



BOC Chief orders creation of Anti-Corruption Unit

Following the strict order of the President to stop all forms of corruption, Bureau of Customs chief Isidro S. Lapeña ordered the creation of Interim Internal Affairs and Integrity Unit (IIAIU).

Corruption issue has been hounding the bureau for the longest time, "that is why we are now facing it head-on," Commissioner Lapeña said.

The unit's prime mandate is to stop illicit acts of some BOC officials and employees of amassing ill-gotten wealth. It primarily strengthens disciplinary actions on erring BOC personnel and aims to encourage everyone in the agency to be compliant with existing directives and policy guidelines.

In the memorandum issued on December 29, 2017, Commissioner Lapeña enumerates the functions of the unit:

1. Investigate complaints against BOC personnel, receive and gather evidence in support of an open investigation;
2. Conduct motu proprio investigation on incidents where evidence in the prosecution of smuggling cases was compromised, tampered with, obliterated, or lost while in the custody of BOC personnel;
3. Conduct lifestyle checks on BOC personnel;
4. Evaluate or recommend the filing of appropriate criminal cases against

BOC personnel before the court as evidence warrants and assist in the prosecution of the case;

5. Undertake liaison work, coordination, and provide assistance to.

4. Evaluate or recommend the filing of appropriate criminal cases against BOC personnel before the court as evidence warrants and assist in the prosecution of the case;

5. Undertake liaison work, coordination, and provide assistance to the Office of the Ombudsman, National Anti-Corruption Commission of the Office of the President, and Revenue Integrity Protection Service of the Department of Finance;

During the Monday regular flag

raising ceremony, the BOC chief again gave a stern warning to employees who blatantly ignore and disobey his orders to step out or else they will be weed out of the bureau.

"We already know you by names, it's only a matter of time before I kick you out. I don't care if you are backed by some officials. The President has given me full authority to lead this agency," he added.

The Interim Internal Affairs and Integrity Unit is headed by the Commissioner and composed of one Attorney, two special investigators, and three administrative staff.

All reports will be submitted monthly to the Commissioner.

(See *BOC Chief* page 6)

BOC amends rules on importers, brokers accreditation

In a bid to eradicate consignees-for-hire and fly-by-night importers and brokers, the Bureau of Customs chief has now the sole authority to approve or disapprove the accreditation of importers and brokers.

In the new memorandum dated January 11, application for accreditation, suspension, revocation, cancellation, and reactivation of importers' and customs brokers' accreditation are all subject to the approval of the Commissioner

See *BOC amends rules* > page 5

Lapeña: No Outright Clearance On HARI Shipments

Customs chief Isidro Lapeña clarified on Friday that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has not given absolute clearance to Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) on the importation of knocked down (KD) units, which has been the subject of an investigation by another government agency.

Lapeña further stated that the BOC is taking cognizance of the decision made by the Bureau of Investments (BOI) after the latter concluded its probe on the operations of HARI.

See *Lapeña* > page 7

Civic group announces support to the BOC fight vs smuggling

A civic group composed of social media broadcasters has expressed its support for Bureau of Customs chief's campaign against smuggling and corruption during a forum conducted on January 26 at the Manila Hotel.

The Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas, Inc. (KSMBPI), led by its chairman Dr. Michael Aragon said that a nationwide information gathering campaign against illicit trade has already started.

See *Civic group* > page 5

PCG TURNS OVER P125 MILLION WORTH OF SMUGGLED RICE TO BOC

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) District South Western Mindanao has officially turned over 60,000 sacks of smuggled rice seized in Zamboanga Sibugay to the Bureau of Customs on January 10.

Captain Ronnie Gil Gavan of PCG led the turn over to the Bureau of Customs Chief Isidro Lapeña and witnessed by Port of Zamboanga District Collector Darwisha Schuck, and other officials of PCG.

The said smuggled rice worth P120 million were loaded to a local cargo ship MV J-Phia.

During the conduct of regular maritime security and inspection of the PCG, the ship was found suspiciously docked on Licum Banks in Zamboanga.

The ship and its cargo were immediately inspected and eventually

apprehended after the captain, Rogelio Necessario, failed to show safety certificates, shipping documents, and import permit.

Initial investigation on the ship's captain claimed the last port of call was in Cagayan de Oro, but no record of departure was presented, said the PCG. It is believed that the ship came from Vietnam and transferred illegal cargo in Sulu.

"The custody of the seized cargo is now in the Bureau of Customs, we will conduct further investigation to know the real origin of the smuggled rice, the sender, and the consignee if it is really intended for consumption in the Philippines," Commissioner Lapeña said.

The owner of the ship and the cargo will face smuggling charges for violating CMTA and Anti-Agricultural



Smuggling Act.

"It's only the first week of the month yet these unscrupulous traders are really trying their luck. We will strengthen our information sharing and cooperation with other border patrol agencies to ensure our border is

free from smuggled goods," Lapeña said.

The commissioner also lauded the PCG for the successful interception.

The seized ship is now docked at the Port of Zamboanga.

Smuggling raps filed vs 2 smugglers, brokers



The Bureau of Customs- Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) of the Legal Service on Wednesday, January 31, filed smuggling charges against two Davao-based companies over illegal importation of prohibited used clothing and rags valued at more than P4 million.

In separate cases filed before the Department of Justice for the violation of Section 1400 in relation to Section 1401 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, Republic Act 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", and Section 172 of the Revised Penal Code, BATAS identified the companies as G-Joyce Enterprises and Zainar General Merchandise.

Charged are owner of Zainar, Berkis Nuh Abdu of Sasa, Davao city and his customs brokers, Remar Fernz Mansari and Asniel Mocaram Diamad, and owner of G-Joyce, Griechelle Joyce Ballon Basio of Tagum City and his customs broker, Asniel Mocaram Diamad.

"Two counts of smuggling charges were filed against Zainar while one

count to G-Joyce for their attempt to smuggle ukay-ukay at Port of Davao," Commissioner Lapeña said.

In November 2017, two container vans from Korea arrived at the Port of Davao consigned to Zainar General Merchandise. Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña issued an alert order for the shipment filed under Import Entry Numbers C20595 and C20593.

The consignee declared the goods as packages of blankets, bedsheets, pillowcases, carpets, and caps but was found to be used blankets, bedsheets, pillowcases, scarfs, socks, pants, jackets and shirts with a total value of P3,685,854.06 and total duties and taxes of P1,274,415.26.

"Majority of the contents of the container are used pants, shirts, and jackets," the customs examiner said.

Also, another container van from Malaysia consigned to G-Joyce Enterprises was placed under alert order by the Commissioner.

The shipment declared under Import Entry Number C20601 said to contain bedsheets, bags, curtains, shoes, and pillowcases but was found to contain used clothing with a total value of P567,424.89 and total duties and taxes of P198,224.00.

"One of the booming businesses in our country is the selling of ukay-ukay. Because of its cheaper price, it is often patronized by the consumers over high-priced clothing," the Customs chief said.

However, the law provides that in order to preserve the dignity of the nation, we must stop buying these items.

Lapeña inspects P12.9-M seized smuggled goods



Commissioner Isidro Lapeña recently inspected the seized smuggled goods at the Manila International Container Port.

"This is a good way to start the year. How our bureau personnel conduct their jobs and the available technology we have, the x-rays -- this is a good combination to safeguard our ports and our consumers and even legitimate traders from smuggled products. This year, the BOC will really give the smugglers their most difficult time," Lapeña said.

"Not only does it undermine our dignity but it also poses greater risk to our health. Used clothing, according to research, can cause skin diseases, itchiness, redness, and may trigger allergies," he said.

The Commissioner reminds the public to be cautious in buying ukay-ukay in order to prevent possible skin diseases.

The prime mandate of the second highest revenue generating agency of the government, the Bureau of Customs, is to collect customs revenues from imported goods and to suppress smuggling and other customs fraud.

On August 30, President Rodrigo Duterte designated Commissioner Isidro Lapeña to lead the public-perceived corrupt agency.

Among the accomplishments of the BOC stemmed from its efforts to increase revenue earnings and to fight against corruption- two of Lapeña's

Preliminary figures from the Financial Service show the Bureau posted a total collection of P457.533 billion from January to December 2017. Though lower by 2.2 percent or P10.343 billion against the target of P467.896 billion, overall the revenue performance is at 98.5 percent.

"Despite the P20 billion deficit when I assumed office on August 30, the BOC gained steady increase in its revenue collection growth during the last quarter, reducing the deficit down to P10 billion," Lapeña said.

Lapeña said that had it not for work

P414.3 million tax credit certificates and tax refund were awarded to 24 companies since September to December 2017 when Lapeña assumed as BOC Commissioner.

In an effort to eradicate 'suki system' and tara in the assessment division and to enhance trade facilitation, the Port of Manila adapted the Status Verification System while the Manila International Container Port implemented Goods Declaration Verification System. These systems will randomly assign appraisers and examiners and to give timely update

more than P5.4 billion worth of cigarettes with fake tax stamps from February 2017 to June 2017.

This successful apprehension of fake cigarettes resulted to tax settlement with Mighty Corporation adding P30 billion revenue in the government coffers.

The bureau also apprehended P141.2 million worth of luxury cars at the MICP and P263.2 million worth of agricultural products.

In a span of four months, Lapeña was able to visit 17 Collection Districts and 10 subports to assess the current



Bureau of Customs 2017 Year-end Report

top priorities in his 5 Point Priority Program which has the backing of the President. The 5 Point Priority Program includes: Stop Corruption, Increase Revenue Collection, Enhance Trade Facilitation, Strengthen Anti-Smuggling Efforts, and Enhance Personnel Incentives, Rewards System and Compensation Benefits.

Various reforms have been implemented by Commissioner Lapeña including the application of correct valuation in assessing customs duties on imported goods and to stop benchmarking and grease money to increase revenue collection.

The BOC, according to Lapeña, posted another milestone to end the year as it achieved P44.450 billion in collection for December. It exceeded the P40.673 billion target for the month by P3.777 billion or 9.2 percent. This reflected 109 percent in collection performance of the Bureau.

Back in November, the BOC collected an all-time high and record-breaking collection of P46.366 billion, 11.3 percent higher than the P41.66 billion target. This is P9 billion higher than the average monthly collection of P35 billion.

suspensions due to the ASEAN Summit, jeepney strikes, and typhoon, the agency could have surpassed its assigned 2017 target.

The BOC surpassed the monthly targets in the following months:

- i. January - collected P35.943 billion, 1% higher than the P35.5 billion target
- ii. March - collected P37.33 billion, 2% higher than the P36.5 billion target
- iii. May - collected P39.59 billion, 4% higher than the P38.23 billion target
- iv. October - collected P42.915 billion, 1% higher than the P42.69 billion target
- v. November - collected P46.359 billion, 12% higher than the P41.66 billion target
- vi. December - collected P44.450 billion, 9.2% higher than the P40.673 billion target

The present administration was able to win a case settlement with First Nationwide Assurance Company collecting P110 million for the company's unpaid customs duties and taxes.

Under the controversial tax credits dubbed as 'pasalubong', a total of

on the status of the import entry.

In December, customs appraisers and examiners from all ports consequently underwent retraining on customs valuation.

In the bureau's fight against corruption, a total of 641 personnel movements took place from September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Several customs employees were reshuffled and reassigned to other districts while ten district collectors were transferred to Control Monitoring Unit. The commissioner also relieved 25 employees from their current post and dismissed two for abuse of authority.

In a bid to rid corruption, Commissioner Lapeña signed a memorandum setting a five-day mandatory time frame to respond to all clients.

"Kapag may delay, may kita. I am not taking these delaying tactics of some BOC personnel. I already know you by names, wait until I catch up with all of you. I am strict with my one-strike policy," the Customs chief said.

Under the BOC's campaign against smuggling, customs agents seized

condition of BOC offices and personnel and to address pressing concerns in the ports.

Also, he announced BOC retirees will be given preferential assignments in last six months of service to prepare for their retirement.

"These public servants have dedicated 40 years of their life in public service. They deserve to be compensated and be given what is due to them come their retirement day," Commissioner Lapeña said.

The present administration also promoted a total of 563 customs employees and hired three new employees as part of his program to enhance personnel incentives and compensation benefits.

Commissioner Lapeña lauded all the contributory efforts of the BOC personnel in the 2017 accomplishments "we have accomplished a lot but we still have a lot more to work out."

"I am optimistic that we will achieve our 2018 target and I still believe that there are more good men in Bureau who are willing to work earnestly for public service," the Commissioner said.



Gumagamit ng peke o kahina-hinalang account sa social media tulad ng Facebook.

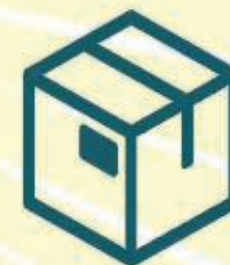


Paulit-ulit na humihingi ng mahahalagang personal na impormasyon



Kinukuha ang iyong tiwala hanggang kayo ay maging magkaibigan

ALAMIN LOVE SCAM ONLINE



Sinasabi na may bagaheng ipinadala na naglalaman ng mamahaling gamit gaya ng alahas, relo o pera at ito daw ay na-hold sa Customs. Maaaring sabihin din nito na siya ay nasa Pilipinas na at hinold siya ng Customs sa airport.



Sasabihin na magdeposito ng pera sa personal bank account o magpadala sa pamamagitan ng Money Remittance para ma-release ang bagahe o ma-release siya mula sa Customs.

MAGING ALERTO. HUWAG MAGPALOKO!

BABALA:

Ang Bureau of Customs ay hindi tumatawag o nagtetest sa receiver ng bagahe para sabihin na kailangang magdeposito o magpadala ng pera sa personal bank account o money remittance para ma-release ang bagahe. Itawag ang anumang pinaghihinalang love scam sa BOC-CARES (02) 705-6000 o sa PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) (02) 414-1560.



BOC TURNS OVER P128.9-MILLION WORTH OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO PDEA

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña has turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) the current biggest seizure of dangerous drugs intercepted at the Surface Mail Exchange Department (SMED) in Delpan, Port Area, Manila.

According to Lapeña, seized were five parcels containing various kinds of dangerous drugs with an estimated total value of P128, 932, 000.00.

"The price could even double because we only based our estimates on the available price as seen from the internet. This will even be higher when sold in the black market," Lapeña adds.

All parcels came from Pakistan and arrived on different dates at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) Warehouse in NAIA. CMEC then forwarded the parcels to SMED for proper examination. The first four (4) boxes arrived on January 4.

One parcel consigned to Peter Parcon with address at #415 Pascual St. San Dionisio, Paranaque City was seized after

BOC agents found 37,820 tablets of Valium, 1,290 tablets of Temazepam, and 6.37 kilograms of unlabeled tablets. A certain Nasrin Akhtar was identified as the sender.

Another box sent by Qaiser Mehmood Poutt and consigned to Jocelyn Villarino was also seized after Customs personnel discovered 20,600 tablets of valium, 8,990 tablets of Pinnix (Alprozalam), 5,990 tablets of Madalin, 1,980 tablets of Stilnox (Zolpidem), and 8.62 kilograms of unlabeled tablets. The parcel was physically examined after it yielded suspicious x-ray images.

Two (2) more boxes of various medicines suspected to be dangerous drugs were sent by a certain Zahid Hussain and consigned to Rosalie Rosales. The parcels were seized after it underwent x-ray scanning and physical examination. BOC agents found 64,450 tablets of 10mg valium.

Customs examiners also discovered another parcel containing 5,990 tablets

of Mogadon, 19,790 tablets of 10mg valium, and 16,790 tablets of 5mg valium. The shipment declared as garments arrived on January 10 and were sent by Imran Abbas. It was consigned to Lucy Marpuri and Dang Solvino.

The parcels were intercepted through the joint efforts of BOC postal examiners and Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Taskforce (CAIDTF).

The parcels were seized in violation of pertinent provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002.

The consignees will also face charges for unlawful importation of various pharmaceutical products listed under RA 9165.

"We have been warning these illegal traders and importers. We will give you a hard time. Stop these attempts of smuggling drugs to the country. The Bureau of Customs remains on guard against all forms of illegal importations," Lapeña said.

Lapeña conducts spot inspection of cargoes in MICP



Spot inspection of cargoes at the Manila International Container Ports (MICP) will be conducted regularly as part of the intensified campaign against smuggling.

Bureau of Customs (BOC) chief Isidro Lapeña said on January 19 during his surprise random checking at the Container Freight Station 3 of MICP.

"We will do this as often as we can, if necessary, until such time all importers and players can do the business legitimately," he said.

Also, the directive of Lapeña to the 24 Office of the Commissioner (OCOM) inspectors to conduct physical examination of 100 randomly selected containers stacked at the container yard, is not expected to cause port congestion.

"This random inspection will let us know if the shipment contains misdeclared or undervalued shipment," however, shipments with no discrepancy will be cleared immediately to avoid unnecessary delays on the part of honest importers.

But for those erring importers, the Commissioner said they have to suffer the consequences of duping the government.

"If the inspectors found anomaly on the cargoes, the District Collector will issue Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) immediately on the shipment while the Legal Division will file a case on the erring importer," he said.

In 2017, an average of 760,000 containers arrived at MICP and an average daily arrival of 1,500 containers.

"With such huge number of imports arriving each day, we have to make sure that our borders are free from smuggled goods," Lapeña added.

The decision of the Customs chief to shut down the Green Lane operations is in force, subjecting the shipments to either documentary or physical inspection.

"I still have no plans to lift the Green Lane because that is where the 604 kilos of shabu passed through," he clarified.

Also present during the inspection are Intelligence Group Deputy Commissioner Ricardo Quinto, Legal Service Director lawyer Yasser Ismail Abbas, and the new District Collector of MICP lawyer Balmyrson Valdez.

BOC amends rules

(from page 1)

upon the recommendation of the Account Management Office.

Importers and customs brokers with disapproved application can file a request for reconsideration to the Chief of AMO, CMO 02-2018 stated.

Previously, Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) 04-2014 states the Chief of Account Management Office has the power to approve the accreditation while the Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group is in charge of the suspension, revocation, and cancellation of the BOC stakeholders' accreditation.

"We will check the validity of the documents submitted by the importers and brokers to ensure that only legitimate traders are transacting with the bureau," the Commissioner said.

Meanwhile, in a separate memorandum, the Bureau of Customs has limited the number of authorized representatives of a customs broker transacting with the Bureau of Customs.

"To safeguard the interest of the government and to ensure the accountability of customs brokers", customs brokers are

required to submit to AMO the names of the three authorized representatives assigned to each port.

Authorized representatives are processors who act in behalf of the customs broker to transact with the BOC.

The Bureau, upon the approval of the Commissioner, may allow additional authorized representatives depending on the customs brokers' volume of transaction.

This is in line with the implementation of CMO 11-2014 or the Guidelines for Registration of Importers and Customs Brokers with the Bureau of Customs.

Lapeña, since his assumption as Customs chief, repeatedly called on the importers and brokers to stop their illegal practices and abide the law.

"We will revoke the accreditation of the erring importers and brokers if that's the only way to stop them," Commissioner Lapeña said.

As of December 2017, 14,795 importers and 1,888 customs brokers are actively transacting with the bureau. In 2017 alone, 204 importers and 94 customs brokers were suspended after violating various customs and tariff laws.

Civic group

(from page 1)

"KSMBPI together with our multi-sectoral partners decided to take up the challenge against the illicit trade at the BOC," Aragon said.

According to Aragon, the nationwide campaign is intended to help the Bureau of Customs improve its collection performance through the gathering of information about illicit activities and transactions at the agency.

"All information gathered by our group on illicit trade will be absolutely confidential and will be given raw to the BOC Commissioner for his validation and immediate action," Aragon said.

During the forum, Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said that the rampant undervaluation of importation leads to the lower collection of the bureau, thus a strengthened anti-smuggling effort is needed to counter such illegal practices.

Lapeña also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the group for their support to improve the bureau's revenue collection and to strengthen its anti-smuggling and anti-corruption campaign.

The customs chief added that KSMBPI is welcome to help the bureau in gathering information needed to investigate and identify the people behind illicit activities at the BOC.

"I am thankful for the support given by the KSMBPI to the BOC. I am encouraging not only the BOC stakeholders but also the civic groups to help me bring change in the bureau. Community involvement is indispensable to our campaign," Lapeña said.



Bureau of Customs 2017 Collection Performance Report

Revenue Collection Performance (Php bn)

	January - December			Accomplishment Rate	Growth Rate
	2017 Actual	2017 Target	2016 Actual		
Total Collections	458.183	467.896	396.365	97.9%	15.6%
Cash Collections	456.743	466.396	388.613	97.9%	17.5%
TEF	1.439	1.500	7.752	95.9%	-81.4%

The Bureau of Customs Collection made another history as the agency total collection reached **P458.183B**, net of P2.611B Cash Refund based on the Bureau of the Treasury Cash Operation Receipt. This is **97.9%** of the **P467.896B BESF Target**. Compared with the **P396.365 Billion** generated in 2016, collection grew by **15.6%**

JANUARY 2018 CUSTOMS COLLECTION (In Million Pesos)

COLLECTION DISTRICT	FULL MONTH JANUARY 1-31, 2017 ACTUAL	January 1-31, 2018 Preliminary Working days 21			
		Actual		Variance	
		2018	2017	Amount	%
SAN FERNANDO	257	256	257	(2)	-0.6%
PORT OF MANILA	5,825	6,545	5,825	721	12.4%
MICP	10,896	12,782	10,896	1,886	17.3%
NAIA	2,794	2,984	2,794	189	6.8%
BATANGAS	7,254	7,563	7,254	309	4.3%
LEGASPI	30	24	30	(6)	-19.3%
ILOILO	228	270	228	42	18.3%
CEBU	1,829	2,271	1,829	442	24.2%
TACLOBAN	24	34	24	10	39.5%
SURIGAO	0.1	3.62	0.1	3.53	0.0%
CAGAYAN DE ORO	888	1,616	888	728	81.99%
ZAMBOANGA	61	3	61	(57)	-94.4%
DAVAO	1,192	1,785	1,192	593	49.7%
SUBIC	1,498	1,683	1,498	185	12.4%
CLARK	105	135	105	30	28.5%
APARRI	1	6	1	5	0.0%
LIMAY	2,866	2,839	2,866	(26)	-0.9%
TOTAL CASH	35,746	40,798	35,746	5,052	14.1%
TEF	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	35,746	40,798	35,746	5,052	14.1%

Note: Direct Payment from Districts' Report.
Pass 5 (Advance Payment, Final Payment, In house, Deferred) Downloaded from SMS E2M System
Statistical Analysis Division, Financial Service

BOC chief orders (from page 1)

"It is incumbent upon public servants to promote high standard of public service, improve efficiency and institute professionalism in all our dealings," the Commissioner said.

It can be noted that various reforms have been gaining ground since the present administration took over in September.

In its campaign against corruption, 641 personnel movements took place in a span of four months while in its

efforts to increase government revenues, the bureau hit all-time high collections from September to November.

"We are not expecting to reach December target due to lesser imports since holiday season are over in the Philippines, but, we collected P44.450 billion, 109.2% percent of the P40.673 billion target," Commissioner Lapeña said.

The bureau collected a total of P456.905 billion achieving 98 percent of the P467.896 billion 2017 BESF target.



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PORT SENTINEL

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BOC-Clark turns over P90-M shabu to PDEA



Armed with the directive to heighten border control against illegal drugs due to the recent apprehension of P34 million shabu in Port of Clark, six suspicious boxes weighing 18 kilos were seized by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) - Port of Clark on January 25 believed to contain shabu estimated to be worth more or less P90 million.



Lapeña beefs up BOC's limited manpower



In a bid to stop work overload and to promote efficiency among BOC employees, the Bureau of Customs chief on Monday led the oath-taking of the 31 newly-hired lawyers and operations officer during the regular flag raising ceremony.

Seven lawyers and 24 Customs operation officers (COO I) to be assigned to various ports and offices successfully passed the stringent hiring process of the Bureau's Customs Personnel Selection Board (CPSB).

Commissioner Lapeña clarified that contractual employees will remain a priority in the hiring in the agency.

"Being the appointing authority, I will give priority to our contractual

employees. We will first promote and hire those people who have long been working with the BOC," he said.

Lapeña ordered the hiring of additional entry level positions on the first quarter of 2018 to address the limited manpower of the bureau.

However, applicants must be qualified for the position and pass the selection process of the CPSB before they are hired, Lapeña said.

"I expect you to do the service the public is expecting from you, finish all the task to improve our process time," Lapeña said.

The CPSB has just finished the interview of the BOC personnel for promotion on January 18 and 19.

TRAIN Updates and Classification Summit



Officials and personnel of the Bureau of Customs attended the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Updates and Classification Summit on Wednesday at the Port of

Manila. The Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group, headed by Deputy Commissioner Edward James Dy Buco, facilitated the summit.

Lapeña: No Outright Clearance

(from page 1)

The BOI has suspended the Certificates of Registration of HARI in the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) under Executive Order No. 156.

EO 156 provides for a comprehensive industrial policy and guidelines for MVDP.

Article 1, Section 1.2 of EO 156 requires "that the assembly of motor vehicles shall be in CKD condition only". MVDP participants shall also "engage into which shall involve at least the basic processes of assembly operation such as welding, painting, trimmings, final assembly, and quality testing to produce completely-built up (CBU) motor vehicles".

The BOI discovered that HARI has been violating the terms of its registration and was importing semi-knocked down (SKD) kits instead of completely knocked down (CKD) parts and components.

As a registered MVDP participant,

HARI enjoys the incentive of paying only one percent duty for CKD importations.

With the cancellation, BOI sanctioned HARI and has ordered the refund of VAT and customs duty waived in the amount of more than P1 billion as an incentive.

In its letter to the BOC, the BOI said the registration is suspended pending compliance with two conditions, one of which is the "refund of tax and duty differential between the CBU and knock down parts and components on all importations pursuant to EO 156."

BOI states that the actual amount of refund, mode of settlement and period for payment shall be determined by the BOC.

"On our part, we will pursue what is advantageous to the government. We will conduct post-entry audit of its importation to determine the actual refund to be paid to the government," Lapeña said.



GALLERY



NEW YEAR'S CALL and TURNOVER CEREMONY

