



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

# PORT SENTINEL

Volume 9

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May 2017

## Customs seizes P6.4-B worth of shabu in Valenzuela City

The Bureau of Customs on May 26 seized 605 kilos of shabu valued at P6.4 billion in two separate operations in Valenzuela City.

An intelligence report by Mr. Zhang Xiaohui, director of International Enforcement Cooperation Division of Anti-Smuggling Bureau, General Administration of China Customs, stating that two warehouses were being used in illegal drugs operation, launched the operation

The BOC agents along with operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) immediately proceeded and inspected the warehouses located in Aster Street, Paso de Blas and F. Bautista Street in Barangay Ugong.

They were armed with Letter of Authority issued by Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon.

The composite team found methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu hidden in five metal cylinders.

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service Director Neil Estrella said that Fidel Anoché Dee, 54, and his sister were arrested after being the recipient of the illegal shipment.

The suspects and the drugs are now in the

.....  
*see CUSTOMS ► page 4*



## More K-9 dogs added to boost BOC anti-illegal drugs drive

A new batch of K-9 Narcotic Detection Dogs (NDDs) is set to be deployed in all district ports to double the efforts to secure the country's borders against the entry of illegal drugs.

A total of 26 NDDs is expected to augment the existing operations of the agency's Enforcement Group (EG) in the bureau's intensified anti-drugs campaign.

"The seriousness of the problem of drug trafficking has prompted us to find more efficient measures that will help us in our job to curb the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country," said EG Deputy Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno.

Apart from its X-ray Inspection Project (XIP), K9 NDD Teams have been proven to be effective in finding and verifying shipments or baggage suspected to contain prohibited substances.

Through the active participation of K9 NDDs in the anti-illegal drug operations of

the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF), the bureau has been able to prevent the entry of a large volume of dangerous drugs into the country.

The renewed campaign has resulted in several successful apprehensions such as the arrest of a Brazilian drug mule carrying more than P63 million worth of cocaine in November 2016 at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Customs agents also apprehended a Malaysian drug courier who tried to smuggle cocaine valued at P23 million in the same month.

In July 2016, more than P19 million worth of shabu that originated from Hong Kong was intercepted from a Chinese national at the Cebu International Airport.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon assured the public that the Bureau continues to perform its mandate to strictly secure the country's borders.

## BOC suspends importer, broker accreditation in P6.4B shabu haul

The Bureau of Customs Account Management Office suspended the accreditation as a result of the discovery of the importer and customs shabu.

broker of the 605 kilos of high-grade shabu seized in Valenzuela City.

Eirene Mae Agustino Tatad, the sole proprietor of EMT Trading with business address at Rm. 807 Dasma Corporate Bldg., 321 Dasmarias Street, Barangay 291, Binondo, was declared as the importer/consignee in the entry filed for the shipment that were seized from two warehouses.

Her accreditation has been suspended by the BOC as a result of the discovery of the importer and customs shabu. In the same way, the accreditation of Teejay A. Marcellana as customs broker, with registered address at Rm. 525A, 5/f, FEMII Building, Soriano Avenue, Barangay 656, Manila, has also been suspended. The suspension came amid the ongoing investigation of the BOC Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service on its recent seizure of shabu with an estimated street value of P6.4 billion.



## P105-M fake goods from China seized by CIIS

Agents of the Bureau of Customs - Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) busted at least P105 million worth of fake goods that were smuggled into the country from China.

Neil Anthony Estrella, CIIS director, said the goods were stashed in three warehouses inside the Dagupan Center which is located at 1331 Dagupan Street in Tondo, Manila.

According to Estrella, the successful operation was a result of a three-month covert and vigorous surveillance work on the target. He said the CIIS acted on tips from brand owners whose products were being faked in China, then smuggled into the country by unscrupulous importers.

Estrella said the items included hundreds of boxes of Rexona sachet deodorants; Safeguard soaps; Bulldog super glue; Insect spray; baby diapers; Spalding basketball; mosquito coils; lighters; Mongol pencil; toothbrush; steel scrubs; spools and rain coats.

"It is the policy of the government to protect and secure the exclusive rights of scientists, inventors, artists and other gifted individuals to intellectual property and creations as provided under Republic Act 8293, thus we hit the said contrabands," Estrella said.

He stressed that smuggling is a serious offense with corresponding serious penalties under RA 10863.

Jimmy Guban, lead agent and officer-on-case, said the owners of the counterfeit items, all Chinese businessmen, have refused to receive the official copy of the Letter of Authority (LOA) No. 05-09-136-

2017 and Mission Order (MO) No. 05-09-2017-1223, both issued by Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon on May 9, 2017.

Guban said his men coordinated with Dagupan Center administrator and security guards and presented the LOA and MO to ensure that lawful orders were carried out for and in behalf of the government," he said.

Guban said he advised the center's administrator and guards to immediately give the LOA and MO to the owners so they could present valid import documents on the said shipments to the BOC within 15 days as required by law.

"But with their failure to comply, the BOC will definitely issue a Warrant of Seizure and Detention on the entire shipment and confiscate it for condemnation," Guban said.

Intelligence Agent Ernan Abario, surveillance officer, said the contraband can be stored in at least 9x40 container vans.

"In our estimate, the entire shipment is enough to stand as a good supply depot for countless shops in Divisoria and other locations in Metro Manila and last for several months," Abario said.

"Hundreds of thousands of unsuspecting consumers will end up buying these fake items in the market around Divisoria and other places not knowing these will pose serious risks to their health and well-being," he stressed.

Abario said the CIIS immediately padlocked the warehouses while three other vans containing similar items are now under its custody.



The new batch of K-9 Narcotic Detection Dogs (NDDs) is set to augment the existing operations of the BOC Enforcement Group in its intensified anti-drugs campaign.

## BOC creates SIT to speed up shipment exam

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has created the Special Inspection Team (SIT) that will examine all shipments alerted due to undervaluation.

Edward Dy Buco, deputy commissioner for Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG), and Neil Estrella, director of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), announced this after Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon signed Customs Special Order No. 36-2017 creating the SIT.

The SIT is composed of officials and representatives from the CIIS, AOCG, Office of the District Collector, Special Studies and Project Development Committee, Port Operations Service and the Command Center. The team will operate under the AOCG.

The SIT shall conduct examination and submit reports for perishable goods within 24 hours, and for all other goods within 48 hours from the time of the issuance of the alert order in order to fast track inspection of shipments.

The SIT centers will serve as coordinating offices for all alerted and lifted shipments due to undervaluation, thereby shortening the inspection process.

SIT Coordinating Centers are also situated in the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Port to coordinate with arrastre operators.

Likewise, the BOC is seeking the support of stakeholders, International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) and Asian Terminals, Inc. (ATI) in improving trade facilitation and port operations in the country.



## BOC finds shabu lab in Cagayan

Agents of the BOC swooped down on a chemical warehouse in Cagayan province on May 18 and stumbled upon a clandestine laboratory used in manufacturing methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, as well as explosives.

The BOC agents proceeded to the Hua-Xia Compound in Barangay Tallungan in Aparri to serve a Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) against three vessels involved in illegal quarrying of black sand. Thereupon, they discovered the chemical warehouse inside the compound owned by Michael Tan, Lito Lim and two John Does.

A search warrant issued by Judge Oscar Zaldivar of Regional Trial Court

Branch 7 in Aparri also enabled the BOC's Special Studies and Project Development Committee, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service, and Enforcement Security Service to examine the chemicals inside the warehouse. They were assisted by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) - Regional Office II.

Several glass containers of controlled chemicals used in manufacturing illegal drugs and explosives with an estimated value of P600,000 were turned over to the PDEA and the Philippine National Police.

No arrest was made as the warehouse owners were not around when the raid was conducted.



# CUSTOMS PARA SA IMPORTERS

## PLANNING TO BUY VAPE FROM ABROAD?

Here are the requirements for the importation of products like vapes or E.N.D.S. (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems)

## WHAT ARE E.N.D.S.?

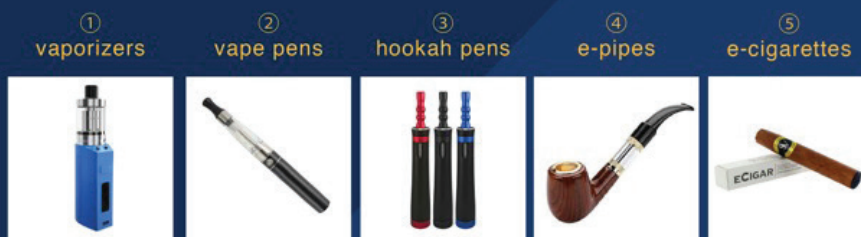
**Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (E.N.D.S.)** are products that use liquid containing nicotine, as well as varying compositions of flavorings, propylene glycol, glycerin, and other ingredients. The liquid is heated into an aerosol that the user inhales.

Many E.N.D.S. are manufactured to look like the following:



While other E.N.D.S. look just like everyday items, larger E.N.D.S. devices such as tank systems or mods bear little or no more resemblance to cigarettes.

Examples of E.N.D.S.:



Examples of components or parts of E.N.D.S. include but not limited to:

- E-liquids
- Glass or plastic vial container
- Cartridges
- Atomizers
- Certain batteries
- Cartomizers and clearomizers
- Digital display or lights to adjust settings
- Tank systems
- Drip tip
- Flavorings
- Programmable software

## HOW TO SECURE E.N.D.S. IMPORT CLEARANCE?

**#1** Secure Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) from the National Tobacco Administration (NTA).

### ICC Requirements:

- B/L or tracking details issued by the courier
- Shipper
- Consignee
- Description
- Certificate of Origin (if any)
- Weight and Quantity
- Amount or Value
- Tracking Number
- Commercial Invoice
- Proof of Payment
- Estimated Duties and Taxes

E.N.D.S. in whatever form is a regulated item and requires permit or clearance from appropriate regulatory agencies of the government.

### TIP:

Application for ICC must be made prior to the arrival of your shipment.

**#2** Pay NTA processing and monitoring fees.

- Processing fee is **₱2,000.00**
- Monitoring fee is **₱3/kg of Vape** and **₱0.20/bottle of e-juice** regardless of value

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Importation of e-cigarettes, vapes, or e-juices has no quantitative or any other restrictions apart from the application for ICC.

**Failure to secure the ICC from NTA gives the BOC the right to hold the shipment.**

For inquiries, contact the **NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA)**  
(632) 372-3178 or (632) 372-3188  
Sct. Reyes cor Panay Ave., Quezon City

Source: <https://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/ProductsIngredientsComponents/ucm456610.htm>



# BOC busts P7.6B worth of illegal drugs

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) continues to play an active role in the government's campaign against illegal drugs by taking part in the biggest drug haul ever which amounted to more than P7.6 billion following several successful operations.

Already, arrests and seizures made during intelligence operations from July 2016 to May 2017 alone yielded at least 795 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu from several ports to warehouses across the country.

The latest Anti-Illegal Drugs Accomplishment Report released by the BOC showed that the biggest catch came on May 26, 2017.

BOC's Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) headed by Neil Estrella swooped down on two warehouses in Aster Street in Paso de Blas and F. Bautista Street in Ugong, both in Valenzuela City, respectively. There, they discovered 605 kilos of high grade shabu with an estimated street value of P6.4 billion.

CIIS agents led the raid and inspection, assisted by their counterparts from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

The BOC immediately cancelled the importer's accreditation of the identified consignee, EMT Trading, effective May 30, 2017. Thereafter, they arrested the warehouse caretakers and turned over the illegal drugs to the NBI and PDEA.

On July 3, 2016, joint operatives from the Anti-Illegal Drugs Group of the Philippine National Police and the CIIS again recovered 187 kilos of shabu found in a shipment that landed in Claveria, Cagayan.

A total of 180 plastic packs of suspected shabu hidden in seven black bags with markings "Leah D" and one

big blue ice box with an estimated worth P900 million were found.

A week later, a Chinese fishing vessel was intercepted while four of its Chinese crew were arrested by combined elements from the PNP Anti-Illegal

***"Once again the men and women of the customs bureau have proved that they are not just passive participants but achievers in the government's aggressive campaign to eradicate the drug menace," Faeldon.***

Drugs Group led by Police Supt. Albert Ferro, Philippine Coast Guard, PDEA and CIIS.

The agents of CIIS conducted thorough intelligence and tracking operations that led to the successful seizure of said fishing vessel, said CIIS Director Neil Anthony Estrella who led the operation together with Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon.

The vessel was anchored at Subic Bay in Barangay Calapandayan in Subic, Zambales.

The inspection team at first demanded to see maritime and other pertinent documents from the crew to prove their non-involvement in the vessel's illegal drug operation.

The crew, however, failed to provide proofs, leading to the inspection of the vessel.

Through the PCG Narcotic Canine Dogs, CIIS agents confirmed the presence of illegal drugs.

Seized from the scene were a self-sealing plastic pack containing crystalline substance believed to be shabu hidden inside a travelling bag in the lower cabin, and a hydrogenator

used in the manufacture of shabu

Nabbed were Shu Fook Leung, 49; Kam Wak Kwok, 47; Wing Fai Lo, 42; and Kwok Tun Chan, 29.

On February 17, this year, the CIIS seized pre-cursor chemicals (STC

hydrochloric acid) valued at P3 million at the Mindanao

Container Terminal - PHIVIDECA in Cagayan de Oro for lack of permit to import.

The shipment originated from India and arrived at the Port of Cagayan de Oro on January 31, 2017.

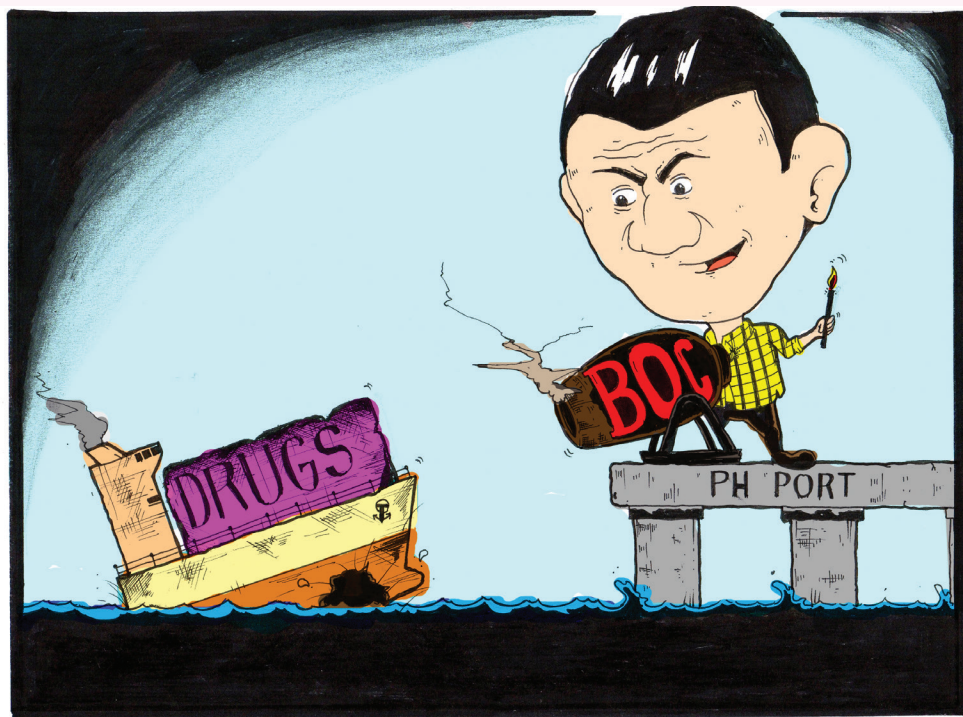
Other highlights of the accomplishment report:

-- 58,335 grams of cocaine worth P300.9 million intercepted from arriving passengers in 2016

-- 6,529 pieces of Ecstasy worth P9.7 million were seized in 2016

-- Outbound/inbound passengers found with P7.4 million worth of shabu intercepted in 2016

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said he was pleased with the accomplishments of his men in fighting illegal drugs and in upholding the BOC's commitment to boost President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign to arrest the drug problem



FROM PAGE 1

## CUSTOMS

custody of PDEA and NBI.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Faeldon clarified the actual value of the high-grade shabu seized by the BOC.

"We [Bureau of Customs] relied on the estimated street value of the illegal drugs based on the common practice of retailers to mix shabu with extenders, such as alum or tawas.

"Let me emphasize, however, that nobody sells pure or high-grade shabu on the streets. They always mix it with equal amounts of extenders to double the volume. Iyan ang kalakaran talaga sa labas, batay sa street value," he added.

Customs chief further clarified that

the shabu cost P5 million per kilo based on street value. The 605 kilos of shabu will double and weigh 1,210 kilos as a result of adding extenders. "Based on this calculation, the seized shabu will have an estimated street value close to P6 billion."

Faeldon commended all agents, saying the successful operation manifests the strong commitment and cooperation between China and the Philippines in fighting illegal drugs.

"Our level of effective information sharing with China Customs sends a strong warning to all those involved in the drugs trade," Faeldon said.



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

## PORT SENTINEL

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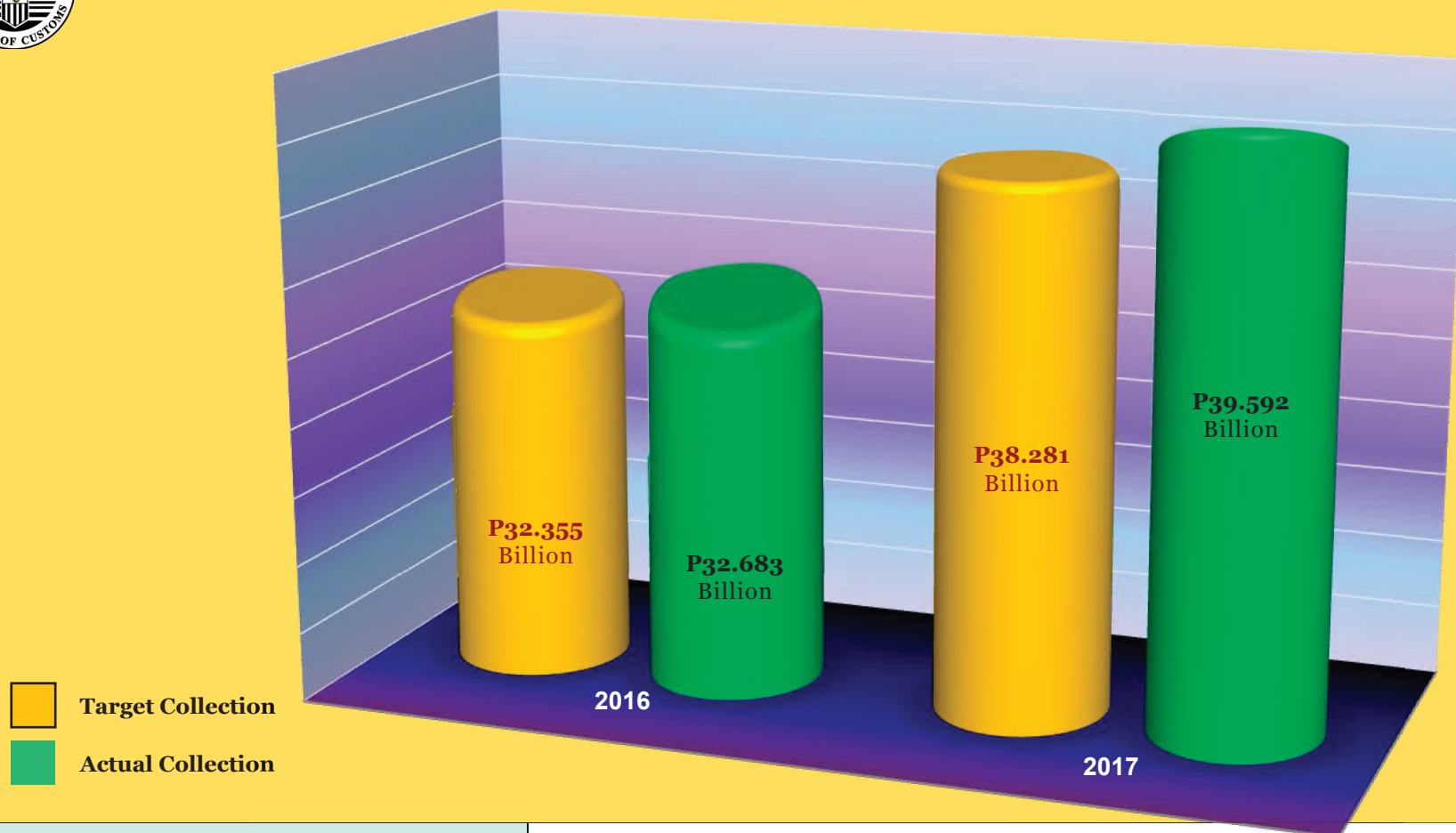


Port of Manila

Various Bureau of Customs Collection Districts conducted series of outreach activities as part of the continuing efforts to strengthen their corporate social responsibility (CSR). The CSR serves as a "corporate citizenship" of the bureau to promote positive social and environmental change in the long run.



## FIGURES



### Port of Zamboanga meets up to 3qtr year target

The Bureau of Customs Port of Zamboanga has exceeded its revenue collection target covering until the third quarter of this year, following the increase in the collection of duties and taxes from an importation of helicopter, cement and other goods during the period covering months of March and April.

The actual port collection has reached over P32.7 million for the month of March, surpassing its revenue target of P18.6 million or by 175.8 percent.

A rise in the revenue collection was also recorded during the port's fourth month, which amounts to P59.1 million pesos, exceeding its P18.5 million target.

According to Atty. Halleck A. Valdez, OIC District-Collector, the rise in the revenue collection was brought by the duties and taxes gathered from an importation of one private helicopter with total dues amounting to P37.5 million. Continuous arrival of significant volume of cement cargoes and other goods also contributed to the higher collection records of the port.

In January, the port was able to exceed its collection target by posting about P60.7 million compared to the P18 million target for the month. About P16.4 million variance was also recorded in the month of February which contributed to the increase in the revenue collection for the whole year.

This has allowed the agency to meet its target goal covering until the 3rd Quarter of the year or up to September, Valdez concluded.

The Collection District 11 was among the top performing ports in the country based on the recent report from the BOC.

### BOC exceeds May 2017 collection target

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) exceeded its collection target for May by 3.4 percent from the P38.28 billion target revenue set for the period.

The BOC Financial Service said the bureau collected P39.6 billion in revenue, or P1.3 billion higher from its collection goal for the month.

Also, the May collections was 23.5 percent higher, or P7.52 billion more than the figures reported during the same period last year.

From January to May this year, the BOC collected P176 billion, 1.5 percent short of the year-to-date target of P179.08 billion. The amount, however, was 13.6 percent higher than the P155.26 billion reported during the same period in 2016.

The BOC said the improved collection performance was largely due to higher oil prices in 2017, and increase in volume and value of imports by 19.7% and 28.3% respectively.

Likewise, foreign exchange rate has increased from P47.05 in 2016 to P49.9 in 2017, thereby resulting in higher revenue yields.

The BOC attributed last month's good revenue performance to improved collections by the bureau's 11 district ports:

- The Port of San Fernando collected P248 million, up by 26.8 percent from the P195.8 million target revenue

- The Port of Manila collected P6.135 billion, up by 0.6 percent from the P6.101 billion target revenue
- The Manila International Container Port collected P12.08 billion, up by 2.4 percent from the P11.80 billion target revenue
- Ninoy Aquino International Port collected P3.35 billion, up by 3.2 percent from the P3.24 billion target revenue
- The Port of Batangas collected P9.05 billion, up by 5.5 percent from the P8.58 billion target
- The Port of Tacloban collected P22.8 million, up by 22.5 percent from the P18.6 million target
- The Port of Cagayan de Oro collected P1.46 billion, up by 52.9 percent from the P953.2 million target
- The Port of Zamboanga collected P22.3 million, up by 20.2 percent from the P19.4 million target
- The Port of Davao collected P1.572 billion, up by 37.4 percent from the P1.143 billion target
- The Port of Subic collected P1.370 billion, up by 2.7 percent from the P1.334 billion target
- The Port of Clark collected P128.8 million, up by 16.5 percent from the P110.6 million target

The ports of Cebu and Limay, which posted P1.83 billion and P2.28 billion, respectively are about to meet their collection targets.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon has expressed confidence that the growth in government revenue will continue up to the end of the year.

## BOC seized guns

Two guns hidden inside electric water heaters were seized by agents of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on May 10, 2017 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

BOC agents led by the X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP) under the Enforcement Group (EG) said the guns found at the Thomas Nationwide Transportation Warehouse in Pasay were consigned to Christopher Yeung of Hong Kong, China and a certain Lau of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

On May 10, a resident of Calookan City inquired about the status of two outbound parcels stored in a Pasay warehouse bound

for Vietnam and Hong Kong. When the boxes were opened, agents found a lower receiver 9mm pistol and a lower receiver .45 pistol with empty magazine.

Office of the BOC-NAIA District Collector and EG arrested the 21-year old Alfonso Martin V. Sanchez for failure to produce the required documents from the Philippine National Police.

The seized items are now in the custody of the BOC- NAIA while the suspect was able to post bail. The initial hearing is set on May 22 at Pasay RTC.



## BOC turns over seized fireworks to PNP

The Bureau of Customs recently turned-over four containers of China-made firecrackers worth P15 million to the Philippine National Police (PNP) last week for proper disposition.

The BOC seized the shipments for misdeclaration and lack of import permits.

Initially declared as drinking glasses, cups, reams of bond paper, and sanitary napkins, however, Customs authorities upon inspection found fireworks and firecrackers.

The importers were identified as Quingtian Zhangchao Import & Export Co. Ltd., Yiwu Suge Import & Export Co. Ltd., and Guangzhou Kind Sam Import & Export

Co. Ltd.

The firecrackers were received on April 29 by PNP Police Regional Office 10 officials led by Regional Operations and Plans Division Officer-in-Charge PSupt. Rolindo Suguilon, and Regional Intelligence Division Commander PSupt. Danilo Tumanda.

Present during the turnover rites at the PNP were Marvin Mison, chairman of the Condemnation Committee; Roman Moscoso, officer-in-charge of the Enforcement Security Service - Customs Police Division; lawyer Roswaldo Pague, Mindanao Container Terminal Sub-Port Deputy Collector, and Enciso.

## Smuggled car, motorcycles busted at MICP

The Bureau of Customs seized an estimated P3 million worth of smuggled car and motorcycles at the Manila International Container Port on May 19 after the importer misdeclared the shipment as household goods and personal effects.

Physical examination showed the cargo, declared as 170 packages of household goods and personal effects, actually contained a used Mitsubishi-3000 GT car, and used Honda CB 900, a Yamaha, and a Kawasaki Ltd. 550 motorcycles.

The X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP) Team later found undeclared items which constitutes "a prima facie evidence of

smuggling."

Nepomuceno said the motor vehicles lacked import permit from the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Import Service.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon disclosed that the vehicles arrived at the MICP on April 28 from Oakland on board Cosco Thailand V-50.

On the other hand, the consignee will be charged with violating the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to Executive Order 156 which prohibits the importation of used motor vehicles.



## BOC seizes Nokia phones, chargers at NAIA

The Bureau of Customs seized five cartons of 400 disassembled units of Nokia 3310 phones and chargers valued at P880,000 after two passengers failed to show import documents, including a permit from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Lao Alikhan Unos and Hadji Unis Saaduddin Lao flew in from Guangzhou, China to Manila on board PR 383 on May 5 but was stopped upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2.

Ariel Nepomuceno, deputy commissioner of the BOC-Enforcement Group (EG), recommended the issuance of a Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) for violation of an NTC memorandum circular and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Earlier, the BOC also stopped a Chinese national for failure to produce an import permit for hundreds of Nokia 3310 mobile

phones presumed to be fake upon arrival at the NAIA Terminal 2 on May 1.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon reminded consumers to make sure that the goods, especially imported mobile phones, they are buying are not fake.

"Of course, some consumers would rather patronize fake phones which are relatively cheaper than the original ones but they should also be wise enough to know the difference," Faeldon said.

"Baka mamaya, sumabog iyan habang ginagamit nila eh mas mapapagastos pa sila lalo," he stressed.

Faeldon commended the men and women of XIP and EG following their successful operations aimed at curbing the illegal entry of contraband goods into the country.

The seized mobile phones and chargers are now in the custody of the BOC.



# COMMAND CONFERENCE

May 30, 2017 at the Bureau of Treasury

