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CUSTOMS CHIEF: THERE WILL BE TRANSPARENCY ON TCCS

To address transparency in the release of tax credit certificates, Bureau of Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said on Monday, October 23, certificates of tax refund will be publicly awarded during the regular flag raising ceremony.

“For the sake of transparency, I will personally award the TCCs publicly, to inform everyone that there is no monetary consideration behind and it is being released to its rightful claimants,” Commissioner Lapeña said.

Pursuant to Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, Lapeña personally awarded to SL Aboitiz Power and AP Renewables Inc. the tax credits amounting to P35,595 and P5,296,093 respectively covering January to June 2015 input tax refund.

TCCs are documents issued by BOC or issued jointly by BOC and Department of Finance to refund taxes paid by big companies for cases of excess duties, canceled importation, or due to VAT input, or output tax.

It can be recalled that the issue of tax credit certificates came out during the Senate hearing last October 4 concerning TCC normally negotiated to fund “pasalubong” or welcome gifts to new commissioners.

Commissioner Lapeña said he received a tip from a concerned

employee that a certain percentage of the TCCs goes to the pasalubong, “while some are being used as a bait to delay clearance of shipments and to compel big companies to give bribes.”

Lapeña explained that TCCs are usually piled up and are only processed once a new commissioner assumes post.

“There will be no more withholding of tax certificates to prevent avenue for corruption and to give back what is due to the transacting stakeholders: there’s no need for undue delays,” he said.

He also said that delays in processing are the root of graft and corruption.

Among the top priority of the Commissioner is trade facilitation, “there’s no need to give bribes or grease money to facilitate your shipments because that is our job.”

Commissioner Lapeña bared that he will talk to stakeholders whose TCC were put on hold.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Customs Sub-port of Iligan has won a case against the surety company, First Nationwide Assurance Company, and now defunct National Steel Corporation for failure to pay import duties and taxes.

National Steel Corporation has shut down operation since 2000 still with liabilities and obligations to the government.



Commissioner Isidro Lapeña awarded SN Aboitiz Power Benguet, Inc. their tax credit certificate for the refund of their excess payment accruing from January 1 to June 30, 2015.

“We ran after the surety company, First Nationwide Assurance Company, for the payment of duties and taxes. With the sheer dedication and hard work of the bureau employees, the case was settled in favor of the government,” Lapeña said.

The settlement brought an additional revenue to the government amounting to P110 million.

“This amount is significant but not as significant that has been set by the employee of the bureau that can be an example to all,” Lapeña said as he commends Collector John Simon of Port of Iligan, and former CDO District Collector lawyer Ruby Alameda, and the Office of the Solicitor-General.



BOC cautions public against online love scam

The Bureau of Customs warns Filipino and foreign netizens to be wary of unscrupulous strangers online who are luring their victims with fake love and fake promises.

see BOC cautions > page 2

BOC to adapt queuing system, status verification system in FED

Stakeholders of the Bureau of Customs transacting with Port of Manila can now monitor the status of entry documents submitted to the Formal Entry Division using the Status Verification System (SVS).

This after Commissioner Isidro Lapeña has ordered the removal of all 15 sections of the Formal Entry Division of Port of Manila and Manila International Container Port as part of his reform program in the bureau.

“Operational testing of the queuing system and the SVS are being done for a week at the Port of Manila to check if we can use it once FED sections are removed,” POM District Collector lawyer Erelito G. Aquino said.

see BOC to adapt > page 4

BOC sets P42-B record in October collection



The Bureau of Customs has set another milestone after achieving more than P42 billion in revenue collection in October, according to Commissioner Isidro Lapeña, noting that the bureau hit “the highest monthly collection in the agency’s history.”

see BOC sets > page 6

BOC suspends guidelines on duty and tax-free balikbayan boxes

The Bureau of Customs has temporarily suspended the guidelines in the implementation of the duty and tax-free privilege of consolidated balikbayan boxes, following the upsurge of criticisms from overseas Filipino workers (OFW) on the guidelines in availing tax-exempt privilege.

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said the BOC is continuously receiving numerous complaints on the tedious requirements of the bureau to be

granted with duty and tax exemption.

The memorandum states the suspension of Customs Administrative Order (CAO) 05-2016, Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) 04-2017, and the registration requirements of deconsolidators.

CAO 05-2016 and CMO 04-2017 provides guidelines on the implementation of duty and tax-free privilege of balikbayan boxes.

The order requires qualified Filipinos while abroad to submit the

Information Sheet –a detailed list of content on the balikbayan box, a photocopy of the Philippine passport, and a copy of invoice or purchase receipts of the goods to be qualified for the P150,000 tax exemption.

“Although it is our duty to facilitate customs clearance of balikbayan boxes, we cannot set aside the sentiments of our fellow Filipinos abroad,” the Customs chief said.

The drafting team of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act will meet

with the stakeholders for consultation to make the necessary amendments on the CAO and CMO, he added.

“With the suspension of the current procedure on balikbayan box, the previous regulation will be enforced,” Commissioner Lapeña.

The said BOC memorandum circular allows deconsolidators which complied with the registration requirements to be given priority in the release of shipments.

The suspension of CAO 5-2016 and CMO 14-2017 is until March 31, 2018.

FROM PAGE 1

BOC CAUTIONS

“If things are too good to be true, get out, that’s a trap,” said Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña on Thursday after receiving reports of increasing incidents of online scam.

The Customs chief said the agency has recently received a complaint from a scammed resident of Pangasinan by an internet sweetheart who befriended and promised her of a package containing signature bags and gadgets.

The victim was duped to pay P30,000 to a certain Jenalyn Miranda for the release of the package said to be held by customs, however, after paying Miranda via money transfer, the suspects asked for an additional of P80,000 again for the release of the package.

From January to September 2017, the BOC’s helpdesk BOC-CARES received a total of 1263 reports and inquiries on various online scams. From this, there were 412 reports made via phone calls; 159 via emails; while 692 reported similar incidents via social media.

The numbers, however, reflect both verified incidents of scam and those that were merely reported but remained unverified because the caller or the email sender did not provide further details.

Records show that some of the names often used by the scammers are Danica Mae Chavez, James Henry, John Deck, George, Ben Anthony, Jovit Padilla, Luzviminda, Michael Wilson, Lea Gomez, Edward, Jenalyn, Karren, and Rowena.

Also, the common names used as couriers are SpeedEx Cargo, Speed Cargo, Global Express Cargo, Skyline Delivery Express, Express Cargo, Blue Express, Airtrack Cargo, United Global, Alpha Blink, Sky Express, Quick Cargo, Oceanic Delivery, ABC Cargo, Unifed, Link Up Freight, ECC Cargo, ACC Cargo, and Union Cargo.

Department of Trade and Industry-accredited de-consolidators list show no record of the couriers commonly used by the scammers.

Modus Operandi

According to the Enforcement and Security Service, online scams mostly

make use of online dating sites, social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, or through phone calls, text messages, and emails.

The scammer often preys their victims by befriending them online and promising them to send a package containing gifts along with huge sum of money. Bogus receipts and tracking numbers of packages are also sent to the unsuspecting victims.

Others are victimized via text messages or phone calls claiming they have a package held by customs and the victim has to send money to get the package.

“They would usually use the name of the bureau and pose as BOC employees who are asking money to shoulder the “duties and taxes” in exchange for the release of the package”, Lapeña said.

In the case of the victim from Pangasinan, a certain Karen Sanchez introduced herself as a customs employee.

Others are victimized via text messages or phone calls claiming they have a package held by Customs, often citing BOC in Cebu, and the victim has to send money to get the package. The victims are often asked to deposit money through money transfer service or bank accounts in Cebuana, Western Union, or BDO.

The commissioner pointed out that BOC collects customs duties and taxes through accredited agent banks (AAB) and not through personal bank accounts or other money transfer services.

The public is advised to be careful in dealing with “who they interact online and who they transact with”.

“If in case a stranger texted or chatted you of an unclaimed package held by BOC, or there is money in the package, you can double check the existence of the package by reaching the BOC Helpdesk at 705-6000 or by sending us a message at our Facebook page Bureau of Customs PH,” Commissioner Lapeña said.

Victims of online scams are also advised to report the incidents to the cybercrime divisions of the Philippine National Police or National Bureau of Investigation.

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: ⚠

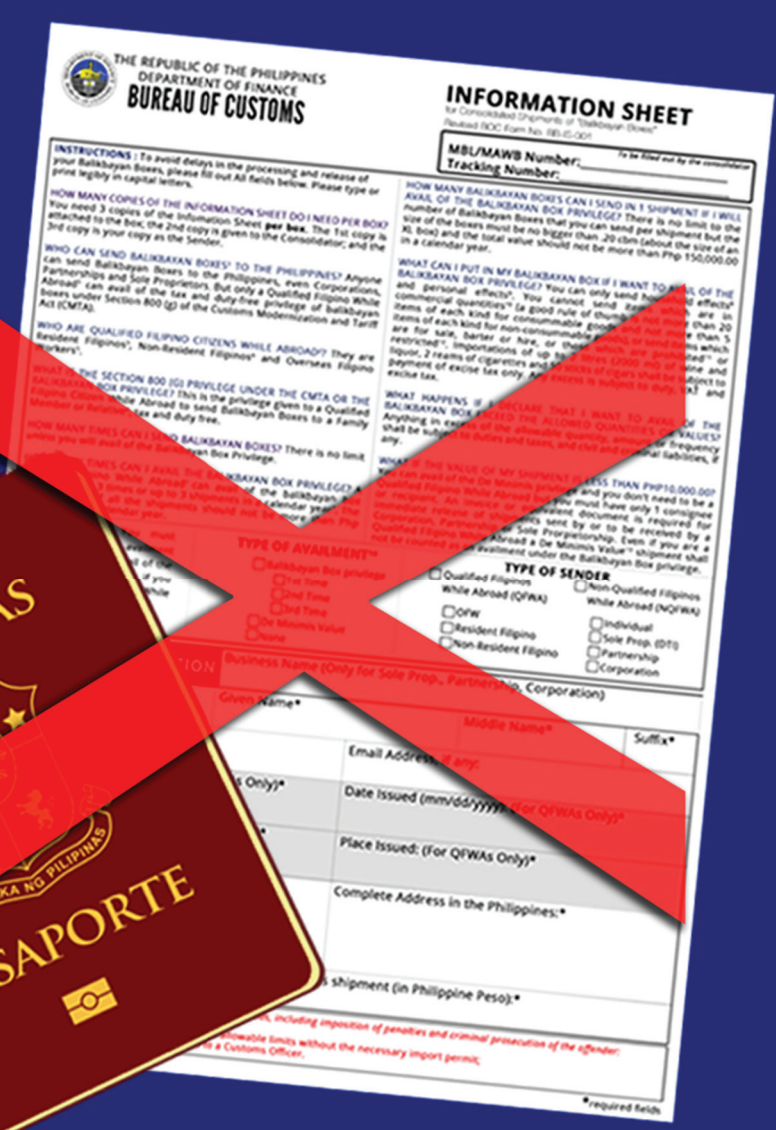
BOC does not ask sender and/or recipients of parcels/packages to send money via personal bank accounts or money transfer to release your items and/or take custody of passengers arriving at the airports. Report any suspected online love scam to PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) at (02) 414-1560.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

BOC CAO 05-2016

Guidelines on sending duty and tax-free balikbayan boxes is **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**



www.customs.gov.ph

[@BureauOfCustomsPH](https://www.facebook.com/BureauOfCustomsPH)

[@CustomsPH](https://twitter.com/CustomsPH)

Infographics courtesy of Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD).



Lapeña reshuffles customs officials

Eight district collectors and 30 section chiefs of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) have been relieved from their posts following the earlier pronouncement of Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña that he will be relieving any officer who will disregard his marching order to meet target collection and to stop corruption in their respective ports.

The district collectors who were axed from their post are: Elvira Cruz of Port of Cebu; Romeo Rosales of Port of San Fernando; Julius Premediles of Port of Limay; Jose Naig of Port of Iloilo; Carmelita Talusan of Port of Subic; Divina Garrido of Port of Legazpi; Halleck Valdez of Port of Zamboanga; and Tomas Alcid of Port of Appari.

Commissioner Lapeña explained the relief of the collectors stated in Customs Personnel Order (CPO) dated October 4, "the collectors were relieved after failing to reach the target collection in their ports for the month of September."

In separate CPOs dated September 27, section chiefs, 30 in all, from the Formal Entry Divisions of the Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port (MICP) were also removed from their posts and reassigned to various provincial collection districts of the Bureau.

The respective FED assistant chiefs of the said two ports were designated as acting chiefs following the major revamp.

Lapeña, during the turnover ceremony of BOC command on August 30 stated that he will give all BOC employees a clean slate. This he announced again in the first flag raising ceremony when he first met the bureau's personnel from POM,

MICP and the BOC collection district of Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The customs chief has repeatedly asked BOC personnel to stop the practice of "tara" and to immediately do away with "benchmarking" and instead apply the correct valuation of goods.

Lapeña said, "I personally monitor the ports including its daily collection performance and it is apparent from the records that benchmarking is still being used in the assessment of duties and taxes. This has to stop immediately."

Meanwhile, some officials from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) which Lapeña previously headed has joined him.

Lapeña, in recent past, said that he will be bringing his trusted people in PDEA to help him implement reforms in the agency.

Melvin Estoque from PDEA Regional Office VII is now the chief of the Account Management Office which is in charge of accrediting importers.

Director Jeffrey Tacio from PDEA Regional Office I have been assigned as the officer in charge of the bureau's Import Assessment Service (IAS). IAS monitors all import values of the goods taken into the country to prevent instances of undervaluation.

Also, PDEA Regional Office IV-B Director lawyer Jacquelyn L. De Guzman is the new officer in charge of the Administration Office.

"There will be more reshuffling if the BOC personnel will not cooperate in the reforms we are making. I told everyone there, I will work within the Bureau. I will be one with them. But we must be all moving in one direction, and that is removing corruption at all levels," Lapeña adds.

BOC seizes P2-B worth fake goods

Various fake goods estimated to be worth more or less P2 billion were confiscated by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on October 12.

Customs agents from the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) uncovered the counterfeit goods stored in hundreds of boxes inside the three units of Huang Lim Hong Lian building at San Vicente St. corner Tomas Pinpin St., Binondo, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Items discovered include fake electronic goods, cell phone accessories, GoPro cameras, headsets, detergent soaps, vape juice, whitening soaps, and other household products.

The brands replicated were from Beats, Apple, Samsung, Adidas, Bose, Oppo, Olay and Aveeno.

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapena said the raid stemmed from tips from brand owner, Unilever, who reported the unauthorized distribution of fake products.

Armed with Letter of Authority no. 10-11-001-2017, 10-11-002-2017, 10-11-003-2017, 10-12-004-2017 and Mission Order no. 10-11-2017-004, 10-11-2017-003, 10-11-2017-002, 10-11-2017-001 issued by the customs chief, the agents of the bureau proceeded with the operation together with the barangay officials and local police of Sta. Cruz, Manila. Lawyer Chuck de Guzman from Unilever and Lee Bumgarner, a product consultant of various branded products including

Apple and Procter and Gamble were also present during the inspection.

"Our ESS and CIIS agents said there was no owner or worker present during the operation," Lapena said.

A certain Brian Lee is the tenant of the raided units, said Barangay Kagawad Jasmin Escoto.

"They are undermining the legitimate brand owners and deceiving the consumers by selling 'fake branded products' in substandard qualities, this is also a violation of Intellectual Property Law and RA 7394," the customs chief added.

To protect the consumers against hazards to health and safety, RA 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines prohibits the distribution of counterfeit items or imitation goods in the country.

"These goods did not undergo quality control, buyers should be more keen on buying fake goods; mura nga pero 'di naman magtatagal, pwede pa itong mag-cause ng sunog at mag-impose ng risk sa kalusugan," Lapena added.

The units will be guarded by the customs police while pending investigation.

"Once issued a warrant of seizure and detention (WSD) these items will be subject to destruction to avoid contact with Filipino consumers," the customs chief said.

Commissioner Lapena lauded the combined efforts of ESS and CIIS in conducting a successful operation against the counterfeit items.

FROM PAGE 1

BOC TO ADAPT

SVS has a tracking system that can identify the current status of the entry documents as well as the timeframe to complete the processing.

The stakeholder needs to log in to the system to access the data in the system.

Under the SVS, valuation of imported goods can be monitored once the examiners or appraisers input the data in the system, whether the particular shipment was benchmarked or grossly undervalued.

Removal of FED Section

Commissioner Isidro Lapena bared the bureau will implement a queuing system to replace the current 15 sections in the formal entry division.

Import entries covering imported goods are submitted and processed at the Formal Entry Division for the assessment of correct valuation, tariff

classification, and customs duties and taxes.

The collusion between and among the stakeholders and customs employees can be prevented due to lesser face to face transaction.

Moreover, the bureau can test the competence and efficiency of the examiners to the new customs law and regulations under RA 10863.

It can be recalled that customs examiners and brokers conspire to "facilitate" the shipment through benchmarking and tara system.

"There will be no more "suki" system, the broker will not know the assigned examiner removing the possibility of conspiracy between both parties," Lapena added.

We are still studying what operational procedure is best to replace the FED Section, "the memorandum will follow next week once the testing is done," the customs chief said.



Customs seizes more than P3-M worth of smuggled goods from China

Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Isidro Lapeña led the inspection of several containers loaded with agricultural parts, automotive parts, used clothing, and fake Nike shoes from China estimated to be worth more than P3 million at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on October 10.

MICP District Collector Ruby Alameda reported eleven shipments were found to contain misdeclared items: four of which are processed by customs broker Toni Rose L. Amoyen with office address at 2006 Del Carmen St. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City and were consigned to Gandar Import and Export Trading with office address at Duhat St. Sto. Domingo Village, P2 Don A Pilar Sasa, Davao City and JJTS International Trading with office address at Breb II Bldg. Unit 202, M. H Del Pilar St. Santolan, Malabon City and the remaining shipments by customs broker Mary Faith Duran Miro with address at Roosevelt St. Tulic, Argao were all consigned to Malaya Multi-Purpose Cooperative located at Mapaniqui, Candaba, Pampanga.

BOC Commissioner Lapeña said the shipments were seized after customs examiners found irregularity in the declared weight.

“The container weighs more than the declared weight in the entry declaration that’s why it was physically examined, it was through profiling that we were able to intercept the goods,” Lapeña said.

The shipments consigned to Gandar Import and Export Trading were all declared as fabrics but were found to contain used clothing, fake Nike shoes, auto parts, roll of fabrics, as well as rice.

Also, the shipment declared as fabrics, apparels, and LED lamps consigned to JJTS International Trading was loaded with misdeclared onions and fabrics.

While Malaya Multi-Purpose Cooperative declared the imported goods as fresh apples, pears, and frozen pork cheek meat, the physical examination conducted by the examiners revealed fresh apples mixed with white onions, apples mixed with carrots, and pears mixed with white onions.

During the inspection, Customs Commissioner Lapeña said all shipments will undergo seizure and forfeiture proceedings after violating Section 1400 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016, and Intellectual Property Law.

“The fake Nike shoes will be turned over to the Intellectual Property Rights Division for proper disposal while the onions, pears, carrots, and used clothing will be destroyed,” the customs chief said.

After the forfeiture proceedings, the rice, general merchandise, fabrics and the auto parts will be subject for auction to indemnify the government of the duties and taxes due on the shipment, he added.

The consignees and their customs brokers are also under investigation for smuggling-related cases.

Lapeña noted, the rampant smuggling of agricultural products and smuggled counterfeit goods have an “adverse effect on the local farmers and legitimate brand owners in the country.”

“This should discourage businessmen and traders who are into illicit trade. BOC will detect these shipments and catch up with them,” he added.

BOC intercepts P25-M worth of smuggled goods

Several shipments loaded with various goods estimated to be worth more than P25 million were intercepted by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on separate occasions at the Manila International Container Port (MICP), in effect preventing the entry of such smuggled products into the Philippine market.

Customs commissioner Isidro Lapeña on Monday led the inspection of the containers discovered to be loaded with agricultural products, liquors, auto and aircraft parts, and other general merchandise.

Lapeña said the successful apprehension of the shipments was the result of the intelligence operations and credibility checking made by BOC agents at the MICP. Previous declarations of the consignees were also crossed-check.

According to MICP District Collector lawyer Ruby Alameda, there were eleven shipments held at the port for misdeclaration and lack of required import permits.

Two shipments, consigned to JJTS International Trading and both declared as woven pile fabrics were found to contain

onions. Four other shipments declared as fabrics and lead lamps were found to contain auto parts, glue machanier, peking ducks, tissue and again, onions. All said shipments were processed by customs broker Toni Rose Amoyen.

Another shipment declared as fresh pears and apples consigned to Malaya Multipurpose Cooperative, and processed by customs broker Mary Faith Duran Miro, was later discovered loaded with onions and carrots.

Meanwhile, shipments declared as bags, plastic films, fabrics, and writing paper consigned to Zafari Trading, and processed by customs broker Christian Pacheco dela Cruz, were found to contain raw tobacco and cigarette brands Mighty and Jackpot.

A shipment processed by customs broker Norhata Macabato and consigned to Sphere Tucan Enterprise was also seized for containing liquors distilled spirits instead of liquors and still wines.

Knock-down used aircraft and parts were found in a separate shipment processed by Antonio Enriquez consigned to

Greenfive Trading Corporation which was declared as aluminum waste and scrap.

Alameda said that the seized goods came from China, Vietnam, Singapore, and Guam.

According to Commissioner Lapeña all shipments will undergo seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of pertinent provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

After the forfeiture proceedings, the general merchandise, fabrics and the auto parts will be auctioned to the public to indemnify the government of the duties and taxes due on the shipment. Meanwhile, the onions, pears, and carrots shall undergo destruction as provided by the applicable provision in the CMTA.

“I have told Atty. Alameda to ensure that a thorough investigation be conducted. The consignees and the customs brokers involved in these importations must be investigated. I have also agreed to her recommendation to suspend their accreditation from BOC,” Lapeña added.



BOC SETS P42-B RECORD IN OCTOBER COLLECTION

Based on Financial Service initial report, Lapena says the agency improved its cash collection, beating the earlier P40.182 billion posted in September.

The bureau posted a total cash collection of P42.006 billion, achieving 98% of the target cash of P42.540 billion based on Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF).

Based on previous months, the average monthly collection of the BOC is only at P35 billion.

“Although the month of October was marked with lesser number of working days and volume of imports, growth was still achieved because of increase in the value of imports brought by the higher exchange rate, oil price, and improved valuation and classification,” Lapena bared.

He further notes, “slowly, the reforms we have started are gaining ground.”

It may be recalled that upon his assumption on August 30, one of his five priorities is to discontinue the benchmarking of duties and taxes and to strictly adhere to the WTO Valuation Code and classification of goods.

WTO Valuation provides a valuation system that primarily bases the Customs value on the transaction value of the imported goods, which is the price actually paid or payable for the goods when sold for export to the country of importation, with certain adjustments, which is incorporated in Section 700-706 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

According to the customs chief, the Bureau is presently coming up with a uniform application of the rules in valuation to provide a fair playing field among the stakeholders.

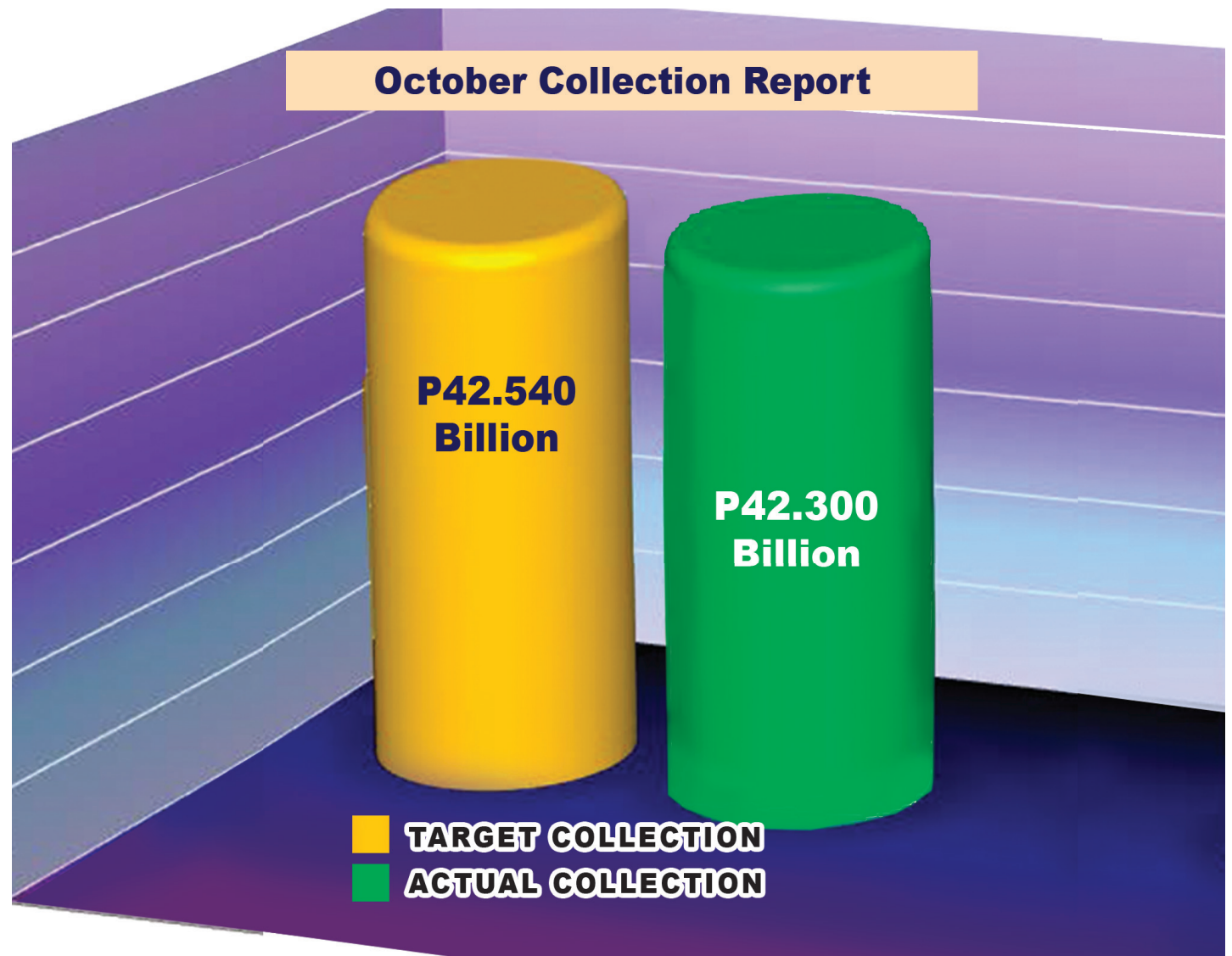
This is seen to boost confidence in the business sector which could lead to more investment and even more employment opportunities.

Also, the customs chief, at the start of his assumption, made it known to everyone in the bureau and among the stakeholders his top policy which is to stop corruption.

“No Tara” or no grease money policy was rolled out. This directive aims to shorten business processes and lower business costs.

Lapena says, “I believe that if there is difficulty and slow processes, people look for faster service, that’s why there is tara, and there will always be corruption. I am ensuring faster service and reduced requirements in doing business with the Bureau.”

“Our latest revenue performance only shows that if we work together, nothing is impossible,” he adds.



Lapeña signs memo to fast track doc processing

In line with President Duterte’s order to shorten processing time for letters, requests, and permits, Commissioner Isidro Lapeña has signed a memorandum to fast-track the document processing time.

Pursuant to RA 6713 known as Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards from Public Officials and Employees, RA 9845 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and SONA Directive No. 2017-0010 of Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, on October 23, the BOC released Customs Memorandum Order No. 24-2017 setting a “5-day mandatory timeframe to respond to all clients, be it external or internal.”

Communication letters, requests, and other permits shall be acted by the concerned office within five days upon receipt of documents.

“When there’s delay, there is grease money,” the customs chief said in one of his speech before the

employees of the bureau.

Commissioner Lapeña said the delays have caused the importers to resort to bribery, “they are looking for people who can facilitate their shipments and documents.”

Once shipments are “facilitated”, most of the times they [the importers] resort to benchmarking, one of the reasons why the bureau cannot hit the target set by the Department of Finance, he said.

Moreover, the customs chief has given orders to the Account Management Office (AMO) to streamline the procedures in the accreditation of importers and brokers.

Pertaining to AMO as the first show window of the bureau, Lapeña criticized the said office for the delays, stressing that it takes a month or two before the documents are released.

“Once documents are complete,

the processing time shall start and it should not exceed five days,” he added.

The customs chief bared that applicants can proceed to the Office of the Commissioner if their permits were not yet released by AMO within the 5-day timeframe.

“The Bureau of Customs is now two steps in eradicating the century-practice of graft and corruption in the agency,” said the customs chief.

It can be recalled that the bureau chief recently sacked a MICP employee for alleged corruption, and has issued guidelines on the processing time of documents in the bureau.

Commissioner Lapeña challenged the BOC personnel to deliver a people-friendly public service to the public.

“As public servants, we have to deliver what we are supposed to perform,” the Customs chief added.



PH Customs hosts 27th ASEAN CCC Meeting, discusses trade and border facility

Representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gather at the 27th ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs (CCC) on 24 to 26 October 2017 to discuss and finalize pressing issues and other topics tackled during the 26th CCC meeting.

Acting as a preparatory meeting for the upcoming ASEAN Customs Directors-General, the attendees will discuss customs integration, interoperability between member countries, and customs enforcement.

One of the objectives of the meeting is to strengthen the relationship between customs administrations, advocate further simplification of customs procedures, implementation and updates on plans agreed during the previous CCC meetings.

In the speech of Bureau of Customs' Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group Deputy Commissioner, lawyer James Dy Buco said the commitment of the members will strengthen one genuine ASEAN.

The three-day close door meeting will focus on building measures to facilitate trade and security for trade supply chain, standardize and simplify customs procedure, prevent counterfeit items and protect the environment.

"There's a pressing risk in the global movement of counterfeit products, illegal shipments, and dangerous goods that needs to be addressed through cooperation with other ASEAN members," Dy Buco added.

CCC is one of the three levels of customs meeting focused on providing policy and strategic plans of ASEAN.

Also present are representatives from Australia, China, and Japan for sharing of information and expertise between them and ASEAN.

Indonesia holds the current chairmanship of the ASEAN CCC meeting.

Previously, Customs Cambodia hosted similar meeting on April 25-27, 2017 at Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Customs turn over P3-M seized drugs to PDEA

Armed with the marching order of the President Rodrigo Duterte to stop the proliferation of drugs in the Philippines, the Bureau of Customs have turned over P3, 027,570.00 worth of seized illegal drugs to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on October 10.

Five parcels of marijuana and one ecstasy parcel at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) have been intercepted by customs agents after x-ray machines showed image irregularities.

The parcels were either declared as food additives, apparels, handbags, and school supplies. The seized marijuana weighed a total of 10,091.9 grams.

The consignees of the parcels are Mark Dinglasan (ecstasy)

with address at 435 F. Ortigas St., Hagdang Bato Townhomes, Brgy. Hagdang Bato Itaas, Mandaluyong City; Joel Shila with address at 52 Panorama St. SSS. Vil. Marikina City; Vicky Alvarez from 14 Sto. Nino St. Marikina City; Kim Equipado with address at Blk 7 Lot 6 Rivotorio St., Brgy. Maharlika, San Juan; James Garcia; and Divino Peleo.

"Some of the parcels which arrived at CMEC are from USA," Commissioner Isidro Lapena said.

After undergoing x-ray examination, customs examiners conduct a physical examination with the presence of the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Taskforce for confirmation of illegal substances, Lapena bared.

"The subsequent tests conducted

by PDEA revealed positive reactions to drugs that's why the packages were seized," the customs chief said.

Charges will be filed against the consignee for violation of provisions of RA 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and RA 9165 otherwise known as Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002.

Under Republic Act 9165, marijuana is classified as a dangerous drug.

Section 119 (d) of CMTA states that marijuana and other habit-forming drugs are classified as prohibited imports.

The seized parcel has been turned over to PDEA for proper disposal.

Php 2.5-M worth misdeclared medical device busted at NAIA

The Bureau of Customs Collection District III recently intercepted P2.5 million worth misdeclared Hypothermia medical device at NAIA Terminal 1.

Schilling Florian, a passenger of flight TG 620 from Bangkok Thailand was stopped by customs authorities after x-ray machines gave image irregularity.

Florian failed to declare his

baggage in the customs declaration form giving BOC authorities the right to stop him and inspect his baggage, Commissioner Isidro Lapena said.

The customs appraiser assessed the duties and taxes of the medical device at Php 330,338.

The items are now in the custody of BOC-NAIA In-Bond Section for proper disposition after the passenger failed to pay the assessed duties and

taxes due to insufficient cash on hand.

"We are expecting more apprehensions since passengers normally misdeclare dutiable items," the customs chief said.

Recently, the bureau installed new x-ray machines at the three terminals of NAIA following the order of non-intrusive examination of the President on the baggage of arriving tourists and passengers.



27th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs

October 24-26, 2017 | Manila, Philippines

