



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

# PORT SENTINEL

Volume 9

Issue No. 60

November 2017



## CUSTOMS SEIZES P107-M WORTH LUXURY CARS

**Eighteen luxury cars worth more than P107 million were seized by the Bureau of Customs due to undervaluation and failure to present the documentary requirement from the Bureau of**

**Internal Revenue (BIR).**

The shipments which arrived at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on separate dates from October 13 to 19 contained twelve (12) units Toyota Land Cruisers, three

(3) units Range Rovers, two (2) units Chevrolet Camaro, and one (1) unit McLaren, all of current models.

According to lawyer Ruby Alameda, district collector of the said port, all shipments were processed by customs

broker Roy Lasdoce and consigned to Gamma Gray Marketing with office address at Room 501, 5th floor, Champ Building, Bonifacio Drive, Anda Circle, Port Area, Manila.

*see Customs seizes > page 7*

### Lapeña denies links to 'solicitation' scheme

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña clarified that there is no truth to the circulating text messages that he is soliciting monetary assistance for charity projects thru a certain individual named Atty. Vasquez.

Lapeña further cautioned the public against unscrupulous individuals who

*see Lapeña denies > page 5*



### BOC foils wildlife smuggling

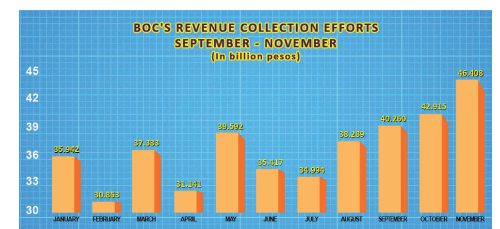
The Bureau of Customs of NAIA intercepted wildlife species contained in outbound parcels on

*see BOC foils > page 7*

### Customs files smuggling case vs luxury car consignee, broker

The Bureau of Customs, through its Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS) under the Legal Service, has filed smuggling charges against Juljerjac Trading

*see Customs files > page 6*



### BOC achieves record-breaking P46.47-B November revenue

Preliminary figures from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) posted anew

*see BOC achieves > page 6*





# LAPEÑA WANTS GATEKEEPERS, CUSTOMS POLICE IN TERMINAL GATES REMOVED

**In a bid to simplify and improve customs processes consistent with trade facilitation, Customs chief Isidro Lapeña on November 27 ordered the immediate removal of some customs personnel assigned at the terminal gates.**

Customs gatekeepers of Pier and Inspection Division (PID) and customs police of Enforcement and Security Services (ESS) are no longer tasked to check the gate pass at the terminal gates.

This after Lapeña in a walk-through inspection at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) yesterday, found out that there is redundancy of workload among BOC employees.

“What they actually do is redundant, because port operators already have a working system to check the entry and exit of containers. If the trucks are given the go-signal to leave the terminals, then we have to release them from the ports at once,”

Lapeña explained.

Lapeña argued document checking on the part of the gatekeepers is no longer necessary because prior to cargo release, the documents have been checked.

Before this new directive came in, gatekeepers prevent shipments with no gate pass to leave the customs zone. Aside from cargo, gatekeepers check among others, the container number and registry number of the carrying vessel.

However, port operators are already equipped with barcode scanning system -a system containing shipment details of containers already marked for release, which the gatekeepers manually check.

Lapeña said the bureau is coordinating with port operators to fully implement the automated system in the terminals.

He adds, “they have been long clamoring that port operations be at par with other countries in terms of



automation. They have been asking the bureau to do away with manual and redundant processes.”

The ESS guards, on the other hand, is in charge of security of the entire port perimeter. The terminals, although managed by private operators, are considered an extension of BOC jurisdiction.

However, Lapeña said that cargoes already allowed or marked for release should no longer be subjected to further scrutiny by ESS guards at the gates prior to their exit.

“I am also hearing negative feedback as to the alleged conspiracy among PID gatekeepers and ESS guards before cargoes are released

at the gates. This has to stop immediately,” Lapeña reveals.

This latest policy pronouncement will be enforced in four pilot ports namely, Ports of Manila and Batangas, having the same terminal operator, the Asian Terminals, Inc. (ATI) and Port of Subic and MICP, with private terminal operator, the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI).

The ports’ respective district collectors are given the authority to determine new tasks for the BOC personnel affected by this new directive to render them effective without redundancy in functions.

## Former PDEA chief, now Customs chief issues protocols on drug ops

**To avoid stepping twice in hot water, the former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) chief now Bureau of Customs (BOC) chief, Commissioner Isidro Lapeña has issued a protocol on the proper handling of apprehended drugs.**

Lapeña signed Memorandum 2017-11-004 to establish proper protocols for the handling of dangerous drugs (DD) and controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs) within the jurisdiction of the bureau.

All suspected DD and/or CPECs discovered by way of regular course of work at the BOC be immediately reported to the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF) for proper coordination with PDEA, the memo stated.

“All shipments found to contain DD and/or CPECs within the jurisdiction of the BOC and intended for controlled delivery, the PDEA shall be the lead agency,” the memo said.

Commissioner Lapeña further emphasized the role of PDEA being the lead anti-drug law enforcement agency in drug apprehensions.

PDEA is responsible for the efficient and effective law enforcement of any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical.

It can be recalled the former Customs Chief Nicanor Faeldon and other BOC employees faced simultaneous Congress and Senate investigations



on the alleged mishandling of the 605-kilo methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) from China.

“To avoid glitch in drug operations, make way and let PDEA stand in front because when it comes to drugs, they know better,” the customs chief said.

The apprehending officer must follow the law stated in RA 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Lapeña added.

PDEA is the responsible agency in filing criminal and civil cases related to drugs for violation of RA 9165 while BOC in filing criminal and civil cases arising from violation of RA 10863 or Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

“Ignorance of the law excuses no one. Let us follow the law and the proper protocol. However, let me also urge our BOC operatives to be always on tight guard so that we can suppress all drug importations right at the port of entry.” Lapeña said to the bureau employees.

FROM PAGE 1

## CUSTOMS SEIZES

The vehicles, which came from Hongkong, United Arab Emirates, and the United States were examined at the container yard at the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) last October 23.

Customs chief Isidro Lapeña said the luxury cars were seized because of undervaluation and failure of consignee to provide the BIR’s Authority To Release Imported Goods (ATRIG).

The ATRIG is an authority issued by the BIR, addressed to the Commissioner, which allows the release of imported goods from the custody of Customs upon payment of rightful duties and taxes or proof of exemption from payment thereof and it must be issued prior to release from the BOC.

Imported motor vehicles, apart from payment of customs duties are subject to the imposition of excise tax, as provided for by pertinent revenue regulations from the BIR.

According to Lapeña, “If we did

not alert these shipments, these could have been released from customs custody without the required ATRIG and correct valuation. The fact that the importer cannot produce the BIR clearance and declare the correct value of shipments send a signal that something is questionable with the shipments.”

Lapeña has also ordered an investigation of the customs broker and consignee’s permit to import luxury cars, to determine their liability and possible violation of Revenue Regulations Nos. 2-2016 and 25-2003 and Sections 1400 of the Republic Act No 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016.

According to Lapeña, “This is a blatant disregard of customs rules on importation. I am sure traders know what is required when bringing luxury vehicles into the country. I appeal to all importers not to disregard customs laws or else you will face the consequences of your malpractice.”





*Mas reachable na ang AMO ngayon.  
Tawagan sila sa mga numerong ito:*

# AMO

Account Management Office

## HOTLINE NUMBERS

PLDT - **(02) 5278402**

SMART - **09216792174**

GLOBE - **09452112427**

## STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY

From the Account Management Office

In support to the anti-fixer campaign of the bureau, effective October 23, 2017, AMO shall transact only with the following:

- a. Those duly designated company personnel/employees with official company ID; or
- b. Those duly authorized by importers/brokers thru a Special Power of Attorney (SPA) or authorization letter with photocopy of the identification card of the importer or broker.



## Customs files smuggling case vs luxury car consignee, broker

for misdeclaring P7.8 million worth of luxury cars.

Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said the criminal complaint is against Julius D. Catalig, owner of Juljerjac, and Rodrigo de Guzman, the customs broker who processed the shipment.

Juljerjac's shipment, according to Lawyer Yassel Ismail Abbas, director of the Legal Service and BATAS executive director, was seized due to misdeclared used black Mercedes Benz, used white Mercedes Benz, wheel, and tires on September 13.

The said shipment declared as containing auto parts arrived on July 29 from Hongkong.

Director Abbas, lawyer Nicay Encinas, and lawyer Anna Puzon led the filing of smuggling charges for violating Section 1400 and 1401 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

"The strong evidence of misdeclaration and unlawful importation warrants the filing of criminal cases against the respondents," Lapeña said.

Commissioner Lapeña has ordered BATAS to speed up investigations on erring importers and brokers and to file necessary criminal complaint against the culprits.

Eyeing the crackdown of smuggled counterfeit items in the country and filing timely criminal charges against them, Lapeña said "this is clear manifestation that we are pursuing the smugglers to the end. They should be held liable for any fraud done against the government."

# COMM. LAPEÑA TACKLES SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BIMP-EAGA MEETING

Addressing social and economic development of the less developed and geographically remote areas, enhancing economic trade and reforms in customs clearance process with Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) are the matters discussed for the 11th BIMP-EAGA Heads of Customs Meeting in Malaysia on November 13-14.

Customs Commissioner Isidro S. Lapeña proposed before other customs leaders a Time Release Study (TRS) on Port Clearance which will measure the duration of the shipment arrival at its destination and its exit from the port.

Similarly, the study will also identify each step in the shipping clearance system. The time for each of these steps will also be measured.

The TRS will help identify both the average processing time of shipments and the steps that take the longest time. The results can help inform policies that can result in faster processing of shipments.

The faster goods reach its destination means goods move faster in the economy which in turn

stimulates economic growth.

Also, Lapeña proposed a bilateral arrangement of the Philippines with Malaysia and Indonesia on Goods in Transit.

Goods in Transit are a product of the bilateral meeting between Indonesia and Malaysia which aims to increase port activity, attract investors, and increase economic activities.

The two-day conference focused on the exchange of best practices implemented in their own Customs offices.

The Philippines highlighted the 5 Points Priority Program outlined by Commissioner Lapeña.

The 5 Points Priority Program includes stopping corruption, increasing revenue earnings, ensuring trade facilitation, strengthening anti-smuggling efforts, and enhancing personnel incentives as its priority agenda.

Further, the Philippine delegation discussed the information exchange programs implemented in the country.

They presented the Customs website which is an information portal where all announcements, memorandum orders, and news are posted for public information.

They also discussed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for Port-to-Port Information Sharing the Philippines has been developing. This TOR will be the standard for information sharing between ports in the BIMP-EAGA.

The delegation is composed of the Commissioner, Internal Administration Deputy Commissioner Gladys F. Rosales, Port of Davao District Collector Erastus Sandino B. Austria, and Assessment Operations and Coordinating Group Administrative Officer Ma. Socorro Bantilan.

The Philippines will host the BIMP-EAGA Customs, Immigration, Quarantine and Security (CIQS) Working Group meeting in 2018.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Lapeña visited the largest port in Sabah Malaysia to observe the best in customs clearance procedures adopted by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department.

Accompanied by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Lapeña said port visits to other ASEAN member-states are important as it helps the Philippines with its plan to modernize and develop its port areas.



STANDING FROM LEFT : MR. YAHYA SULAIMAN, MR. ERASTUS SANDINO AUSTRIA, DR. MOHAMAD HJ SAPRIN, MS. SUSAN CHANG HUAN SOON, MS. SOCORRO BANTILAN, MS. GLADYS F. ROSALES, DATIN HAJAH SHARIFAH HALIMAH TUANKU TAHA, MS. RADZIAH ABDUL RAZAK, MS. NORAZILAWATI ROHANUDDIN, MS. ARROSYI NILASARI, DATO' RUMAINOR SARIF, MR. HJ AWANG @YAHYA HJ ABAKAR, MR. MOHAMMAD AZREY IBRAHIM, MR. MOKTAR IDHAM MUSA, MR. ABDULL WAHID SULONG, MR. NGIAM KIA MIN

SITTING FROM LEFT : DATUK HAJI ROSELAN JOHAR MOHAMED, MR. SHIGEAKI KAMO, MS. NOR HAZIAH ABD. WAHAB, MR. ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA, DATO' PADDY ABD HALIM, PG HAJI MOHD HASNAN PG HJ ALI HASSAN, MR. AGUS SUDARMADI, DATO' HAMZAH SUNDANG, MS. SUSANNA CHEW





## BOC SEIZES P24.2-M WORTH LUXURY CARS, STEEL PRODUCTS

With the marching order of the Secretary of Finance Carlos P. Dominguez to step up drive against smuggling, the Bureau of Customs on November 27, seized P24.3 million worth of used luxury cars and overweight steel products at Manila International Container Port.

Based on reports, Commissioner Isidro Lapena said the shipments came from Australia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and China.

A used 2012 Lamborghini Glardo consigned to a certain Allan Garcia with address at Dolores St. Perpetual Subd. Paligui, Apalit, Pampanga; 2006 Lamborghini Murcielago consigned to a certain Veronica Angeles and a

white 2005 Ferrari F430 shipped to a certain Mary Joy Aguanta.

The shipments, processed by customs broker Christian Lao, and Roy Lasdoce respectively, which arrived in 2016 and May 2017 all came from UAE.

"MICP district collector lawyer Ruby Alameda issued a warrant for seizure and detention on the cargoes because of overstaying in the container yard of ICTSI," Lapena said.

A misdeclared shipment consigned to a certain Dorotea Sadang declared as personal effect and household goods was also busted by the bureau after x-ray machines produced image discrepancy. As per x-ray image, a

vehicle was misdeclared together with personal effects.

Meanwhile, two shipments consigned to Hongtaisheng Steel Inc. was seized due to discrepancy in declared weight.

Commissioner Lapena said the shipments were seized due to violation of Section 1400 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act while the luxury cars were seized "due to overstaying and lack of Authority to Release Imported Goods (ATRIG)."

"These shipments will undergo forfeiture proceedings to know their liability to the government," said Lapena.

FROM PAGE 1

## LAPEÑA DENIES

introduce themselves as members of his staff and ask for cash donations.

The BOC recently received reports from concerned customs brokers that a certain Atty. Vasquez claiming as the chief of staff of Lapeña, called and sent messages asking brokers and importers to give money or donations for charity purposes and/or fundraising efforts allegedly initiated by the customs chief.

According to Lapeña, there is no Atty. Vasquez connected in his office and the alleged charity project is completely a fraud, adding that he does not and will not ask financial favors from anyone.

"I never authorized or ordered

anyone from my office to solicit money on my behalf. I am also not involved in any fundraising activity as reportedly claimed by Vasquez," said Lapeña.

Based on the reports, Vasquez was selling raffle tickets worth P15,000 as church donation and soliciting money for a BOC charity project in Zambales, even mentioning the name of Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle as project partner.

Lapeña adds that this is another modus of scammers.

According to reports, Vasquez sends text and calls using the mobile numbers 09568700861 and 09562181895. Would-be victims are also asked to deposit donations thru

money transfer.

The Commissioner has notified the Enforcement and Security Service of this latest scam attempt and is already conducting investigation.

Lapeña warned the public not to give any assistance in cash or in kind to anyone who will ask for money by using his name and the Bureau of Customs.

BOC stakeholders receiving similar texts and calls are advised to immediately inform the Customs helpdesk, BOC-CARES at 705-6000 or send a message to the official Facebook page, Bureau of Customs PH.

## CDO District Collector: Killed 'customs police' in CDO not a BOC employee

An officer of the Bureau of Customs-Cagayan de Oro (CDO) Port on November 11 denied reports that Roy Etulle Ancajas, alleged BOC employee killed in a shooting incident on November 9, was a member of the bureau's Customs Police.

Alvin Enciso, intelligence officer from BOC-CDO Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) said they received reports that 45-year-old Ancajas was a member of the customs police which prompted immediate verification of his identity.

"Based on our investigation, we discovered that Ancajas is not a member of the Customs Police nor is he an employee of the bureau. There is no record of a BOC employee bearing the name Roy Ancajas," said Enciso.

The Customs Police ID recovered from the crime scene was also fake.

But while the identification card was bogus, the BOC- CDO district collector Jamail Marohomsalic has ordered an investigation on how Ancajas was able to obtain a Customs Police ID and for what purpose.

The alleged signatory to the ID was Special Agent II Pedro Amante Jr., who is the Enforcement Security Service (ESS) administration officer.

"The Customs Police ID should have been signed by the ESS commander since it is under the ESS," Marohomsalic added.

According to the PNP-CDO spot report Ancajas, a resident of No. 122C Cabantan Street, Mabolo, Cebu City, was found unconscious lying in a canal in Barangay Macasandig and had blood on his shirt.

According to news reports, Ancajas might have exchanged gunfire with alleged customs broker Joed Pasasadaba in Barangay Macasandig.

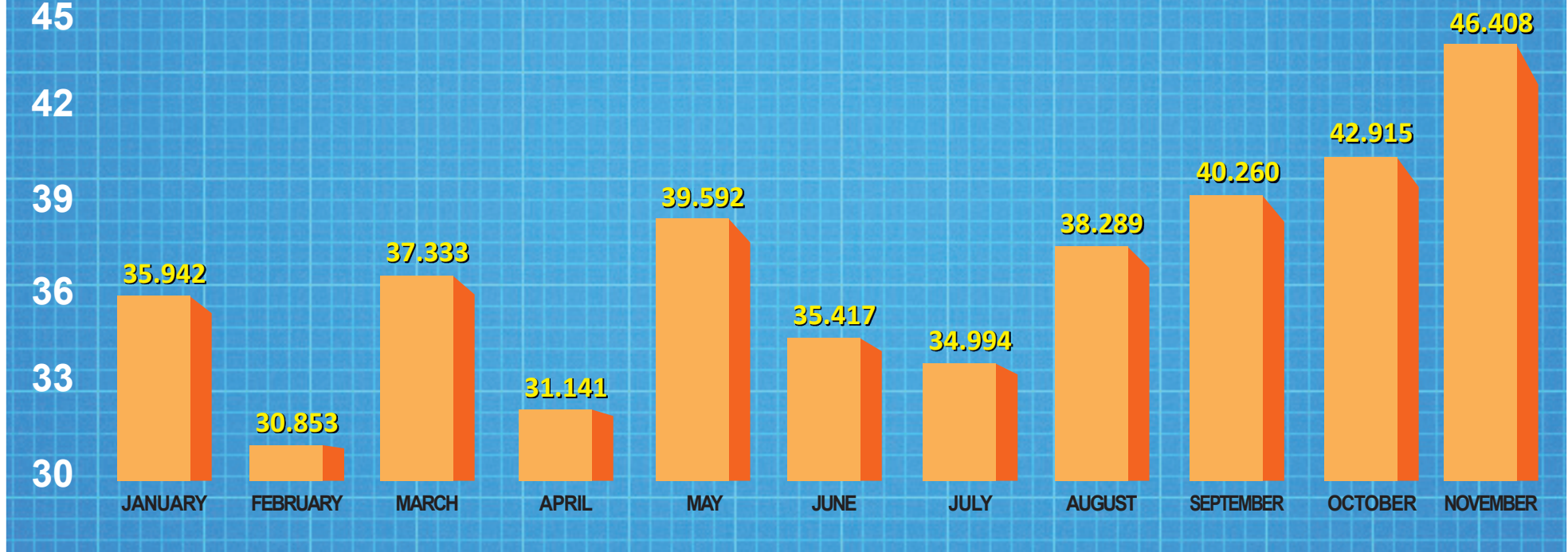
Pasadaba was taken to the JR Borja General Hospital for medical treatment after he allegedly suffered five gunshot wounds.

The authorities are still determining the other facts that led to the shooting incident.



# BOC ACHIEVES RECORD-BREAKING P46.47-B NOVEMBER REVENUE

**BOC'S REVENUE COLLECTION EFFORTS  
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER  
(In billion pesos)**



a milestone after the agency posted P46.470 billion in November, the highest recorded monthly collection in its revenue history.

Based on the data of the bureau's Financial Service, the following ports achieved their monthly collection targets:

- Port of Batangas, with P 13.339 billion collection, 18% higher against its P11.36 billion revenue target;
- Port of Tacloban, with P59 million collection, 177% higher against its P21 million revenue target;
- Port of Cagayan de Oro, with P1.273 billion collection, 1.1% higher against its P1.259 billion revenue target;
- Port of Clark, with P149 million collection, 6.6% higher against its P140 million revenue target; and
- Port of Davao, with P1.56 billion collection, 6.6% higher against its P1.464 billion revenue target.

"We have been achieving historical collection figures since September, but the latest November collection

is really a milestone for BOC, being the highest in the monthly collection ever achieved by BOC. This, despite having only 19 working days. I think we could have surpassed our monthly target if November has the usual number of working days," Lapeña said.

Lapeña said that apart from the efficient collection of the BOC, and the "no tara policy" strictly being enforced, the increase in the November collection is marked by the increase in oil prices.

It is also attributed to the increase in the volume of importation by 7.9% compared to last year's volume of the same period.

Lapeña added that auction proceeds, a non-traditional source of revenue, also contributed significantly to this latest collection feat.

According to the data from the Port Operations Service, for the month of November alone, total proceeds from auction reached P62, 515, 119.12.

Meanwhile, total auction proceeds from January to November was posted at P256, 830,675.91. This collection

came from auction proceedings of the BOC ports nationwide.

It can also be recalled that Customs, thru the sub-port of Iligan, made a successful case settlement with First Nationwide Assurance Company in the amount of P110 million, which is posted as part of last month's revenue.

Past records of the agency's monthly collection only reached more or less P35 billion while daily average collection amounted to only P1.8 billion.

However, upon assumption of Lapeña as customs chief, the monthly and even the daily collections made

records in the bureau's revenue collection history.

September monthly collection was posted at P41 billion while October reached P42 billion.

Last November 3 and 10, the BOC reached its highest daily collection in the amount of P3.045 billion and P3.839 billion, respectively.

"I am really optimistic that by December, the BOC will finally be able to hit, if not surpass its monthly target. Together with all the ports, we are really hoping that we will achieve this."



The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Bureau of Customs

## PORT SENTINEL

Editor-In-Chief:  
**Maria Gerty D. Pagaran**

Associate Editor:  
**Mary Joy T. Lopez**

Editorial Staff:  
**Karren April A. Noronio**, Writer  
**Jessil Garlando**

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.

Photographers:  
**Jerome L. Monta**  
**Mark Kevin Pilar**

Contributors:  
**Raiza Dapilin**, Writer  
**Moris Almojuela**, Writer  
**Marife Foloso**, Writer  
**Tonette Marticio**, Writer

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





FROM PAGE 1

**November 10.**

The seven packages of 3H Enterprises Ltd. bound for Taiwan via China Airlines CI-704 loads 123 Chinese Soft Shell Turtles mixed with live eels.

The turtles reported to originate from Pampanga have no Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) permits which is required before exportation.

"These turtles are regulated exports, a permit from DENR must be secured first prior to exportation, which the exporter failed to comply," NAA District Collector Ramon Anquilan said.

Meanwhile, BOC's Enforcement and Security Service operatives in coordination with the DENR and other Customs offices intercepted outbound wildlife species.

On October 26, a package bound for Sweden declared to contain sweet pastries but was found to contain one pit vipers, four Philippine cobra and 10 sailfin lizards was seized.

On October 30, another parcel containing seven pit vipers bound to China was intercepted after x-ray examination.

All wildlife specimens were properly turned over to the DENR.

## BOC uncovers P3-B smuggled goods in Tondo

**An estimated P3 billion worth of smuggled counterfeit cosmetic products, perfumes, and other merchandise were seized on November 20 by the agents of the Bureau of Customs in Tondo, Manila.**

Agents of Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) confiscated hundreds of boxes of counterfeit goods inside units 8-A, 10-A, 10-B, 18-C, and 18-D, Vicente Tower, 1275 Dagupan Street, Tondo, Manila.

Upon investigation, a certain Justine Lim was identified as the unit owner as well as the owner of the counterfeit goods.

No arrest was made as the alleged owner of the units was not in the premises during the raid.

The goods are said to originate from China, said Intellectual Property Rights Division.

Counterfeit goods are classified as prohibited under the Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

An investigation is now being conducted in relation to the importer's violation of Section 118 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

## BOC SEIZES P 4.6-M WORTH OF SMUGGLED RICE

**The largest rice smuggling activity in Davao was busted by Port of Davao seizing an on transit vessel carrying 250 tons of smuggled rice said to be worth P4.6 million on November 19.**

"The shipment is now in the custody of Philippine Navy in Panacan, Davao City and will be turned over to BOC-Davao for inventory and disposal," Lapeña said.

On November 20, lawyer Erastus Sandino Austria, Port of Davao district collector issued a warrant of seizure and detention against the vessel.

Meanwhile, the twelve (12) crew members aboard the ship claimed they are Filipino citizens but their seafarer's identification and record books suggest they are from Malaysia. The Bureau of Immigration is

set to confirm the nationality and identities of the 12 people on board the apprehended ship.

Further, MARINA XI says that the boat carrying the 5,000 bags of rice is not registered as carrier vessel. All boats and ships, especially those that transport goods are required to register with MARINA.

"The holidays are coming and so are unscrupulous traders. The increase in consumption during Christmas season prompts illegal traders to smuggle more agricultural products," Lapena said.

The cargo vessel was apprehended for violation of Sections 1113 (a) (g) (k) and (l-5) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to NFA Letter Circular No. AO-2013-04-002.







# Awarding of Top Performing Ports

Manila, Philippines

