessment SAD of the shipments which aided the unlawful release of the containers; customs police agents Mangigin D. Macawadib, Godofredo T. Cahulogan, and Magalona T. Busok, who were on duty at the time of the unlawful release; and Cao D. Malic, the on-duty customs gatekeeper.

In addition to the above charges, these customs employees are likewise made liable for violation of Section 1431 (Statutory Offenses of Officers and Employees) of the CMTA.

The Bureau has previously filed criminal cases against consignees General Success Merchandise and Mave Trading for misdeclaration and unlawful importation of agricultural products.



SCAM ALERT!

KAPAG NAKATANGGAP NG GANITONG IMPORMASYON, ITAWAG AGAD SA BOC HOTLINE 705-6000, 09052997977, 09295035138 O MAG-EMAIL SA boc.cares@customs.gov.ph

MAGING ALERTO. HUWAG MAGPALOKO!

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BOC files raps vs smugglers, customs brokers

The Bureau of Customs on September 24 filed five (5) criminal cases versus several importers and customs brokers for smuggling and violation of pertinent customs laws.

Charged for large-scale agricultural smuggling are the officers of Malaya Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Oscar G. Catacutan, Mario Briones, Eddie Lalu, Randy Turla, and Alfredo Guevarra and the customs broker Mary Faith Duran Miro for the misdeclaration of P2.5 million worth of onions, apples and pears. Their importation consisted of four (4) containers of onions which were concealed among cartons of apples and pears.

The second criminal case has been filed against Stanley Tan, owner of the P9.4 million worth of shipment of counterfeit cigarettes and assorted beauty products. Tan was charged for violation of Section 224, Section 118 (f) (Prohibited Importation) in relation to Section 1430 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and Section 166 of R.A. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (IPC).

Charged in the third case are Samuel M. Alvarado, the president and major stockholder of Pherica International Corporation and customs broker, Nazario S. Maglanque for their unlawful importation of plush toys. The said importation, estimated at half a million was made without the required import permit from the Food and Drug Administration, a clear violation of Republic Act 9711 or the Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009.

The fourth smuggling charges involved Ismael Tayuan Malingco, owner of IT

Malingco, and customs broker Erlinda V. Dumalaog for the importation of foodstuff, air freshener, shampoo, and other commodities without the appropriate permit from the FDA. The shipments with an estimated value of P6.5-million had been destroyed last September 14 at Tritex Reverse Logistics, an accredited condemnation facility located in San Pedro, Laguna.

Charged in the fifth criminal case is Marnie B. Seguiran, owner of Power Buster Marketing for importing P1.6 million of fireworks and firecrackers which were declared as footwear. Seguiran faces charges for violating Section 1401 in relation to Section 117 of the CMTA and Section 6 of Republic Act 7183 or the Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution, and Use of Firecrackers and other Pyrotechnic Devices.

The total value of all the shipments of the five cases is more or less P20.5 million while the aggregate value of the duties and taxes is estimated to be worth P9 million.

Customs chief Isidro S. Lapeña has been aggressively going after smugglers and violators of customs laws. The Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) under the Legal Service has been actively pursuing the prosecution of those who attempted to defraud the government from the payment of correct duties and taxes.

Lapeña said, "We will be relentless in our efforts to apprehend smugglers and their cohorts. We will not stop. There will be no holy cows in this area. All those found guilty of violating the customs laws should be in jail."

CONDEMNATION/DESTRUCTION OF SMUGGLED GOODS

BOC-POM destroys forfeited goods worth P3.5 million



The Bureau of Customs has destroyed an estimated P3.5 million worth of various goods on Wednesday, September 5, at Angat, Bulacan.

The condemnation was done in the presence of members from the media and representatives from the local government unit to comply with the directive of Customs chief Isidro Lapeña to make the disposition of forfeited goods more transparent and attune with public interest.

The condemnation is in line with provisions of Section 1145 (Disposition of Goods Injurious to Public Health) to 1146 (Disposition of Prohibited Goods) of the Republic Act No. 10863 otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and other relevant Customs Memorandum Orders and Customs Administrative Orders.

All four abandoned containers containing expired jelly candies and helmets are condemned at the facility of Zafra Feed Milling--the contractor awarded for the condemnation of the said goods.

According to the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division(ACDD)-Port of Manila, the shipments were found to be unfit for human consumption, have no commercial value, and the release thereof is contrary to law and cannot be sold through public auction.

The two 40-footer containers containing expired jelly candies, with an estimated worth of P2 million from China are consigned to Richco Marketing, were destroyed through composting/rendering.

While, the remaining two 40-footer containers containing helmets with an estimated worth of P1.5 million are consigned to Mild Red Trading, were destroyed through crushing. Upon further investigation, it was also found that the shipment was misdeclared as housewares and lacks the required Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS) permits and clearances.

The customs chief has previously ordered all district collectors to examine abandoned containers in their respective ports as well as ensure transparency in the condemnation of forfeited goods.



BOC destroys P3-B fake goods

In line with the public interest and transparency on the disposition of forfeited goods thru condemnation, hundreds of boxes containing fake goods were destroyed by the Bureau of Customs on September 19 in an accredited condemnation facility located at San Pedro, Laguna and owned by Tritex Reverse Logistics Corp.

Based on the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) report, the destroyed goods is approximately worth P3 billion.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringing goods such as lotions, perfume, shampoo, make-up, lipstick, and one labeling machine bearing the brand names of Gio Armani, Dior, Olay, Nivea, Cetaphil, and other well-known brands were crushed, poured, and shredded.

The fake goods were among those intercepted during a warehouse raid in November 2017 at Unit 8-1, 10-A, 10-B, Vicente Tower, 1275 Dagupan St., Tondo, Manila by the agents of the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS). The operation stemmed from the investigation conducted by BOC agents and surveillance in the warehouse.

The fake goods were seized on February 22 and consequently forfeited on June 27, 2018 by the Office of the District Collector of the Port of Manila.

The seized fake goods have violated Section 1113 (f) and (l) of the CMTA and Section 118(f) of the same Act, in relation to Section 166 of RA 8293 (Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines).

Pursuant to Section 1146 of the CMTA, all prohibited goods like counterfeit goods shall be destroyed.

"Our crackdown against fake products is going well. However, the public must be made aware that continued patronage and exposure to counterfeit items pose health risks to the user. The items we destroyed today bears the same brand but the quality and the materials or chemicals used are different. These are substandard products and did not undergo quality control and safety inspection," Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said.

He further noted that fake products continue to undermine the legitimate brand owners in the country. "We are receiving reports from brand owners that are greatly affected by the proliferation of fake items. We must promote a healthy competition in the market," he added.

BOC-Subic destroys P1.5-M worth of 'ukay-ukay', used tires



The Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic spearheaded the destruction of P1.5 million worth of prohibited used clothing or ukay-ukay, used tires, and other abandoned goods on Thursday, September 13 in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

The said items were shredded and

disposed off at Epy Eco Auction and WasteDisposal Services (EPY ECO), the accredited service provider of the Port of Subic for the condemnation of contrabands and abandoned goods.

The prohibited ukay-ukay and used tires as well as the assorted merchandise were

abandoned by the consignees and have been consequently forfeited in favor of the government.

BOC-Subic district collector lawyer Ma. Rhea M. Gregorio led the destruction of the abandoned goods. Gregorio said that while the commercial proliferation of 'ukay-ukay' and 'used tires' is popular, the law prohibits its importation as provided by the Republic Act 4653 (RA 4653).

RA 4653 entitled "An act to safeguard the health of the people and maintain the dignity of the nation by declaring it a national policy to prohibit the commercial importation of textile articles commonly known as used clothing and rags" prohibits the importation of ukay-ukay while the Letter of Instruction No. 1086, s. 1980 prohibits the importation of used tires.

Gregorio was joined by the representatives of the Commission on Audit and the local government of Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

P4-M worth of foodstuffs destroyed



In line with public interest and transparency in the disposition of forfeited goods thru condemnation, assorted foodstuffs estimated to be worth P4 million were destroyed by the Bureau of Customs on September 14 in San Pedro, Laguna.

The forfeited four 40-footer containers consigned to I.T. Malingco Trading, which

arrived on May 15, 2017 at the Port of Manila from the United States of America, are said to contain chocolate spreads, coffee creamer, creams, juices, and air freshener are not covered by any certificate of product registration from the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

Shipments without the required FDA

permit are automatically seized by the Bureau pursuant to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) in relation to RA 9711 otherwise known as FDA Act of 2009.

Lawyer Erastus Austria, POM District Collector, ruled out that the forfeited items were "unfit for human consumption, have no commercial value, or the release thereof is contrary to law", thus he ordered the condemnation of the articles by way of composting, rendering and pouring.

The forfeited goods were disposed of at the facility of Tritex Reverse Logistics Corp. - the accredited service provider for the rendering and disposal of forfeited cargoes at the Port of Manila.

The condemnation was witnessed by the personnel of the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Division, Enforcement and Security Division, a representative from the Commission on Audit and the local government unit of San Pedro, Laguna.

Customs hits target 8 months straight; collects P52.4-B in September

The Bureau of Customs exceeded its target for eight straight months this year, collecting a total revenue of P52.420-billion for September, according to the bureau's Financial Service.

Revenue surplus registered at 0.9% versus the target of P51.956 billion for this month. This is equivalent to a collection surplus amounting to P464-million.

Preliminary data shows the collection performance of the bureau's 17 ports:

1. Port of Batangas collected P12.176 billion, up 1.2 % versus P12.029 billion target;

2. Port of Limay collected P3.642 billion, up 15.2% versus P3.161 billion target;

3. Port of NAIA collected P3.591 billion, up 0.1% versus P3.587 billion target;

4. Port of Cebu collected P2.669 billion, up 14.0% versus P2.341 billion target;

5. Port of Davao collected P2.535 billion, up 52.0% versus P1.667 billion target;

6. Port of Subic collected P2.189 billion, up 17.1% versus P1.870 billion target;

7. Port of Cagayan de Oro collected P1.816 billion, up 23.8% versus P1.467 billion target;

8. Port of Iloilo collected P388 million, up 37.9% versus P281 million target;

9. Port of San Fernando collected P288 million, up 1.2% versus P284 million target;

10. Port of Clark collected P145 million, up 6.1% versus P137 million target;

11. Port of Legaspi collected P71 million, up 185% versus P25 million target;

12. Port of Tacloban collected P41 million, up 75.9% versus P23 million target;

13. Port of Zamboanga collected P29 million, up 18.1% versus P25 million target;

14. Port of Aparri collected P5.09 million, up 4.0% versus P4.89 million target;

15. Manila International Container Port collected P15.609 billion, 2.6% below the P16.021 billion target;

16. Port of Manila collected P7.021 billion, 10.1% below the P7.811 billion target; and

17. Port of Surigao collected P1 million, 64.2% below the P2 million target.

According to Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña, the September collection is 30.2% higher than the P 40.260 billion collection in the same month last year.

"I would like to emphasize that the Bureau has been consistently hitting and exceeding the monthly targets since February. We will further step up our collection efforts so that we can hit the full-year target by December. The Bureau is bent on helping the national government fuel its projects for the people," Lapeña added.



According to the Financial Service, the continuous improvement in revenue performance is attributed to the increased volume and value of goods and the higher exchange rate. This is also made possible by the improved and correct valuation and tariff classification being implemented in all ports.

The Bureau of Customs has a total collection of P435.964 billion from

January to September 30, 2018. This is 34.6% higher than the P323.824 billion collection of the same period in 2017.

This year's collection from January to September is also up by 1.5% versus the collection target of P429.564 of the same period.

The Bureau of Customs still has P162.136 billion revenue to collect in order to hit the full-year target for 2018.

COMMISSIONER'S PORT VISIT



PORT OF ZAMBOANGA

As part of his regular port inspection of Customs district offices nationwide, Commissioner Isidro Lapeña, together with Deputy Commissioner Gladys Rosales of Internal Administration Group, visited on August 25 the Port of Zamboanga, and Sub-Ports of Jolo, Sulu and Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Commissioner revisited the Port of Zamboanga, including the Sub-Port of Basilan, on September 1 to inspect the seized 24,000 sacks of smuggled rice.



PORT OF DAVAO

Customs Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña visited the Port of Davao on September 7, 2018 as part of his regular port inspection of Customs district offices.



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BOC-NAIA boosts anti-smuggling efforts, installs more x-rays

To address the increasing incidents of smuggling and drug trafficking in airports, the Bureau of Customs-NAIA is upgrading their facilities by adding 19 x-rays in the three terminals of NAIA, the Customs chief Isidro Lapeña bared on September 27.

Two units and one unit of brand new

Rapiscan x-ray machines are now installed at NAIA Terminal 1 and 3 respectively. Sixteen more x-rays will be installed at the three terminals of NAIA.

The winning bidder, Casedist Inc., will be installing 10 brand new units of Fixed Baggage X-Ray Machine; seven brand new

units of Hand-Carried Baggage X-Ray Machine; and two brand new units of Mobile X-Ray Machine.

"The previous pronouncement of President Duterte not to open hand carried bags and luggage is loud and clear. With these new x-rays, his orders will be well implemented," Commissioner Lapeña said.

X-ray examination of hand carried baggage is mandatory in the airports, "we can guard our borders while implementing the non-intrusive examination of bags," he added.

Training on Electronic Certificate of Origin



In preparation for the live testing and full implementation of the e-ATIGA Form D System, several Bureau of Customs personnel participated in the Agency Users Training for the Issuance of Electronic Certificate of Origin on TradeNet on September 18. The training was supervised by representatives of the Inter-Agency Business Process Interoperability (IABPI) of the Department of Finance under the Anti-Red Tape Program.

U.S. Homeland Security Courtesy call



U.S. Homeland Security officials discussed important matters with Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña during their courtesy call at the Bureau on September 20.

New MISTG DepCom



Jeffrey Ian Dy took oath on September 5 as new Deputy Commissioner for the Management Information System and Technology Group (MISTG) of the Bureau of Customs.



Turn-Over of Detection Devices

Officials of the Bureau of Customs received the detection devices donated by World Customs Organization (WCO) to the Philippine Bureau of Customs.



Balik-Eskwela Program 2018

As part of the Bureau of Customs' corporate social responsibility, the Port of Manila led by District Collector Atty. Erastus Sandino Austria distributed 506 bags inclusive of

notebooks, pad paper, pencil/ballpen and an umbrella to grade 1 to 6 students of Brgy. 651, Port Area, Manila.

Thank you for giving back to the community, POM!





GALLERY

