



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

PORT SENTINEL

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President Duterte joins BOC on its 115th Anniversary Celebration



To mark the celebration of the Bureau of Customs' 115th founding anniversary, the bureau held series of activities with the theme, United Towards Transformational Change, with President Rodrigo Duterte, capping the week-long commemoration.

On February 4, a shooting competition was held at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City where officials and employees of the bureau from various collection districts participated.

BOC personnel also attended the joint flag ceremony on February 6 at the Port of Manila Grounds. During the opening ceremony, Deputy Commissioner of Management Information System and Technology Group Gerardo Gambala delivered a meaningful message to all bureau employees. In his speech, he reminded and encouraged all officials and employees of the bureau to unite in upholding the principle of public service and fighting the corruption in the bureaucracy.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the challenge begins. May you enjoy this moment. Remember this day and prepare to sail against rough seas. Nothing will break us if we are really united," Gambala said.

The BOC, as part of its social responsibility, also organized a community outreach program on February 7 at the Port of Manila Grounds for the residents of Brgy. 618. Highlights of the program are free haircut and breakfast for kids, and massage for parents, and lolas/lolos. Grocery gifts were given away to all who participated in the program. BOC employees pooled donations for this activity.

Highlighting BOC's anniversary is the commemorative celebration led by President Rodrigo Duterte held on 8 February at the BOC gym.

In his keynote address, the President commended the bureau for the increase in revenue collection in November 2016.



Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon presented to the President, through photo exhibit, his plan of building a world-class port facility in the country. The President expressed his support to this project of improving trade facilitation and encouraged the bureau to further improve its services by simplifying procedures and centralizing operations, particularly in trade facilitation and border control.

"You have my full support in developing the BOC's law enforcement capabilities, so you can conduct these operations more effectively and efficiently," President Duterte said.

Likewise, Commissioner Faeldon awarded the ports of Clark, Batangas, Cebu, and Davao for its remarkable performance of exceeding its collection target in 2016.

The celebration ended on February 10 with a social gathering and short program highlighting the awarding of exemplary sub-ports, jubilarians, and retirees. Winners of the shooting and slogan competitions were also announced during the program.



BOC HOSTS 38TH ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW MEETING

The Bureau of Customs spearheaded the 38th ASEAN Single Window Technical Working Group Meeting (ASW-TWG) last February 14-17, 2017 at Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

Representatives from the other nine (9) ASEAN Member States (AMS) –Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam meet to promote the production of ASW.

ASW is a shared platform on the basis of standardized information parameters, procedures, formalities, international best practices relevant to release and clearance of cargoes at entry points for use by government agencies, economic operators, transport and logistics operators for faster approval of cargo releases.

In the opening session on Tuesday, 14 February, Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon warmly welcomed the most brilliant minds who convened to expedite cargo clearance while facilitating border control in the Southeast Asia region.

“I am certain that the customs administration of each ASEAN member has no other objective in mind but to expedite cargo clearance and promote ASEAN economic integration by enabling electronic exchange of border documents between and all countries in the Southeast Asia region,” Faeldon said.

As he greeted the delegates, he talked on the importance of integrating the ASEAN Single Window among the AMS. “[ASW] can facilitate the exchange of export declaration data to provide technological and capacity building support to the AMS, risk management system and



exchange of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates,” he explained.

Commissioner Faeldon also spoke on the issues concerning the transaction values of goods imported and encouraged other ASEAN delegates to look into these so that traders in each ASEAN country declare accurate and honest values. He added that the bureau suspended almost 1000 erring importers and brokers for violating the Philippine tariff and customs laws.

Commissioner Faeldon said he is hoping to establish stronger economic ties between other member states given that BOC will host this year’s ASW meeting. The 4-day conference formally closed on Friday, February 17 with a cultural tour at the Malacanan Museum.

BOC to OFWs: Be careful in sending balikbayan boxes

RDR Forwarding, a US-based freight forwarder, has abandoned roughly 2,000 balikbayan boxes following its closure, including its financial responsibility in settling customs duties and taxes to BOC.

In response to this, on 23 February the Bureau of Customs through local forwarder Isidro Faderguya has released the abandoned balikbayan boxes to Online Pinoy Padala (OPP), including Shipments 155 and 159. Prior to this, the bureau has already released 400 overstaying balikbayan boxes in November 2016 and were sent to its rightful recipients.



RDR Forwarding failed to secure a local forwarder to process the shipment due to bankruptcy. Since the abandonment, balikbayan box senders said they can no longer contact RDR Forwarding.

Knowing the importance of each balikbayan boxes to every Filipino, particularly to OFWs, Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon ordered BOC officials to raise this case with the Department of Trade and Industry. The Commissioner is confident that the bureau will exhaust all possible remedies so that Filipinos won’t be troubled for long by the forwarder's negligence.

With these incidents, OFWs and other Filipinos abroad are advised to be extra careful in sending balikbayan boxes by ensuring that they transact only with legitimate cargo forwarders.



In this section, we ask a Bureau-related question, gather responses from employees, and select interesting/insightful answers to get people's point of view from within the agency. Respondents will remain anonymous for publication. For this issue, we ask the employees:

What changes have you seen in the Bureau in the past six (6) months? (PART I)

- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** The creation of SSPDC is very effective; hiring of young employees that are well verse in computers.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Minimized smuggling and illegal activities, no corruption in the Bureau of Customs, no illegal vendors within the premises of the Bureau of Customs.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** In the past 6 months, I see two changes both positive and negative aspects. Positive aspect -- mechanics are in place in curbing smuggling, and corruption. Negative aspect – some powers of departments/units were clipped diminishing the effectiveness of police authority of the department.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Significant change, each and every one is in line of Pres. Duterte's campaign.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Implementation of promotion will serve as motivation for employees.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Smuggling and other illegal activities in the Customs zones were minimized. Customs brokers were threatened to avoid illegal activities and violators of TCCP were charged appropriately.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Fixers and Hao-shiaos levelled down these past few months.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** There is a significant change in the attitude of every employee of this bureau. They become responsive to the needs of the transacting public.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** I am a newly hired person in the bureau so I really don't see any changes for the past six months. I'm hoping for a better image of the bureau in the future.
- ▶ **Anonymous, EG:** I've seen this bureau do its best to serve the public by uplifting the capability of the office in terms of modernization in line with the vision of the bureau to be efficient and modern customs administration that every Filipino can be trust and be proud of.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** The BOC is equipped with hi-tech camera initiated in different areas or premises. It is filled with slogans on transformation being hanged on walls, photographs of the BOC.
- ▶ **Anonymous, ESS:** Illegal activities in customs zones were minimized; brokers and importers were threatened to avoid illegal activities in the bureau.

Capt. Rizalina Parong & Her Commendable Service in the ESS "An upright woman: A great commander"

By: Marife Follosa



That may be the best description being attributed to Capt. Rizalina E. Parong who has left a legacy in the Bureau of Customs through the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) after her 40 years of service.

Four decades as a public servant is a big accomplishment for a

woman who balances her time as a mother, wife and a servant of the church. Now we'll be able to know how she did a great job as the District Commander of Customs Police Division (CPD) under the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) of Port of Clark.

Her engagement in public service was both an achievement and a challenging experience for Capt. Rizalina E. Parong or "Ma'am Lyn" as they call her.

It was 1977 when she entered the government service as a Special Agent I under CPD. From then, she rose from the ranks up until she became a Special Police Captain.

In her forty years as a public servant, she has received 40 Commendation/Merit Awards and 27 Certificate of Recognitions despite the challenges in her work. These awards served as proof of an exemplary performance in the bureau. Now that she has retired, she left her division with big shoes to fill.

Aside from the Commendation/Merit Awards she received from her outstanding performance, she considered her material contribution for the recognition of the Bureau of Customs by the Philippine Narcotics Officers Association (PNOA) for its accomplishments on Anti-Illegal Drugs Operations in 2010 as one of her biggest achievements in the Bureau.

Despite these numerous awards, she also faced challenges that tested her courage and dedication to work for the Filipino people. One of which is when

she was assigned as the Executive Operations Officer of the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF) in 2005 to 2014. Wherein million-worth of various illegal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana and shabu were apprehended and seized in spite of the fact that she and her personnel deal with people who are dangerously involved on such unlawful acts.

According to Ms. Parong, her inspirations behind these accomplishments are her two children. Unfortunately, she lost her daughter who was only 22 years old then on a fatal car accident in 2008. She now has her son and three grandchildren.

She said it was very difficult to be a working mother. Good health, effective time management and self-sacrifice serve as her keys to cope with all her responsibilities in the office and at home.

In her 40 years of commitment to work and consistency as a leader, she left her office with a clean record and everyday legacy to and personnel at the ESS. She has always been reminding her people that for them to enjoy their work, they should "always think of what they can give and do for the people and not what they can receive from them." This is her long-time principle for the successful four decades.

As a message to her fellow public servant, she uttered "It is only you who can help the Bureau change its image and for those who intends to be employed in the Bureau of Customs, don't get the wrong impression that you will get rich instead make the bureau proud of you."

Now that she has completed a fruitful service in the bureau, she plans to enjoy her life as a mother to his only son, as a Lola to her grandchildren and as a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus.

PORT SENTINEL

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<p>Editor-in-Chief: Ms. Maria Gerty D. Pagaran, Admin. Officer V, PIAD</p> <p>Editorial Staff: Ms. Karren April A. Noronio, Writer Ms. Mary Joy T. Lopez, Writer</p>	<p>Art & Design Director: Ms. Jessil F. Garlando, Admin. Officer II, PIAD</p> <p>Photographers: Mr. Jerome L. Monta Mr. John John T. Mariano</p>
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PORT SENTINEL welcomes your feedback. Kindly e-mail to piad@customs.gov.ph



PLANNING TO BUY THESE ITEMS ABROAD?



You may purchase and bring these items into the country without clearance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Health (DOH) **ONLY** if they are (1) for personal use, and (2) within the allowed quantity:

ITEM	QUANTITY ALLOWED
PERFUMES	5 PIECES
LIPSTICK	10 PIECES
SHAMPOO	2 KILOGRAMS
LOTION	2 KILOGRAMS
BAR SOAP	2 KILOGRAMS
ASSORTED COSMETICS	1 KILOGRAM
TOYS	10 PIECES
CHILDCARE ARTICLES	5 KILOGRAMS
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE (DETERGENT, FABRIC CONDITIONERS/ SOFTENERS, DISHWASHING LIQUIDS, ETC.)	5 KILOGRAMS

They may be brought into the country through passenger baggage, balikbayan boxes, or parcels sent thru mail or delivery services.

**Items with quantity beyond the specified limits will be seized and forfeited in favor of the government. Those within the specified limit shall be allowed without FDA-DOH clearance subject to payment of customs duties, when necessary.*



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Port of Subic awards top importers

Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic awards certificate of appreciation to stakeholders during the Top Importers' Appreciation Day on February 3 for trusting and supporting the policies and advocacies of the bureau, achieving 99% of the revenue target for year 2016.

The award was presented by District Collector Carmelita Talusan to PTT Phils. Corp. for being the highest contributor for the year 2016, with a total of 2,304,428,436.77 contribution, followed by Cebu Air Inc. with a 1,813,252,745.66 in total and Seoil Phils. Inc. with 1,704,364,078.00 taxes paid.

Meanwhile, Port of Subic hit a 99% in its 2016 revenue collection, reaching P14.99 billion close to the revenue target of P15.14 billion. Financial Service revealed that the target revenue collection is P18.59 billion, 22% higher than the 2016 revenue target.

Driven by the passion to bring in more than 100% for this year's collection target, Collector Talusan together with the Subic team is committed in pursuing policy reforms to build public trust and enhancing government service through trade facilitation.

BOC Zamboanga holds customs seminar

By: Raiza Dapilin

The Bureau of Customs has spearheaded Special Workshop on Basic Customs Procedures, Rules and Regulations to some 300 stakeholders from Zamboanga City, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi last February 24 in Marcian Convention Center, Zamboanga City. Stakeholders were given insights on how to transact business with the bureau with emphasis on customs procedures, rules and regulation on rice importation.

In the opening session, Commissioner Nicanor E. Faeldon urged the traders to support the bureau in its heightened efforts to stop illegal entry of goods and illegal drugs in the country. Traders must secure all necessary requirements for legitimate importation and exportation businesses, Faeldon added. To encourage dynamic participation, stakeholders were given the chance to interact with relevant resource speakers to include Usec. MC Halmen Reina Valdez, the chair of National Food and Agricultural Council. Rules on accreditation were also conferred as well as electronic to mobile means of paying import dues. List of regulated products were also given during the session.

On the other hand, Atty. Willie Sarmiento from the Legal Service Department talked on the scope and limits of customs jurisdiction, customs offenses and administrative provisions over seizure and forfeiture cases provided in RA 10863, the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

The Bureau of Customs is the lone agency authorized to perform all anti-smuggling operations other than those agencies deputized by the bureau to perform the same.

"The Bureau of customs is always on your side. We are here to protect you and guide you from smugglers," Commissioner Faeldon ended.



Customs seized mangkono logs in port of Davao

Mangkono tree is the Philippine native ironwood which is usually used as a material for the bearing or stern bushing of a steamship's propeller shaft or used to make heavy types of furniture like tables and chairs. However, Mangkono tree is now categorized as endangered in the 2014 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red list.

However, there are still some groups who continue to destroy our agricultural resources. In fact, P380,000 worth of Mangkono trees was confiscated by the Bureau of Customs at the Port of Davao on 5 February. The seized shipment was originally declared as flour meal and powder, dried crushed bana and was consigned to a certain company Sanyo Tsushu Co. Ltd. located

in Hiroshima, Japan. The shipper was identified as Transmodal International Inc. of Lanang, Davao City.

According to BOC Port of Davao District Collector Jamail Marohomsalic, the logs were discovered when its container van was opened by BOC agents in the presence of Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Philippine Coast Guard due to a false information that it contains illegal drugs.

The shipment was seized and kept under the protection of the BOC Port of Davao.



COLLECTION REPORT

CUSTOMS COLLECTION (In Million Pesos)

COLLECTION DISTRICT	February 1 -28, 2017 Preliminary			January 1- February 28, 2017 Preliminary		
	TARGET	ACTUAL	% of Actual Collection/ Target	TARGET	ACTUAL	% of Actual Collection/ Target
	Working days 20		%			%
	(a)	(b)	(b/ a)			
SAN FERNANDO	169.4	248.0	146.4%	351.7	505.3	143.7%
POM/MICP	15,484.5	13,812.6	89.2%	15,484.5	13,812.6	89.2%
NAIA	2,303.1	2,350.6	102.1%	5,321.5	5,144.9	96.7%
BATANGAS	7,419.9	7,391.3	99.6%	15,409.5	14,645.0	95.0%
LEGASPI	18.5	44.6	241.1%	38.4	74.6	194.0%
ILOILO	182.1	230.3	126.5%	378.2	458.2	121.2%
CEBU	1,648.8	1,397.3	84.7%	3,424.2	3,231.8	94.4%
TACLOBAN	16.1	31.7	196.7%	33.4	55.8	166.7%
SURIGAO	0.9	0.1	15.0%	1.8	0.2	12.4%
CAGAYAN DE ORO	824.4	893.1	108.3%	1,712.1	1,780.9	104.0%
ZAMBOANGA	16.8	32.3	192.4%	34.9	92.3	264.7%
DAVAO	989.3	1,135.4	114.8%	2,054.6	2,327.4	113.3%
SUBIC	1,154.2	1,407.2	121.9%	2,397.0	2,904.9	121.2%
CLARK	95.6	118.1	123.5%	198.6	217.7	109.6%
APARRI	9.9	3.1	31.6%	20.5	3.8	18.4%
LIMAY	2,143.5	1,717.5	80.1%	4,451.6	4,583.3	103.0%
TOTAL CASH	32,477.0	30,813.3	94.9%	67,986.0	66,558.9	97.9%
TEF	-	68.7	0.0%	0.0	68.7	0.0%
TOTAL	32,477.0	30,882.0	95.1%	67,986.0	66,627.6	98.0%

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

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BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

Collection Performance Report

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

(In Million Pesos)

February 1 -28, 2017 Preliminary

January 1- February 28, 2017 Preliminary

Vs. Last Year

If week straddles in two calendar months, please make two schedules one for each calendar month.

Collection	Collection January 1-February -28, 2017 Preliminary	Goal January 1-February -28, 2017 Preliminary	Collection January 1-February -28, 2016	Excess / (Deficit)		Increase / (Decrease)	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Cash	66,727.45	67,986.00	58,117.66	(1,258.55)	-1.9%	8,609.80	14.8%
TEF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	66,727.45	67,986.00	58,117.66	(1,258.55)	-1.9%	8,609.80	14.8%

February 1-28, 2017 Preliminary

Working days 20

Vs. Last Year

If week straddles in two calendar months, please make two schedules one for each calendar month.

Collection	Collection February 1 -28, 2017 Preliminary	Goal February 1 -28, 2017 Preliminary	Collection February 1-28, 2016	Excess / (Deficit)		Increase / (Decrease)	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Cash	30,813.26	32,477.00	26,944.73	(1,663.74)	-5.1%	3,868.53	14.4%
TEF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	30,813.26	32,477.00	26,944.73	(1,663.74)	-5.1%	3,868.53	14.4%

BOC, PDEA, Chinese Agents join forces to stop drug smuggling



On February 21, officials of the Bureau of Customs and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency met with the representatives of China's Fujian Provincial Drug Law Enforcement Agency to discuss on how they can strengthen the engagement of the customs administration of China and the Philippines in eliminating the entry of illegal drugs into the country, which is the top priority of the government.

The Commissioner, Nicanor Faeldon, has emphasized the importance and urgency of addressing the problem in the proliferation of illegal drug operations in the country that involves China and the Philippines. Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Group, Ariel Nepomuceno added that a specific office can be established and function as a liaison office of the Narcotics Commission of China.

As results of the collective efforts of the bureau and other agencies and departments of the government, the BOC has apprehended P337,

160,201.50. The apprehensions include 30 illegal drugs shipments, 14 illegal shipments of methamphetamine hydrochloride amounting to P30,093,990.50, five shipments of ecstasy valued at P15,363,000, nine shipments of cocaine pegged at P291,677,691, and one shipment of marijuana at P25,520.

Just recently, the bureau found and seized 320 drums of imported hydrochloric acid known as one component in making shabu at the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in Tagoloan Sub-port, Cagayan de Oro.

The tie-up is a response to the agreement forged during President Rodrigo Duterte's four-day state visit to Beijing, China last October 18-21, according to Shen Yu, deputy director for Operations Division of Narcotics Control Commission.

"We have come up to our new relationship after President Duterte visited China. We can discuss how to enhance cooperation in terms of narcotics control between our nations," Yu said.

Apart from the Philippines, China has also partnered with Japan, Australia, and New Zealand in its intelligence sharing against crimes and drugs.



BOC recognized by PDEA for its anti-drugs operations

Since the appointment of Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon as the head of the Bureau of Customs, the agency has greatly improved its performance in terms of revenue collection, customs administration, and anti-illegal drug smuggling operations.

In fact, few months ago, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III lauded the Bureau of Customs for its successive arrests in just over two weeks of six suspected drug couriers with the help of airport and drug enforcement authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Secretary Dominguez commended the bureau for remaining highly vigilant against attempts by narco-traffickers to smuggle in illegal drugs into the country.

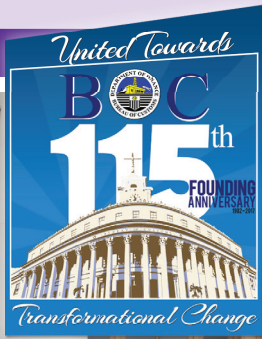
Indeed, the bureau's anti-illegal drug smuggling efforts has effectively improved the performance of the bureau in facilitating trade in the country.

From the 36 anti-drug operations of the Bureau of Customs in 2016, more than P340 million worth of illegal drugs has been intercepted. Because of its strong anti-drug campaign efforts, especially at the Customs unit stationed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the BOC was again recognized by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, led by Chairman Isidro Lapena, NALECC-SCDDCC/DG, as one of the most active government agency in the fight against illegal drugs of the Duterte Administration.

"The bureau will continue to be on the look-out for drug groups who would use our airports and customs border to smuggle drugs into the Philippines," said Lt. Sherwin Andrada, executive officer of the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF).

Deputy Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said that the anti-drugs operations of the bureau are in compliance with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to apprehend all drugs and drug-related precursors that may pass thru the customs borders.

"The war on drugs is the priority of the present administration, and BOC is committed to fully support the challenging task," he added.



BOC 115TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

