



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

PORT SENTINEL

Volume 9

Issue No. 56

July 2017

BOC OPENS 150 JOB VACANCIES

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) will begin the recruitment process for 150 vacant positions as part of the massive hiring of personnel in line with its restructuring program.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said the initial positions to be opened will help enforce the customs laws, rules, and regulations of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

“We need to take advantage of the more than 50% unfilled vacancies. We will beef up our team with 3,000 more employees this year and an additional 4,000 once the proposed executive order for restructuring is signed,” he said.

Aside from revenue collection, the BOC is mandated to secure the country’s border from illicit trade, ensure the speedy and ensure the efficient flow of trade and commerce.

“I encourage all applicants who meet the minimum requirements for vacant positions to apply until August 11 this

year because the BOC needs you,” the commissioner said.

There are 150 job vacancies as of July 27, 2017. Successful applicants will comprise the first batch of employees who will undergo a six-month training at the Philippine Customs Training Center (PCTC).

Under a customs memorandum, applicants must submit the required documents to the Human Resource Management Division (HRMD).

BOC employees who are qualified next-in-rank are automatically included in the selection process as candidates for promotion within their organizational mother unit. They shall submit the following requirements:

- Updated and duly accomplished

Personnel Data Sheet (PDS/CS Form 212 Revised 2017) with attached Work Experience Sheet

- Individual Commitment Review Form (IPCR) for the period July – December 2016 and January – June 2017

For BOC employees who are not next-in-rank, they shall submit:

- Letter of Intent (Form A)
- Updated and duly accomplished Personnel Data Sheet (PDS/CS Form 212 Revised 2017) with attached Work Experience Sheet
- Individual Commitment Review Form (IPCR) for the periods July – December 2016 and January – June 2017.

see BOC OPENS ► page 6

‘Fake BOC employee’ nabbed for estafa

Two persons were arrested by the BOC’s Customs Police Rapid Intervention Group (CPRIG) and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on July 19 for trying to recruit employees to work for the bureau allegedly in exchange for money.

Cecilia Lucentales, 62, and Roliveth Cortes, 52, of Pasay City, were nabbed in an entrapment operation at the Alen Building along Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City.

Maj. Jaybee Raul Cometa, the CPRIG commander, said customs police and CIDG agents conducted an entrapment operation after they received a complaint from Federico R. Santos who said he was lured by Lucentales to work at the BOC.

The complainant said Lucentales asked for P50,000 from him in exchange for the position of a district collector in the bureau.

“We have checked with the Human Resource Management Division and found out that Lucentales is not a legitimate employee of the bureau,” he said.

The suspects were charging each applicant from P50,000 to P100,000 in exchange of work for the BOC once a certain “Victorino” assumes office as the Commissioner of Customs.

Cometa said the suspects would be charged with violations of the Revised Penal Code Article 315 for estafa and Article 178 for usurpation of authority.

Cometa reminded the public to be always vigilant and cautious.

“Do not believe offers like these because if the bureau has a job opening, we disclose it to the public and there’s no money involved,” Cometa said.

“There’s a regular hiring process, so please be vigilant as these things do not happen anymore in the bureau,” he stressed.

The BOC deploys highly trained CPRIG customs operatives for critical missions and operations.



Cecilia Lucentales, 62, was arrested by the agents of CPRIG following a complaint from Federico Santos for asking P50,000 in exchange for the position of a district collector in the bureau.

INSIDE :

BOC BUSTS P2.7-M WORTH OF IPHONE 7 PLUS, CHARGER |p.4| BOC SYMPHATIZES WITH VICTIMS OF MARAWI CONFLICT |p.6| FAELDON DÉCRIES SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM |p.5|



BOC intensifies ops vs agricultural smuggling

Agents of the Bureau of Customs - Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) has seized three containers with more than P4.2 million worth of smuggled onions from China at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

The shipment was intercepted by BOC after CIIS agents received an intel report showing that the consignee deliberately covered the onions that were underneath the fresh garlic.

The onions were consigned to Equicent Import and Export Corporation with business address at U253, 2F Velco Centre Building, R.S. Oca corner Delgado St., Port Area, Manila.

CIIS-MICP Intelligence Officer

Teodoro Sagalar said only 80 bags of garlic out of 2,800 bags were found inside the container by agents upon examination.

“The import permit presented covers the fresh garlic only but it doesn’t account for the declared onions beneath the declared garlic,” he added.

CIIS Director Neil Estrella said the importers have no corresponding import permits from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

BPI, an agency under Department of Agriculture, issues import permits for onions and garlic.

Enforcemen Group Deputy Commissioner Teddy Raval recommended the issuance of a Warrant of Seizure and Detention for misdeclaration.

BOC files admin charges vs 3 ‘corrupt’ MICP employees

The Bureau of Customs files administrative charges against three employees of the Manila International Container Port (MICP) after they were caught on closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the area supposedly accepting bribes in their offices.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon said a preventive suspension was issued against the employees while pending investigation of their cases.

“I have given my orders to the concerned officials of the Investigation Division to expedite the probe and once proven guilty, criminal complaints will be filed against them before the Office of the Ombudsman,” Faeldon said.

The said employees were seen accepting money from brokers on several instances while processing entries at the

port.

“After four months of monitoring, the CCTV footages will serve as a strong evidence against them and if proven true, they should be punished,” Deputy Commissioner Gerardo Gambala said.

Nearly 400 working CCTV cameras installed in various BOC offices are being monitored 24/7 by ComCen personnel.

“We can see how vital these cameras are as countermeasures to curb corruption in the bureau,” Gambala said.

Meanwhile, lawyer Vincent Philip Maronilla, the MICP district collector, shared his frustration over the incident claiming “there is no place for any corrupt officials at the MICP.

“We will make sure that the full strength of the law will be applied to these employees,” Maronilla said.

Faeldon decries smear campaign against him

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon denounced the circulation of a photo on social media which showed him in the company of the owner of the warehouse where P6.5-billion worth of shabu was seized.

The photo, which is making its rounds on the Internet on July 30, maliciously implied that it was taken before the raid was conducted by Bureau of Customs operatives last May 26.

Raw photos of the raid from the Office of the Commissioner indicated that a similar photo was indeed taken on the day Hongfei Logistics warehouse in Valenzuela was raided.

According to Faeldon, he reluctantly agreed to the request of Richard Chen, the warehouse owner, to have a photo with him out of courtesy.

“This attempt to link me in the apprehended shabu is outrageous. The



photos themselves will prove that I only met Mr. Chen on the day of the raid itself,” Faeldon said.

“The people behind this malicious attack only proved that I had crossed big names in the illegal drugs trade. However, this will not slow down our fight against drugs,” he stressed.

BOC decries fake news

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on July 25 described as “fake news” an article circulating online alleging that one of its employees was caught pulling items inside a balikbayan box from a warehouse in Pasay City.

The BOC said that the article from the online site, Pinoyobserver.com, is a satirical blog and that according to its home page, the stories they share are not real.

The alleged BOC employees named

in the fictional article, Grace Honrade, and Atty. Rex Pabaleta, are not from the roster of BOC personnel, whether contractual or permanent.

The BOC advised the public always to check the authenticity of website, sources, and facts of any news they read.

The current BOC leadership has been reminding everyone in the agency to give the public the service that they deserve.



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

PORT SENTINEL

PORT SENTINEL, the official newsletter of the Bureau of Customs is published by Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) with editorial office at Rm. 103 OCOM Bldg., 16th Street South Harbor, Port Area Manila 1009. Tel. Nos: 527-1968/527-8259.

Editor-In-Chief:
Maria Gerty D. Pagaran

Associate Editor:
Mary Joy T. Lopez

Editorial Staff:
Karen April A. Noronio, Writer
Jessil Garlando

Photographers:
Jerome L. Monta
Mark Kevin Pilar

Contributors:
Raiza Dapilin, Writer
Moris Almojuela, Writer
Marife Foloso, Writer

PORT SENTINEL welcomes your feedback. Kindly e-mail to piad@customs.gov.ph



CUSTOMS 101

Importing a Motor Vehicle



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can anyone bring in a motor vehicle?

YES

To be considered brand new, the motor vehicle must be
(a) of current or advance year model in the country of origin and/or manufacture, or

(b) of year model immediately preceding year in the country of origin and/or manufacture with mileage of not more than 200 kilometres and has been acquired by the importer from the dealer as first owner.

Note: Right-hand drive motor vehicles are prohibited in the Philippines (except those admitted to Freeport Zones)

Can anyone bring in a USED motor vehicle?

For automobile (car)- NO. Only those with Certificate of Authority to Import from DTI-FTEB and consigned to the following:

1. Returning Filipino Diplomats and/or DFA officials
2. Returning Filipino Residents who have resided abroad for at least one (1) year [accumulated within 3 years of his/her stay abroad immediately preceding the date of filing of the Certificate of Authority to Import (CAI) at the DTI-FTEB]
3. Immigrants holding 13A or 13G visas or those with dual citizenships
4. SRR Visa Holder under the Philippine Retirement Act
5. 47(a)(2) Visa Holder under the Balik-Scientist Program.

Source: E.O. 156 as amended by E.O. 877-A

Note: Qualifications of a used car allowed for importation in the Philippines:

- (a) Left-Hand Drive;
- (b) has a Gross Vehicular Weight not exceeding 3,000 kgs.;
- (c) has been registered under the name of the qualified importer for at least six (6) months prior to the submission of the application for Certificate of Authority to Import; and
- (d) has a Certificate of Roadworthiness and Emission Compliance (CEC) from the country of origin duly authenticated by the Philippine Embassy abroad (under RA 8749).

For other motor vehicles- YES. But a Certificate of Authority to Import must be secured from the DTI-FTEB prior to importation.

is the imported motor vehicle subject to duties and taxes?

Yes. Whether brand new or used, purchased or donated, the imported vehicle is subject to customs duty (the rate depends on the motor vehicle imported), value added tax (12% of the Landed Cost/VAT Base of the imported goods), and ad valorem/excise tax (for automobile - CMO 29-2014)

Are spare parts sent with the motor vehicle also taxable?

Yes. These are taxed separately.

Are there other charges aside from duties and taxes?

Yes. There are other non-customs charges that may be due on the shipment such as: arrastre charges which may be collected by the arrastre operator; storage and wharfage dues by the shipping lines and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)

How can we inquire for the duties and taxes payable?

Email us at boc.cares@customs.gov.ph. We will provide estimated duties and taxes based on the details that you sent us.



Marijuana package seized in Pasay

A package of gifts which turned out to contain marijuana valued at P335, 490 was intercepted recently by operatives from the Bureau of Customs - Enforcement Group (EG) at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) warehouse in Pasay City.

More than 1,000 grams of dried leaves of cannabis packed in a transparent bag were discovered in the parcel upon examination by the EG.

The shipment, consigned to a certain Tyrone of Bacoor, Cavite, was shipped from California. The sender was identified as Minerva Thomas.

The consignee was immediately arrested while the package was seized and turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Charges will be filed against the suspect for the violation of Republic Act 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016 (CMTA), and RA 9165, or The Comprehensive Dangerous Act of 2002.

BOC busts P2.7-M worth of iPhone 7 Plus, charger

The Bureau of Customs has intercepted 61 units of iPhone 7 Plus and chargers valued at P2.7 million after a Chinese passenger failed to show import documents, including a permit from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Wen Congkai flew on board Xiamen Airlines Flight MF 8667 on July 21 but was stopped at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 when authorities noticed an image irregularity after his baggage underwent an x-ray examination.

Maj. Jaybee Raul Cometa, head of X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP) Unit, immediately 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.

The seized mobile phones and chargers are temporarily deposited at the In-Bond Room at Terminal 1 while pending investigation.

Meanwhile, Cometa disclosed that the bureau would put up brand new 19 brand x-ray machines to curb smuggling in the three terminals of the NAIA.

“These machines will be delivered sometime in August and will be running after installations in NAIA terminals. These necessary steps will support our stronger campaign against the illegal entry of goods to the country,” Cometa said.

The BOC has one x-ray machine each at NAIA Terminal 1 and 2, and two machines at NAIA Terminal 3.

FROM PAGE 1

BOC OPENS

Accomplished Personnel Data Sheet (PDS/CS Form 212 Revised 2017) with attached Work Experience Sheet

- Authenticated copy of Eligibility or License issued by the Civil Service Commission and Professional Regulation Commission, or Certificate of Admission to the Philippine Bar from the Supreme Court
- Certified True Copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma
- Copy of Training/Seminar Certificates
- Certificate of Employment or Service Record (if government employee)

Copy of Performance Appraisal Report for the last two rating periods (for government employees only) Applicants are allowed to apply for one position only. Those who submitted their applications in 2016 must re-submit the required documents, according to HRMD Acting Director Joseph Escasio.

Faeldon said that “external recommendations” are not necessary and should not be among the documents to be submitted to

the BOC-HRMD.

“The BOC adheres to a more stringent process of hiring and promotion. We are looking for personnel who are skilled, educated and with integrity,” the commissioner added.

Applicants who will be included in the short list shall undergo training for six months at the Philippine Customs Training Center (PCTC).

The PCTC was established to train future customs employees in self-defense, lifesaving training, and character building.

The PCTC’s curriculum includes 50% character building and 25% each for capacity and capability development.

The BOC is the only customs administration worldwide without an established training institution.

Faeldon said that employees who undergo training would receive salaries.

“Those who finished the training shall be guaranteed of plantilla positions, and are expected to develop a deeper sense of patriotism, excellence, non-violence, safety, integrity, and leadership,” Faeldon said.

BOC seizes steel pipes worth P1.5M

A shipment of steel pipes worth P1.5 million was seized by operatives of Enforcement Group (EG) and Security Service (ESS) on July 3 at the Port of Davao in Mindanao.

The steel pipes were declared as 2,060 packages of square tubes from Xiamen, China, and consigned to Yagnas o8 Importation Trading located at Purok 17 Blk. 4 Lot 2 Bongbong in Malagamot, Davao City.

The shipper was identified as Shenzhen Chuangfufeixiang Commerce Co. Ltd. with office address at South Wing Fu Bldg. 23A Building State-owned Enterprises, Step Futian District in Shenzhen, China.

The bureau said the importers had no import clearance from the Department of Trade and Industry’s Bureau of Product Standards.

The ESS-Port of Davao headed by Capt. Jerry Arizabal recommended the issuance of a Warrant of Seizure and Detention against the shipment for violation of Section 1113 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) of 2016.

The shipment is now at the container yard of Sasa Wharf holding area to preserve the value and quality of the seized steel pipes. It will be available for auction proceedings and expectedly will contribute to the revenues of the government.

BOC-EG Deputy Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno and ESS Director Isabelo Tibayan reminded the transacting public that the Bureau would not tolerate acts by private entities aim to deceive the government of lawful revenues.



BOC Men's Bowling Team champions PPA bowling tournament

The men's bowling team of the Port of Davao won first place during the Port Users Bowling Invitational Tournament organized by the Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office of Davao (PPA, PMO-Davao).

The tournament held last Saturday, July 8, 2017 was part of the PPA, PMO-Davao's 43rd anniversary celebration.

The Philippine Coast Guard; PPA, PMO-Davao for the 43 years of PPA, PMO-Davao; and BOC-Port of

Davao, along with its stakeholders, participated in the tournament.

BOC Davao also won 2nd runner up for the Women's Category; and Mr. Tocod Derogongan won the Highest Single Score and the Highest Doubles Score, both in the Men's Category.

The event was organized to strengthen friendly ties between Port users.

The Bureau congratulates the

serving the Filipino people.



Port of Davao sends aid for Marawi

BOC Davao employees loaded a truck with donations from its stakeholders. The donations are bound for the internally displaced residents of Marawi.

Since May, Manila Bulletin has reported that about 2,000 families have been displaced in Marawi. Of these displaced families, Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported last June 8 that 10 percent of the families are in evacuation centers.

Previously, the BOC has participated in the Support Our Troops campaign by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). BOC employees and partners donated items for the care and hygiene packages given to soldiers.

The Bureau and its partners hope that the humble donation can help soften the burden of the civilians in Marawi.

BOC ports exceed collection targets for 1st semester

The Bureau of Customs collected more than P212.16 billion in duties and taxes for the first six months of the year, up 11.3 percent from the P190 billion reported during the same period last year.

Of the 17 collection districts, 10 ports have exceeded their collection targets from January to June:

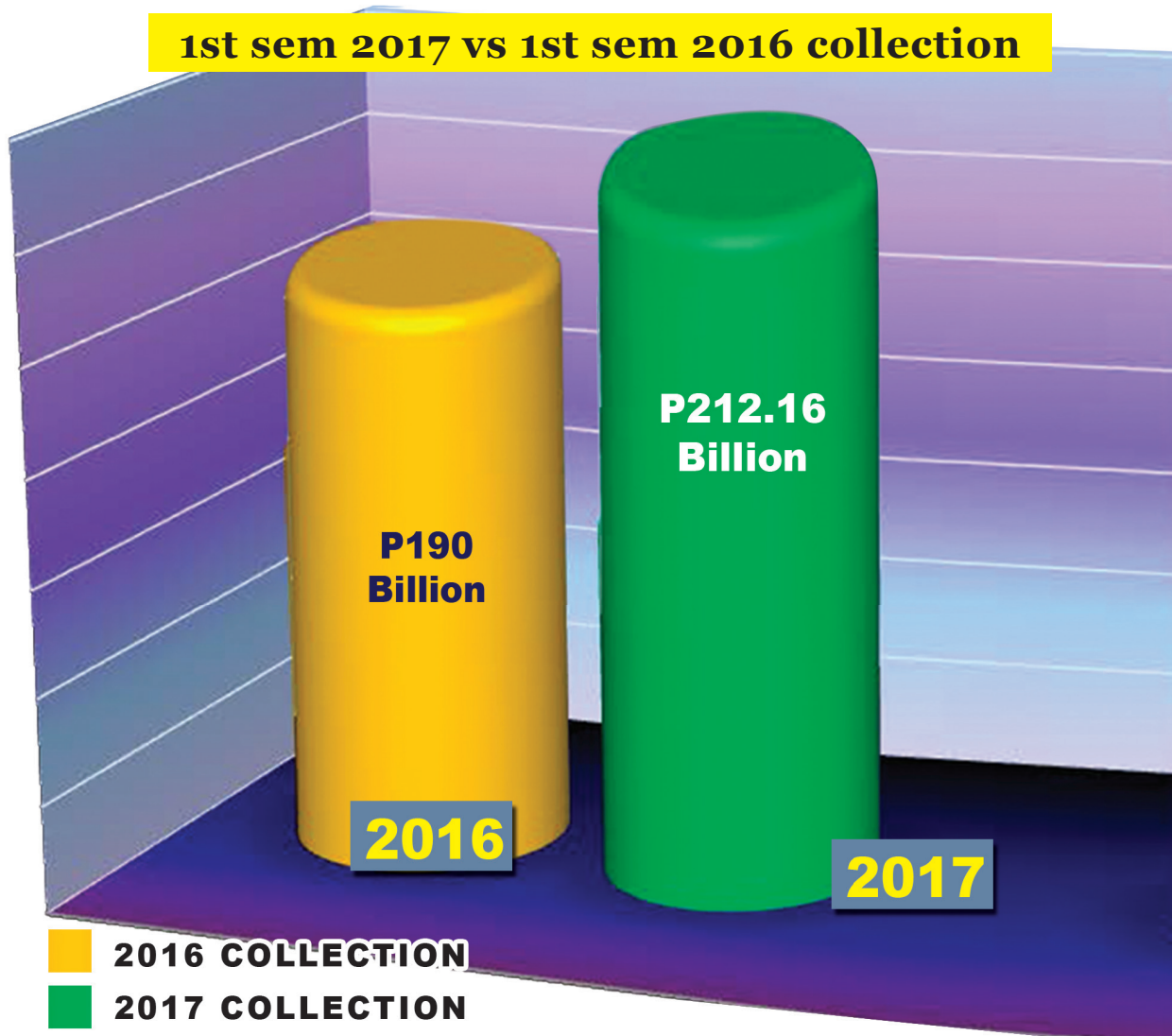
- The Port of San Fernando collected P1.517 billion, up 35.4 percent from P1.120 billion target
- The Port of Legaspi collected P194.5 million, up 58.8 percent from P122.4 million target
- The Port of Iloilo collected P1.213 billion, up 0.7 percent from P1.205 billion target
- The Port of Tacloban collected P169.8 million, up 59.3 percent from P106.6 million target
- The Port of Surigao collected P6.3 million, up 9.7 percent from P5.7 million target
- The Port of Cagayan de Oro collected P6.572 billion, up 20.5 percent from P5.454 billion target
- The Port of Zamboanga collected P229.5 million, up 106.5 percent from P111 million target
- The Port of Davao collected P7.912 billion, up 20.8 percent from P6.548 billion target
- The Port of Subic collected P7.877 billion, up 3.1 percent from P7.640 billion target
- The Port of Clark collected P707.2 million, up 11.7 percent from P633 million target

“I congratulate all our port collectors and employees for their efforts in improving the bureau’s revenue collections,” Faeldon said.

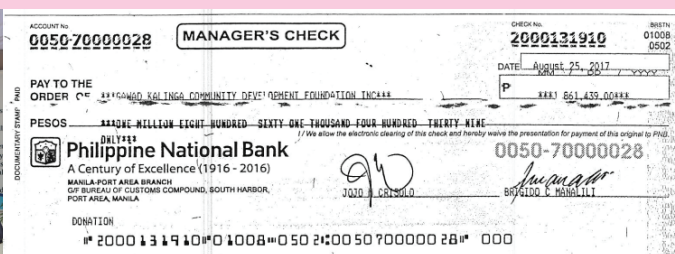
The Commissioner said the BOC was working on several developmental projects designed to beef up the workforce, improve IT systems, modernize facilities and operations, and enforce stricter border security to further improve collections.

The BOC – Finance Service said the bureau has already achieved 97.4% of its P217.96 billion revenue target for the first semester and is expected to improve in coming months.

1st sem 2017 vs 1st sem 2016 collection



BOC sympathizes with victims of Marawi conflict



To help fellow Filipinos in conflict-torn Marawi City, the Bureau of Customs personnel from various ports voluntarily pooled their cash donations and turned it over to Gawad Kalinga’s (GK) Kusina sa Kalinga ng Marawi City program.

The cash donation totaling P1,861,439 aims to augment the expenses to fill the nutritional requirements of kids and families affected in Marawi.

Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon and Deputy

Commissioner Natalio Ecarma III led the turn over of the cash donation which was received by Dan Bercasio of Gawad Kalinga.

“We hope that this donation could help the kids and families that have been displaced since the war between the government and pro-ISIS group began,” Faeldon said.

The war which started on May 23 forced the President to declare martial law in Mindanao.

Public joins BOC run for unity

Thousands of running enthusiasts join the Bureau of Customs during its 3rd fun run on July 2 which started and ended at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

The fun run, held in coordination with Kalayaan Atin Ito Group, has 3, 5 and 10 kilometers race categories.

Dubbed “National Progress through Unity and Patriotism,” the fun run gathered BOC officials and personnel as well employees from other government agencies, various stakeholders, and the public.

This is the BOC’s third advocacy run. The first run was held on December 11, 2016 while the second was conducted on March 25 this year.

Top finishers of the run were awarded with trophies and tokens.

Armed Forces of the Philippines won first place in the platoon run category and received a trophy and a cash gift of P50,000.

The second place went to the Philippine Marines with a cash gift of P30,000 and a trophy while the BOC’s Special Studies and Project Development Committee (SSPDC) placed third with a P20,000 cash gift and a trophy.

Other fun run contingents came from the BOC Enforcement and Security Services and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service.

Capping the event was a speech by Deputy Commissioner Gerardo Gambala who thanked all participants and encouraged them to continue to support the next run.



BOC joins government expo



BOC joins the Kabisig Philippine Gov’t Expo and Trade Fair 2017 at the Activity Center, Trinoma Mall in Quezon City.

The BOC booth showcases the agency’s various projects, programs, and accomplishments and anti-drugs operations. BOC representatives

stationed at the booth provide visitors informative flyers in answer to common queries and personally attend to their Customs-related concerns.

With the theme “Pamahalaan at Mamamayan: Magtulongan para

sa Pagbabago at Kaunlaran,” the expo aims to feature government efforts through various projects and programs pursued by the participating government agencies including LGUs and GOCCs. The event runs from July 17-19.

BOC opens One-Stop-Shop in Subic

The Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic officially opened on June 1 a One Stop Shop (OSS) facility at TIPO Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) gate to improve government service.

The bureau created the OSS facility to replicate the current One-Stop-Shop at the New Container Terminal 1 in Port of Subic which was initiated by International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) in partnership with BOC and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

The new BOC facility houses personnel from Customs Enforcement, Customs Clearance, and X-ray to cater to clients’ needs, especially port users.

The OSS promotes ease of doing business where BOC stakeholders can switch between counters in processing BOC requirements. This means that port users no longer have to travel from one office to another to process their documents. Also, the average one-day processing time of documents will be reduced to four hours.

With the BOC-OSS, importers and brokers can expect shorter document and cargo processing times, thereby improving the overall processing efficiency at the Port of Subic.

Customs Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon and District Collector Carmelita Talusan led the opening of OSS.

BOC presents proposal on agency restructuring

The BOC presented to the Department of Finance on July 6 the proposed Executive Order on the restructuring of the agency. This forms part of the Five Priority Projects of the BOC under Commissioner Nicanor Faeldon

Atty. Althea Acas and Director Corazon Azana led the presentation to DOF Undersecretary Antonette Tionko.



BOC Nationwide Joint Flag Ceremony

