

# CUSTOMS

## GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



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**BOC Surpasses February Collection Target, Garneres P63B in Revenue****February 2023****P63.015 Billion****P61.827 Billion - Target Collection**

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) exceeded its Php 61.827 billion target by collecting Php 63.015 billion in revenue for February based on a preliminary report.

Compared to the Php 59.433 billion posted last February 2022, the Bureau increased its collection by Php 3.583 billion.

As of February 28, the BOC already garnered a total revenue of Php 133.380, up by Php 8.641 billion from its target of Php 124.738 for the first two months of the year.

“We will continue to innovate and implement sustainable reforms to boost the Bureau’s collection efficiency, which will contribute to the expansion and recovery of our national economy,” says Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio.

“For this to be possible, we will also prioritize fostering a healthier trade environment through enhanced and modernized mechanisms for efficient trade facilitation and improved Customs operations for all our stakeholders,” he added.

Aligned with the overarching directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Commissioner Rubio leads the BOC in boosting revenue collection, enhancing trade facilitation, and strengthening border protection while upholding good governance and curbing corruption.

**BOC Exceeds January Revenue Target; Strengthens Border Control Measures****BOC SURPASSES  
FEBRUARY REVENUE  
COLLECTION****January 2023****P70.365 Billion**P62.911 Billion - Target Collection | **P7.453 Billion - Surplus**

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) posted P70.365 billion in revenue collection for January, up by 11.8% or P7.453 billion from its P62.911 billion target based on a preliminary report.

With a revenue of P58.346 billion posted in January 2022, the Bureau increased its collection by 20.6% or P12 billion this year.

In January alone, the BOC conducted 36 apprehensions and seized approximately P908.137 million worth of various commodities in violation of the Republic Act No. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Among the seized goods were P794.463 million worth of smuggled agricultural products and P104.833 million worth of illegal drugs.

**BOC Automates Post Clearance Audit; Plugs Revenue Leakages**

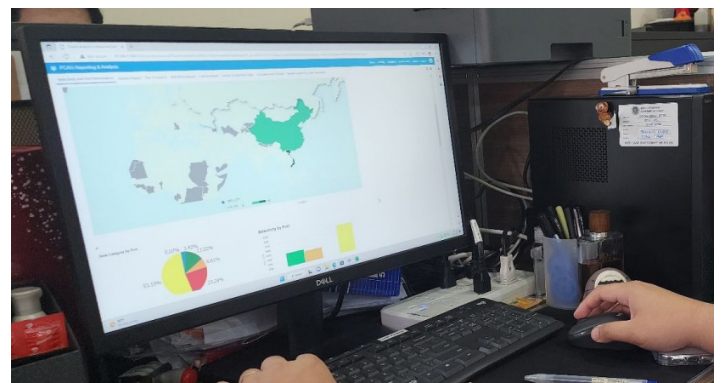
The Post Clearance Audit Group-Trade Information and Risk Analysis Office (PCAG-TIRAO) of the Bureau of Customs today reported 492 importers recommended for post-clearance audit in 2022.

The move resulted from the BOC’s improved Computer-Aided Risk Management System (CARMS) that determines import transactions that pose revenue-related red flags. The system ensures the recovery of the deficient duties and taxes and the imposition of sanctions provided in the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

The BOC launched the system in 2022 pursuant to Customs Administrative Order 01-2019.

The system aims to automate and computerize the process of risk profiling analysis and selectivity, resulting in identifying potential priority audit candidates.

It can determine transactions manifesting potential revenue leaks arising from possible undervaluation of customs value and other components of the dutiable value and landed cost.



## BOC Continues to Implement Trade Facilitation Programs



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) digitalizes customs processes and operations to enhance its trade facilitation mandate.

Seven digitalization projects were implemented in 2022, namely Liquidation and Billing System (LBS), Electronic Customs Baggage and Currencies Declaration (iDeclare) System, Raw Materials Liquidation System, National Customs Intelligence System (NCIS), E2M-ETRACC Integration, Payment Application Secure 6 (PAS6), and ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) System.

The LBS is a platform the Bureau's Liquidation and Billing Division uses to send notices and demand letters as needed.

The iDeclare allows passengers and crew members to submit their baggage and currency declaration forms before arrival and departure.

The Raw Materials Liquidation System determines the volume and value of the raw materials exported and subject to liquidation, including the duties and taxes due on the allowable residues/wastages/by-products and other portions of the imported article/s entered through warehousing but no longer usable for the manufacture of the articles for export.

The National Customs Intelligence System (NCIS) stores data from all the Intelligence sources via web forms and excel format.

The Electronic-2-Mobile (E2M) – Electronic Tracking of Containerized Cargo (ETRACC) System integration allows E2M to exchange data with the ETRACC to provide and capture the actual arrival time of containers at the destination.

The Payment Application Secure 6 (PAS6) is an upgraded version of the Payment Application Secure 5 (PAS5) system for more efficient payment facilitation. The added feature ensures an accurate and immediate exchange of transaction information on the assessment details of payable duties and taxes.

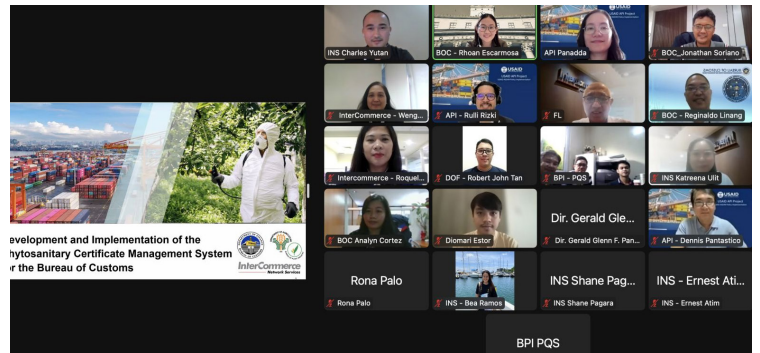
Lastly, the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD), a digital tool that exchanges customs declaration documents with ASEAN states, is expected to improve bureaucratic efficiency and reduce barriers to entry.

In connection with the digitalization program of the BOC, the Bureau continued to facilitate the onboarding of Trade Regulatory Government Agencies (TRGA) into the National Single Window (NSW).

## BOC and DA-BPI Begin Work to Facilitate the Exchange of Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate in Asean

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) conducted a virtual kick-off meeting that aims to facilitate the Philippine participation in the cross-border exchange of the electronic Phytosanitary Certificate (e-Phyto) among ASEAN Member States via the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) System.

Representatives from the DA-BPI headed by Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban, including officials from BOC, the Department of Finance (DOF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – ASEAN Policy Implementation (API) Project, attended the kick-off meeting.



## BOC Collaborates With PTTC, ARISE Plus Philippines for Trade Facilitation



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), with the support of the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the ARISE Plus Philippines Project, jointly organized a national workshop to facilitate trade in the country.

The workshop focused on the Fundamentals of Supply Chain and Logistics Management for E-Commerce, Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), and Integrated Risk Management System (IRM) Programs for key officials of the BOC and other Philippine Trade Regulatory Government Agencies (TRGAs).

It supported the BOC and TRGAs in creating new policies and procedures for trade facilitation in the Philippines, focusing on E-Commerce, AEO, and IRM programs. It also raised awareness on applying supply chain and logistics concepts.

Asst. Secretary Glenn Peñaranda, DTI's Officer-in-Charge for Trade Promotion, said the session provided trade-related assistance in supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and helped their business thrive in ASEAN and the international market.

The sessions focused on Supply Chain Management Fundamentals, Logistics Management Principles, and Practical Use Cases of Supply Chain and Logistics Concepts in the Private Sector, as explained by Cris John Garcia from the DTI-PTTC.

# Rubio Assumes Office as Customs Commissioner

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has thrown his full support behind Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio, tasking the newly installed chief of the government's second largest tax agency to prioritize digitalization.

"Today, the Department of Finance is honored to welcome the appointment of Mr. Bienvenido Rubio as the new chief of the Bureau of Customs," Diokno said in a speech delivered by Finance Undersecretary Bayani Agabin during the ceremonial turnover, Monday, Feb. 13.



"I am confident that Commissioner Rubio will take on this mission with utmost commitment, integrity, and excellence," he added.

Diokno said modernizing Customs administration must be a key priority of Rubio, adding that digitalization will be a defining factor in the Marcos administration's bid to achieve modern governance. "A digital customs administration allows the government to focus its resources in the identification of higher risk entities, while enhancing the ease of doing business," Diokno told Rubio.



The finance chief also expects Rubio will bring in a fresh vision to the Customs bureau. "As we enter 2023, I trust that Commissioner Rubio will bring in a fresh vision and even loftier targets to move the Bureau closer to the goal of becoming a modern and world-class Customs agency that ranks among the best in the world," he said.

Rubio is no stranger to customs administration after serving as director of the Port Operations Service of the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group.

"Rest assured that the Department of Finance will continue to stand in full solidarity with the Bureau in catalyzing better facilitation of trade and investment in the country. Together, let us make our country proud through honest and selfless public service," Diokno said.

In his speech, Rubio vowed to accomplish President Marcos' four directives: hit and surpass the revenue target, simplify and secure the facilitation of trade, curb smuggling of any form, and uplift the morale of the men and women of the Bureau.



Aligned with the Priority Programs of the President, Rubio said he would also push for good governance by implementing sustainable reforms, which include: review and revision of policies and procedures by digitizing all the BOC processes geared towards the President's call for a transparent and efficient government, enhancement of the competencies and integrity of personnel to ensure the delivery of quality public service, foster a data-driven culture to ensure the utilization of data gathered in the decision-making at every level of the organization, linking actions and heeding feedback and evaluation from partners and stakeholders.



"To my co-workers, it is time to make that pivotal change; to catapult the BOC as a forefront in revenue collection rather than corruption. To achieve that 180-degree turnabout, this aspiration requires each and everyone's hard work, dedication, and cooperation," said Rubio.

"Together, with all of you – my trusted colleagues, along with the guidance of the Secretary of Finance and the unending support of our stakeholders, I am certain that we will continue to flourish, united and stronger, toward implementing our priority programs for the Bureau of Customs," he added.

Rubio started as a Special Agent 1, an entry-level position, under the Enforcement and Security Service 21 years ago and rose from the ranks. His years in service equipped him with extensive experience in intelligence and operations work.

## PBBM Conveys Support for BOC, Commends Accomplishments

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday lauded the accomplishments of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and commended its officials and employees during its 121st Founding Anniversary Celebration.

Speaking through Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno during the event, the President said that BOC's more than P862 billion revenue collection, 34 percent higher than the P643 billion it collected in 2021, was "commendable."

"In fact, I note that all your collection districts have surpassed their individual revenue targets in 2022, which enabled the Bureau to exceed your annual target for the year," he said.

Last year, the BOC posted its highest revenue collection in history, enabling local governments to generate more employment opportunities, build more infrastructure, and provide better welfare support for the people.

Aside from the improved collection performance, the President highlighted the Bureau's gains in protecting the country's borders.

"In 2022, the Bureau of Customs' Anti-Smuggling Campaign has recorded 729 apprehensions with a total estimated value of more than 24 billion pesos, which I hope you will further sustain and toughen in the years ahead," he said.

"I am thus very pleased as we recognize these and all the other achievements of the Bureau of Customs," he added.

The President vowed to continue his unwavering support for the BOC and the reforms being undertaken by its leadership.

"Rest assured that this administration will give you its unreserved support for the realization of your vision to achieve a modernized and credible Customs administration through enhanced trade facilitation, strengthened border controls, and improved collection of lawful revenues," the President said.

## BOC Celebrates 121st Founding Anniversary

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) capped its 121st Founding Anniversary on Tuesday by showcasing its Customs Operations Center (COC) and recognizing the services of its collection districts and offices on February 7.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Guest of Honor and Speaker, was represented by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno. Also present was Albay Representative Joey S. Sarte Salceda, chair of the House of Representatives' committee on ways and means.

The BOC showed the technological capabilities of its Customs Operations Center (COC), the command-and-control hub of the intelligence and enforcement operations of the BOC's 17 Collection Districts.

The Enforcement and Security Service, Environmental Protection and Compliance Division, Customs Intelligence, Investigation Service, and the Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force of BOC were also awarded for strategic execution of border-protection-related operations.

The BOC anniversary adopted the World Customs Organization (WCO) theme for the year 2023 - "Nurturing the Next Generation by Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs."

Officers of the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), and Interim Internal Quality Management System Office auditors were also recognized for their exemplary performance in the delivery of their duties and functions.



## BOC-Port of Batangas Seizes Vessel, P261-M Worth of Smuggled Sugar



The Bureau of Customs-Port of Batangas seized vessel “MV SUNWARD” loaded with 4,000 metric tons of Thailand White Refined Sugar on January 14.

The vessel arrived in the Philippine contiguous zone without a Notice of Arrival as prescribed by existing customs laws, rules, and regulations.

Based on the information provided by the Sugar Regulatory Board, the cargo has no import permit. The sugar was packed in 80,000 bags.

District Collector Ma. Rhea M. Gregorio immediately issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention in violation of Section 117 and Section 1113 (k), (f), and (l) of the CMTA in relation to the Department of Agriculture- Sugar Regulatory Authority and Bureau of Plant Industry rules and regulations and R.A. 10845, also known as the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016 and Food Safety Act of 2013.

As an ISO-Certified Port, Batangas has a full proof system that safeguards its area of responsibility against attempts to smuggle prohibited and regulated goods into the country. This airtight system has yielded positive results for the Port.

## BOC Seizes P150-M Worth of Agricultural Products in 24 Warehouses in Metro Manila

A series of inspection of 24 warehouses in Metro Manila on Friday, February 17, 2023, yielded more or less P150 million worth of agricultural products as the Bureau of Customs (BOC), under Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio, intensified its efforts to curb agricultural smuggling.

Agents of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP), the Philippine National Police-Crime Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) implemented the Letters of Authority (LOAs) on 24 warehouses and storage areas believed to be in possession of P150 million worth of smuggled agricultural products, such as fresh onions and fresh garlic.

“We will be relentless in the fight against agricultural smuggling. Rest assured that the BOC is steadfast in patrolling our borders and protecting our local farmers against illicit traders of agricultural products,” Commissioner Rubio said.



Intelligence Group Deputy Commissioner Juvymax Uy said the successful operations wouldn't be possible without the leadership of Rubio.

“The good commissioner is very determined and is, in fact, pushing the bureau harder to fulfill our thrust of border protection. His understanding of the importance of acting swiftly on the information we receive on a daily basis led us to the discovery of hundreds of millions worth of smuggled agricultural products in just one day,” he added.

The warehouses, majority of which were located in Tondo, Manila, while one each in Malabon City and Binondo, were found with fresh onions, fresh garlic, and other products.

## BOC Port of Manila Seizes 25,000 MT of Nickel Ore for Export

The Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of Manila (POM) seized a foreign registered vessel docked off the coast of Zambales and its cargo of 25,000 metric tons of nickel ore on January 17.

The vessel was docked near the DMCI Wharf in Bolitoc-Longis, Sta. Cruz, Zambales, which is under the jurisdiction of the subport of Masinloc. It is loaded with nickel ores without permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The shipment was consigned to Yinglong Steel Corporation.

District Collector Michael Angelo Vargas issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention (WSD) upon the recommendation of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) of the port against the vessel and its cargo for violation of Sections 1113 and 1401 of the Republic Act No. 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), in relation to Customs Administrative Order 10-2020 and DENR-Environmental Management Bureau rules and regulations.

Before the issuance of the WSD, lawyer Wilfredo Moncano, director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), suspended the issuance of the Mineral Ore Export Permit and immediately recalled the Extended/Renewed Mineral Ore Export Permit of Yinglong Steel Corporation.



## Graduation Rites for ESS Batch 4 Class DAKILA



The Interim Training and Development Division (ITDD) together with the Enforcement Group – Enforcement and Security Service (EG-ESS) conducted the “70-day Basic Course for Enforcement” - Batch 4 Class DAKILA held on October 17, 2022 - January 30, 2023 at the National Printing Office (NPO) Bldg., Bureau of Customs Central Office, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila.

Dakila which literally means great, noble, and glorious is a feat which only a select few achieve in their lifetime.

DAKILA stands for “Dignidad at Abilidad ang Kaagapay tungo sa lisang Layunin ng Aduana” This was chosen to adhere to the standing orders of His Excellency President Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos Jr. to remain steadfast in protecting the country’s borders against all forms of smuggling and customs fraud.

This dynamic batch, composed of 40 men and 8 women professionals having various field expertise, have undergone the painstaking and rigorous physical, mental, emotional, and psychological training in order to arm themselves with the required knowledge and skills to make them efficient and competent public servants under the enforcement arm of the Bureau.

The immersion of DAKILA in the Basic Enforcement Course has exposed them to the experts of the Bureau’s various pool of trainers.

The journey was long and arduous, but under the supervision and guidance of their tactical officers from the Enforcement and Security Service, the trainees were armed with discipline, character development and leadership skills that will serve as pillars as they continue their journey in the Bureau.

The Batch 4 Class DAKILA celebrated their graduation rites on January 30, 2023 at the Office of the Commissioner (OCOM) Grounds during the weekly Monday flag ceremony of the Bureau which was followed by their socials at the NPO bldg. The families of the graduates were invited to join the graduation ceremony.

## BOC Honored and Presented Awards to Retiring Employees

In celebration of the Bureau of Customs’ 121st Founding Anniversary, the HRMD spearheaded the awarding of employees. Retiring employees from January-June 2023 were given plaques of recognition for their dedicated and faithful service in the Bureau. A total of thirty-four (34) senior employees from the Central Office, Port of Manila, Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and Manila International Container Port were given special recognition on February 06, 2023.

The Bureau also awarded twenty (20) World Customs Organization Certificates of Merit to employees who excelled in the following categories (1) Knowledge Sharing, (2) Social Responsibility, and (3) Professional Pride in Customs. The awarding is based on the nominations submitted by the Groups and Ports, taking into consideration the criteria for each category.



## Budget Preparation Planning for Fiscal Year 2024

The Budget Division, in coordination with the Interim Training and Development Division (ITDD), conducted the Budget Preparation Planning for FY 2024 for all Budget Officers of the Central Office and the 17 Collection Districts on February 1, 2023 at the Citadel Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila – 1st session and on February 2 to 3, 2023 at a Hotel in Tagaytay – 2nd session.

This budget preparation aimed to educate all budget officers on the proper process of budget preparation and planning for the development of their group / collection district budget plan and proposal for 2024.

The training was attended by the fifty-four (54) Budget Officers from the Central Office and Collection Districts.



# Did You Know Importing or Exporting Obscene Objects and Products is Prohibited?

Under Section 118(c) of the Republic Act 10863, the importation and exportation of written or printed goods, negatives or cinematographic films, photographs, engravings, lithographs, objects, paintings, drawings, or other representation of an obscene or immoral character are prohibited.



# Expecting Gifts From a Special Someone?

Did you know there is an excise tax on the importation of jewelry and perfumes?  
Non-essential goods such as jewelry, perfumes, and toilet waters shall be levied, assessed, and collected of tax equivalent to 20% based on the dutiable value.



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