



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

PORT SENTINEL

Volume 9

Issue No. 53

March 2017



BOC, BIR face giant cigarette manufacturing company

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) together with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) face a giant 70-year-old homegrown cigarette manufacturing company over tax evasion case and possibility of economic sabotage after confiscating over P5.4 billion worth of Mighty cigarettes with fake BIR tax stamps in a series of raids.

Two warehouses in Bulacan province were raided on March 24 morning by BOC agents following a tip that cigarettes with fake tax stamps with an estimated value of P3.2 billion were stored in the facilities. The first warehouse contained 145,000 master cases of cigarettes with an estimated value of P2.9 billion. While in the second facility, the raiding team found 15,000 master

cases worth around P300 million.

Using the BIR Stamp Verifier, the team confirmed that the cigarettes had been marked with fake tax stamps. Another shipment loaded with Mighty cigarettes alleged to have fake stamps was seized on March 7 in Cebu and Tacloban with an approximate value of P6 million.

A separate raid was also conducted by the BOC and BIR operatives in San Simon Industrial Park, San Isidro, Pampanga and General Santos City on March 1. The raid yielded over P1.98 billion and P215 million worth of assorted cigarettes respectively.

Meanwhile, the BOC also busted a warehouse in Zamboanga City last month

which led to the seizure of 400 master cases of counterfeit smuggled cigarettes with an estimated street value of P13.5 million.

Operating teams confirmed that the tax stamps and cigarettes were counterfeit after checking the authenticity of the internal revenue stamps on the pack of the cigarettes or master cases.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon has said the bureau would intensify its campaign against smuggling and all other forms of illicit trade that continues to deprive the government of revenues.

“We will not stop in our efforts to weed out those engaged in pernicious activities that undermine and derail the government’s

reform agenda,” said Faeldon.

“We are ready to use all available options in the investigation of erring companies, including those engaged in the oil and motor vehicle trade, to make sure we control all forms of revenue leaks that get in the way of hitting revenue targets of the BOC,” he added.

Recent operations against illicit tobacco trade will significantly help in implementing the guidance from Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez to further tighten the enforcement following the proliferation of fake cigarette tax stamps which he described as “a matter of serious concern”.

BOC files administrative case vs Manila RTC Judge



Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon filed on March 13 an administrative case against Presiding Judge Tita Bughao Alisuag of the Manila Regional Trial Court, Branch I, following the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in favor of a cigarette manufacturing company.

In a 24-page complaint, Faeldon asked the Supreme Court to declare Judge Alisuag administratively liable for gross ignorance of the law after issuing a TRO against BOC despite her lack of authority to do so, and for gross violation of the New Code of Judicial Conduct for exhibiting unquestionable bias and partiality in favor of Mighty Corporation.

It can be recalled that the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) on March 6 has issued a 20-day TRO effectively barring Customs authorities from raiding and inspecting its warehouses in response to Mighty Corp.'s petition.

Faeldon stressed that Judge Alisuag blatantly disregarded the long-established rule that regular courts

do not have jurisdiction over seizure and forfeiture proceedings.

The BOC has exclusive jurisdiction over all seizure and forfeiture cases as per Section 202 of Republic Act No. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Section 301 of the CMTA further provides that "[a]ll goods, including means of transport, entering or leaving customs territory, regardless of whether they are liable to duties and taxes, shall be subject to customs control."

The complaint also stated that "the TRO was overbroad, practically prohibiting the BOC from exercising its mandate over Mighty Corporation." It "effectively made Mighty Corporation untouchable and immune from any and all acts of the BOC."

Faeldon warned that counterfeit cigarettes of Mighty Corporation not only deprive the government of billions in revenue but could also pose harm when exposed to the general public.

BOC Zamboanga scores win in court row

By: Raiza Dapilin

The Bureau of Customs Zamboanga has successfully asserted its exclusive authority to enforce customs duty and tax liabilities against all imported goods following the issuance of the Zamboanga City RTC of an ex parte temporary restraining order (TRO) in favor of the complainant, Summit Concrete Products Corp.

In a two-page decision issued last March 6, Judge Gregorio Dela Peña III of RTC Branch 12 denied Summit Concrete's petition for a writ of preliminary injunction and dismissed the case for want of jurisdiction against the respondents: Bureau of Customs Zamboanga, Philippine Ports Authority, MV Zhong Yu 18, Yangzhou Conch Cement, and Goodfound Cement Corp.

It can be recalled that Judge Dela Peña issued on

February 6 a TRO directed not only against Goodfound Cement but also to MV Zhong Yu 18, PPA and BOC.

Said TRO prevents BOC Zamboanga from issuing permit to discharge, a preparatory step in the assessment and collection of customs duties, taxes, and other charges.

Summit Concrete, licensed by Bureau of Philippine Standards and Department of Trade and Industry as the sole and exclusive distributor of the Conch brand cement, said that other importers cannot import such commodity without its prior consent. However Goodfound imported 7,900 MT of Conch cement unloaded at Port of Zamboanga on February 1.

In response, Acting Collector Halleck A. Valdez filed a manifestation before the trial court asserting that BOC has exclusive original over imported goods.

He cited RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016 (CMTA) and the Supreme Court's rulings to question the issuance by the RTC of a TRO against BOC.

Valdez further claimed, "Even assuming that Summit Concrete has a right of action against private defendant Goodfound Cement, such case shall proceed separately without having to implead the BOC, as to do so would unnecessarily tie the hands of the bureau from performing its rightful duty to collect taxes for and on behalf of the government."

Recognizing its lack of jurisdiction, the RTC has dismissed the injunction complaint filed by Summit Concrete and subsequently denied the latter's urgent motion for reconsideration.

Civic Movement Free Masons recognizes Faeldon's initiatives

The Assembly of Customs Travelers (ACT), Inc. lauds Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon on March 27 for reforming the BOC and helping transform it into an efficient agency.

The recognition was presented by ACT President Collector Ciriaco Ugay, and Auditor Reummel Sison, former ACT president, along with other officers and members of the assembly.

Apart from Faeldon's efforts to fight corruption and illicit trade, the ACT also acknowledged the commissioner's accomplishments and initiatives to improve trade facilitation, curb smuggling, and secure the country's territorial border, resulting in improved

revenue collection. It said Faeldon has made the BOC a corrupt-free agency owing to good leadership.

To create a spirit of unity and promote moral values, the ACT was established under Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. It is composed of worthy members who support and promote social responsibility and better public service.

On March 25, the newly elected officers and members took their oath of office during their first general assembly at Port of Clark in Pampanga. Currently, it has 84 registered members from Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Port of Manila, Manila International and Container Port, Subic and Clark.



Customs suspends Mighty Corp. import accreditation

The Bureau of Customs barred on March 14 Mighty Corporation's privilege to import raw materials for tobacco manufacturing after violating warehousing law, rules and regulations.

"A preventive suspension order had been issued previously against the company by then Commissioner John Sevilla in 2014 for infraction of customs bonded warehouse privileges," said Legal Service Director and Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) Executive Director Alvin Ebreo.

In order to withdraw raw materials for local consumption, its correct value must be determined first for the payment of correct duties and taxes, said Atty. Ebreo.

The Fiscal Intelligence Unit of the Department of Finance reported that there was an undervaluation of the importation of

cigarette-manufacturing materials amounting to P163,117,995.

Apart from warehousing violations, the BOC cited series of recent raids of warehouses in Bulacan, Cebu, Tacloban, Zamboanga City, General Santos City, and Pampanga that yielded more than P5.4 billion worth of counterfeit cigarettes, as among the bases of the suspension.

Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said the order is also in the light of the Bureau's mandate to prevent smuggling and other cases of customs fraud detrimental to the government interest.

Consequently, the initiative will provide the government an unhampered venue for investigation, and free it from any collateral issues and concern, according to Ebreo.

He added that the suspension is a purely administrative matter and within the BOC's power and jurisdiction.



BOC ON ONLINE LOVE SCAM: PAANO MALALAMAN KUNG ANG PAG-IBIG NIYA AY ISANG "SCAM" LAMANG?



Una, gumagamit ng kahina-hinala o pekeng social media account para makuha ang atensyon mo.



Pangalawa, magkukunyaring interesado sa'yo. Itatanong ang personal information at contact details mo.



Tapos, kakaibiganin ka at gagamitan ng mga mabulaklak na salita para makuha ang tiwala mo.



Kapag feeling niya close na kayo, sasabihing pinadalhan ka ng regalo/packages na hinold ng BOC para lalo kang mahulog sa kanya. Yung iba, may gimik pang umuwi kuno ng bansa at hinold ng BOC sa airport para lalong paasahin ka.



Para magtagumpay ang kanyang modus, kukumbinsihin kang mag-deposit ng pera sa isang personal account para ma-release siya o ang mga regalong pinadala niya.

⚠️ WARNING: ⚠️

BOC does not ask sender and/or recipients of parcels/packages to send money via personal bank accounts or money transfer to release your items and/or take custody of passengers arriving at the airports. Report any suspected online love scam to PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) at (02) 414-1560.

BOC warns public to be vigilant vs scams

The Bureau of Customs warns the public to beware of business proposals from a man who, apart from misrepresenting himself as a replacement for Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon, has been linked to extortion and various scams.

Ariel Roselle Victorino, also known as Ariel Roa Victorino, allegedly a relative of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, was reported to have produced a letter allegedly signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, saying he would take over the top BOC post.

The BOC received complaints that Victorino had been extorting money from customs employees, brokers, and even smugglers in exchange for protection and

immunity from the law.

Victorino has several pending criminal cases in the courts for estafa and fraud.

National Bureau of Investigation records revealed that it had arrested Ariel and one Hershey Victorino for reportedly duping five applicants for a US visa.

In June 2013, (Ariel) Victorino was accused of extorting money from garbage contractors after claiming to be the chief of Manila's Department of Public Service.

Faeldon urged the public to disclose the names of other individuals who have been involved in extorting money in exchange for protection.



Sugar Industry: Thumbs up for Faeldon

Major stakeholders in the sugar industry on Friday expressed their “unwavering support” for the reforms instituted by the Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon at the Bureau of Customs.

Seven major groups representing more than five million sugar farmers/workers across 21 provinces in the country and their dependents constituting 95% of the sugar industry signed a Manifesto of Support and a Certificate of Appreciation for Faeldon’s full support of the industry and his efforts to curb sugar smuggling.

The Manifesto and Certificate were signed by Manuel R. Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers’ Federation of the Philippines, Inc.; Enrique D. Rojas, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters Inc.; Francis R. de la Rama, president of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Association Inc.; Danilo A. Abelita, president of the Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc.; Francisco D. Varua, executive director of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association, Inc., Bernardo C. Trebol, trustee of the Philippine Association of Sugar

Refiners, Inc.; and Pablo Lorenzo III, president of Sugar Master Plan Foundation, Inc.

Lamata and Edgardo Lomanog, chief of the anti-sugar smuggling organization, presented the Manifesto and Certificate to the commissioner during a courtesy call at the BOC.

The Manifesto cited the “audacity and courage” of Faeldon, a newcomer in the bureaucracy, as it praised his efforts to run after smugglers shortly upon his assumption as BOC commissioner in July last year.

“For us in the sugar industry, Commissioner Faeldon has been true to his word,” the Manifesto added, noting that on several occasions, Faeldon was on hand to prevent the entry of smuggled sugar and apprehend the violators.

Recently, the bureau head required importers of high fructose corn syrup to comply with the regulations of the Sugar Regulatory Administration despite tremendous pressure to circumvent the law.

BOC sets March 31 deadline for deconsolidators’ registration

Air and sea freight forwarders have until March 31 to register with the Account Management Office (AMO) of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

A BOC memorandum provides that deconsolidators should register every two years with the AMO, apart from fulfilling requirements imposed by other government agencies.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said the procedure would facilitate the clearance of consolidated shipments and prevent revenue losses from possible abuse of tax and duty-exempt privileges.

This would also ensure that balikbayan boxes sent by Filipinos abroad are handled by legitimate deconsolidators, he added.

The documents to be submitted to the

AMO include a duly accomplished AMO application form; a list of consolidators with whom the applicant has existing service contracts and a copy of individual service contract/s between the deconsolidator and the consolidator/s with all the annexes; a certified true copy of the registration or accreditation certificate from other government agencies; and an affidavit of undertaking.

Meanwhile, starting March 31, AMO shall have sole access to the Client Profile Registration System (CPRS) for the activation of sea and air freight forwarders’ electronic to mobile (E2M) access in accordance with the registration requirements stated in the CMO.

Application forms and other details can be downloaded from the BOC website, www.customs.gov.ph

BOC-Port of Iloilo embraces a drug-free workplace

By: Marian S. Herezo

In the midst of the Duterte administration’s intensified anti-illegal drug campaign, Bureau of Customs Port of Iloilo conducted a mandatory drug testing for all its employees.

The drug testing was initiated by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office VI and with the cooperation of all the employees of the BOC-Port of Iloilo. The said event was conducted at the Accounting Division, Iloilo Customs House Building on March

16, 2017.

The chemistry report from PDEA Regional Office VI proves that the urine specimens gave negative results for the presence of methamphetamine and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and their respective metabolites.

A total of 22 employees from the bureau willingly participated in the drug testing.

Results from PDEA have shown that 100% of the Port of Iloilo employees are drug-free.



New Beginnings at BOC Port of Legazpi

By: Michelle Ann Andain

The Port of Legazpi, one of the 17 collection districts of the Bureau of Customs, has long been open for foreign trade since 1872 starting when it was declared as an open city. Having personnel of 32, Port of Legazpi, located at the heart of Legazpi City, Albay, caters two sub-ports namely: Port of Tabacco and Port of Panganiban. Coal, raw materials for cement, corn, and rice are top commodity imports of Port of Legazpi coming from Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam respectively.

The journey of the Port of Legazpi for the past 145 years has been a series of ups and downs but this year has been, so far, a smooth sail; an upright kick start, they say.

In terms of target collection, the

Bureau of Customs-Legazpi has exceeded monthly targets for the first quarter of the year, collecting a total of P149.23 million surpassing almost half of its annual target of P261.86 million.

The ongoing promotion, one of the reforms brought by the present administration, creates hope and confidence to all the employees especially to those who have been working in customs for 30 years now. "A way of boosting our personnel's morale" is how Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon describes the mass promotion and hiring.

To provide a better and bigger amenity to the increasing demand of stakeholders, Port of Legazpi has undergone with the planning of the P20 million reconstruction

of the port office building. Expected to be finished in December, the scheduled reconstruction will be in May.

The reconstruction and promotion will not only benefit the employees but most importantly, the people the bureau serves. Improvement in the working environment creates a harmonic relationship between the public servants and the people.

In celebration of the upcoming 145th Founding Anniversary of the bureau's port on May 18, a gift-giving activity will be spearheaded Legazpi Port Elementary School in Legazpi City, San Isidro Elementary School and Basud Elementary School in Malilipot, Albay. Also, the port personnel is also planning to collaborate with the DepEd personnel of San Isidro

National High School in Malilipot, Albay and Legazpi Port Elementary School in Legazpi City in its Annual Brigada Eskwela activity.

New beginnings for Port of Legazpi entails courage and passion for doing more of what is righteous and weeding out the wrong. We will continue to find ways to advance while keeping in mind our commitment to pursue our mission -to provide quality service to all the stakeholders with professionalism and integrity.

Change is inevitable, they say; let's keep walking the talk for a transformational change, Port of Legazpi!

Port of Legazpi exceeds Q1 collection target

The Port of Legazpi exceeds monthly targets for the first quarter of year 2017. As of March 31, 2017, the port collected a total of P149.23 million surpassing more than half of its annual target of P261.86 million for the fiscal year 2017, in just three months.

For the month of January, it collected P29.93 million exceeding the P19.92 million monthly target with P 10 million variance. These were mainly importations of cement, coal and raw materials for cement coming from Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan and China.

Over P42.56 million was collected in February surpassing the P19.34 million with a surplus of more than half of its monthly target, 82% of which was collected from rice imports from Thailand under Minimum Access Volume (MAV) Scheme.

For the month of March, an even bigger collection of P77.31 million exceeding its monthly target more than three times due to the multiple arrival of rice imports under MAV.

The cash collection for the month of March alone was the total collection of last year's collection for the period of January to March 2016.

According to Ms. Divina B. Garrido, acting district collector of Port of Legazpi, this achievement was accomplished through the joint efforts and initiatives of BOC personnel. "The port was able to function well and do its job," she ended.

BOC reaches out to fire victims



The BOC's Collection District V organized a feeding activity to help 350 people left unsheltered by a fire accident in Brgy.28 Victory Village in Legazpi City, just behind the port's office last February 9, 2017.

According to reports, an overloaded electric wire caused the fire that left 92 families affected. Said incident caused damage to property estimated at P500,000.00 and not less than 350 men, women and children were left unsheltered.

"Even though it only consisted of soup, pandesal



and boiled egg, you can see from the resident's faces that they appreciated what we cooked and prepared for them," Acting District Collector Divina B. Garrido said.

The Bureau of Customs is not just about revenue collection but helping the community during pressing matters such as this one, helping those who are in difficult situations, Collector Garrido explained.

"This is not the last. The BOC-Legazpi will continue to reach out to the public," she added.



BOC exceeds revenue target for March 2017

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) collected a total of P38.137 billion in duties and taxes, up 4% from its revenue goal of P36.572 billion for March this year, the latest collection performance report showed.

A report by the BOC's Financial Service showed the March collection was also 17.8% higher than the P32.383 billion revenue reported during the same period last year.

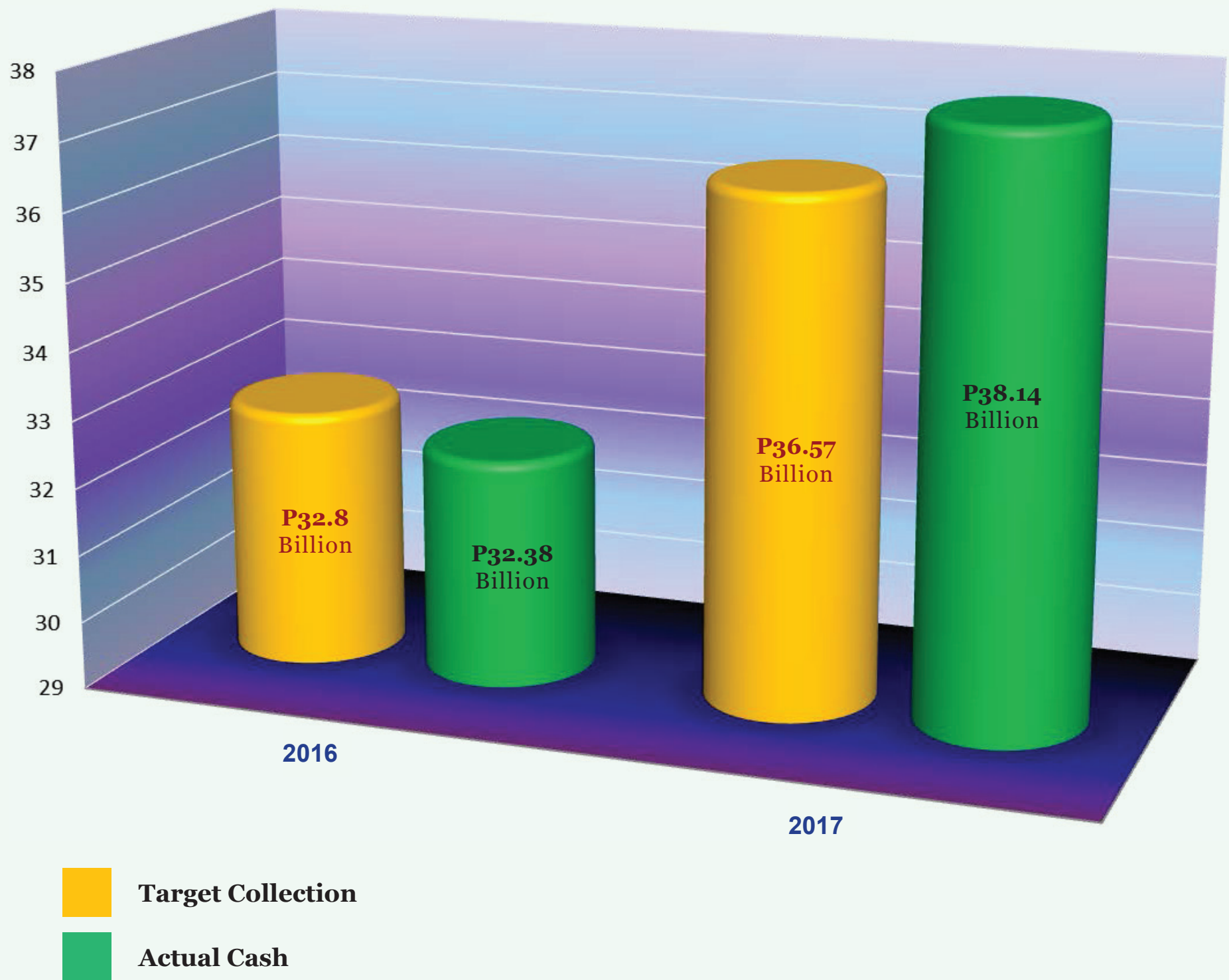
The BOC's largest revenue collecting ports generated billions of duties and taxes. Of 17 collection districts, 13 exceeded their March collection targets, namely: The Manila International Container Port, Port of Manila, Port of Batangas, Port of Cebu, Port of Cagayan de Oro, Port of Davao, Port of Clark, Port of San Fernando,

Port of Legaspi, Port of Subic, NAIA, Port of Iloilo, and Port of Zamboanga.

In January, the bureau exceeded its collection by posting P35.943 billion, way above its P35.509 billion for the month. It was also 15% higher than the January 2016 collection.

For 2017, the Bureau hopes to hit the P468 billion revenue target which, according to Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon, is achievable.

"With the strong implementation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and our intensified operations against smuggling, I am positive that we will be able to achieve, or even exceed our 2017 revenue goal," Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said.



BOC uncovers hidden firearms, drugs

Firearms concealed inside a grinder stored in a Pasay City warehouse were confiscated by the Bureau of Customs on March 31 after X-ray machines revealed the presence of the hidden contraband.

BOC agents led by the Enforcement Group (EG) under the X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP) said the firearms at the Federal Express (FedEx) Warehouse in Pasay were consigned to an address in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and was sent by a resident of Pandacan in Manila.

A week earlier, two 9 mm caliber revolvers, misdeclared as bench grinders, and intended for shipment to the People's Republic of China, were seized, this time at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In a separate incident, 15 tablets of "Ecstasy," a prohibited drug, were found by the EG at the DHL Warehouse, also in Pasay.

The shipment was initially declared to contain two bottles of native delicacies. Apart from an X-ray examination, a field



test conducted by the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF), revealed that the shipment contained "Ecstasy," a banned substance.

The tablets, estimated to be worth P22,500, were supposed to be sent to Papua New Guinea by a resident of Vito Cruz in Manila.

Charges will be filed against those involved in the illegal shipments for violations of provisions of RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016, as well R.A. 10591, or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Customs seizes P200M worth of counterfeit apparel in Pasay



The Bureau of Customs on March 1 confiscated counterfeit products with an estimated value of P200 million in simultaneous raids at One Logistics Building and YS Building in Pasay City.

Counterfeit apparel with brand names like Nike, Adidas, Armou All, Vans, Lacoste, with an estimated value of P100 million were found inside the One Logistics building.

At YS Building, some 11 stalls/doors were uncovered to stash clothing apparel with brand names like Jag, Wrangler, Under Armour, Superman, NBA, also

valued at P100 million.

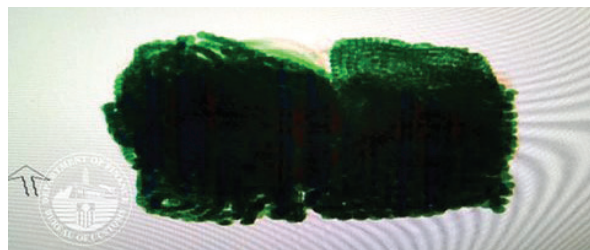
According to Estrella, a certain James Chua introduced himself as the owner of YS building, who shall be required to provide, within 15 days, documentary evidence of lawful importation of the counterfeit goods found in his building.

IPRD Chief Atty. Zsae Carrie De Guzman, said that

her office takes an escalated campaign against piracy and counterfeiting to avoid lost revenues in an estimated amount of P13.3 billion per year.

The operations were part of BOC's stringent counter-measures against all forms of smuggling of fake products into the country in grave violation of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property (IP) Code of the Philippines and RA 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016.

P500k worth of pearls seized at NAIA



(X-Ray image of stand pearls)

The Bureau of Customs seized 8.42 kilos of strand pearls worth P500,000 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 on March 28 after X-ray machines detected the hidden pearls.

BOC agents led by the Enforcement Group (EG) under the X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP) said the pearls were brought in by passenger Ansari B. Hassan on board Cebu Pacific Airlines Flight 5J119 from Hongkong.

Customs agents immediately subjected the baggage to physical examination after being marked 'X'. Upon inspection, the customs examiner and XIP inspector found 48" strand pearls concealed in a white plastic bag.

Maj. Jaybee Raul Cometa, X-Ray Inspection Project director, said the suspect did not have enough cash to pay for import duties which lead to the seizure of the pearls. The pearls have been placed under custody of the BOC for further examination and evaluation.

"We will not stop our fight against the illegal entry of contrabands into the country and collect what is due to our country," EG Deputy Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno said.

"The public can expect stricter implementation of X-Ray examination since intrusive inspection of hand carried bags are not allowed unless marked by the machine," he added.

BOC busted secret 'ukay-ukay' depot in Metro Manila

Agents of the Bureau of Customs raided an underground central supply depot of used clothing or 'ukay-ukay' and counterfeit imported goods in Metro Manila and nearby provinces along Cuneta Avenue, Pasay City.

Neil Anthony Estrella, director of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), said agents conducted simultaneous raids on four buildings suspected of being used as clandestine warehouses for undetermined volumes of alleged smuggled items.

Apart from the 'ukay-ukay' stockpile, agents also uncovered huge stash of counterfeit products of original branded items sold in local and international markets. These included Birkenstock, Lebron Nike, Vans, Sanuk, Havaianas, Ipanema Nike, Havaianas Fitflop, Sandugo, Versace, Nike Jordan, Adidas, Crocs, Star Wars (pokemon toys), Puma footwear, and Nike emblems.

Estrella said BOC's raids have been intensified as part of the campaign aimed at plugging tax leaks and snuffing out of all forms of smuggling as ordered by President Duterte.

Republic Act (RA) 4653 prohibits the importation of used clothing, rags, or 'ukay-ukay' in commercial quantity to safeguard the health of the people and maintain the dignity of the nation.

P5.5-M shabu shipment seized at NAIA



The Bureau of Customs intercepted two shipments of metamphetamine hydrochloride, more popularly known as shabu, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Deputy Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno of the BOC Enforcement Group said X-ray scanning revealed questionable images in the shipments valued at P5 million that had apparently been misdeclared.

The cargo seized on March 2, originally declared as boxes of wigs, turned out to contain 1.2 kilos of shabu. It was shipped from the Republic of Congo and was consigned to a certain Joseph Amistad in Talisay, Cebu province. The sender was identified as Mbiko Madama Aminata.

The BOC has since turned over the seized contraband to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Charges were later filed against the perpetrators for violation of Republic Act No. 9165, or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972, and RA 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.



2ND RUN AFTER THE SMUGGLERS 2017

March 25, 2017, Quirino Grandstand

