

Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

FEBRUARY 13 - MAY 23, 2023

COMMISSIONER BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO



CONTENTS

VISION

A modernized and credible Customs administration that is among the world's best.

MISSION

To strengthen border control, enhance trade facilitation and improve collection of lawful revenues.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism
Integrity
Accountability

02 Digitalization of the Customs Processes

- BOC Develops New Systems to Enhance Operations
- DICT and BOC Partner to Streamline Customs Procedures through Digitalization

06 Hit and Surpass the Target

- Driving the BOC Towards Revenue Collection Success
- BOC Raises Revenues Through Post-Clearance Audit
- Collections Derived from Public Auctions
- BOC Moves towards Digital Payments

14 Simplify Procedures and Facilitate Secured Trade

- Philippines Jumps 17 Spots in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index
- e-Phyto Certificate Exchange with ASEAN Countries
- BOC Takes Swift Action: Disposes of Overstaying and Forfeited Containers
- BOC's Daily Situation Report: A Game Changer in Port Management
- BOC Leads ASEAN Trade Facilitation Talks
- Building Stronger Partnerships: BOC Hosts Stakeholders' Night

26 Curb Smuggling in All Forms

- Cracking Down on Smuggling
- BOC Takes Strong Action Against Agricultural Smuggling
- BOC Ramps Up Campaign against Smuggling of Illicit Cigarettes and Tobacco Products
- BOC's Anti-Drug Campaign Yields Impressive Results
- Curbing Illicit Fuel Trade through Fuel Marking Program
- No Tolerance for Smuggling: Commissioner Rubio Revokes Accreditation of 49 Entities
- BOC Takes a Strong Stance against Customs Laws Violators
- Strengthening Collaboration for Efficient Prosecution
- BOC-DDJ Legal Summit Advances Customs Prosecution Efforts
- Inter-agency Intelligence Summit: BOC Takes Lead in Combating Smuggling

42 Uplift Employee Welfare and Development

- BOC Bolsters Workforce with Competency-based Human Resource Management
- Commissioner Rubio Leads Quarterly Assessment for Improved Performance
- BOC Launches Employees' Consultative Assembly: Fostering Professionalism and Boosting Employee Morale
- BOC Earns 23 ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certificates
- BOC Takes Strong Measures Against Graft and Corruption Among Its Ranks

DIGITALIZATION OF THE CUSTOMS PROCESSES

The BOC has made persistent efforts to modernize its systems and streamline its operations through digital technology. Its goal is to enhance the productivity and efficiency of customs transactions and services by minimizing human intervention in its processes.

To promote data-driven decision-making, the BOC has implemented measures to identify significant priority areas in its processes and systems that require attention, categorize potential risks, and assess strategies to prevent or mitigate them.



BOC Develops New Systems to Enhance Operations

The BOC is taking significant steps to transform itself into a world-class customs administration. By prioritizing the modernization of its systems and the streamlining of customs processes, the agency has accomplished an impressive 96.39% rate of digitalization for 160 out of 166 customs procedures under the 2021 Citizen's Charter.

96.39%
Digitalization Rate



As part of its digitalization efforts, the BOC is developing three (3) new systems to enhance its operations: the **E-Service Catalog System (Internal)**, which is a web portal that allows users across all ports to manage online registration and bidding; the **Document Management System**, which captures, tracks, and stores electronic documents such as PDFs, word processing files, and digital images of paper-based content; and the **Over Staying Cargo Tracking System**, which provides updated data on the disposition activities of all ports.

Aside from these three (3) new systems, the BOC has two more in the pipeline awaiting Customs Memorandum Order approval. The **Automated Export Declaration System (AEDS)** allows for the electronic submission of authorized Export Declaration-Single Administrative Document from Economic Zone/Freeport Zone/Investment Promotion Agencies AEDS through BOC-accredited Value-Added Service Providers to the BOC Electronic to Mobile-AEDS for loading at all international seaports and airports. The **Customs Auction Monitoring System** is a web portal that enables users across all ports to manage online registration and bidding.

Furthermore, with the support from the World Bank Group, the BOC is actively implementing the Philippine Customs Modernization Program (PCMP). The **Customs Processing System** is largely built on Commercial Off-The-Shelf Software (COTS) solutions and will provide a robust platform on which to develop the core functionality customized to the specific operating environment in the Philippines. The **Remote Image**

Analysis Centers allows for the real-time interpretation of radioscopic images sent from operational scanner sites. This system improves detection capabilities for increased efficiency and faster inspection of shipments. The **Administrative Back-office Enterprise Resource Planning System (ABERP)** covers human resource systems to manage staffing growth and career planning. Finally, the **Data Centers and Network Connectivity infrastructure** will provide new and improved network connectivity for BOC offices across the country, eliminating downtime and providing disaster recovery capabilities.

The BOC is making significant progress in its journey to become a world-class customs administration by leveraging technology and enhancing its systems; and is positioned to increase its productivity and efficiency while reducing human intervention, ultimately fostering trade facilitation and generating revenue for the nation.



DICT and BOC Partner to Streamline Customs Procedures through Digitalization

The BOC has partnered with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to implement e-government solutions, particularly in terms of the digitalization of customs processes.

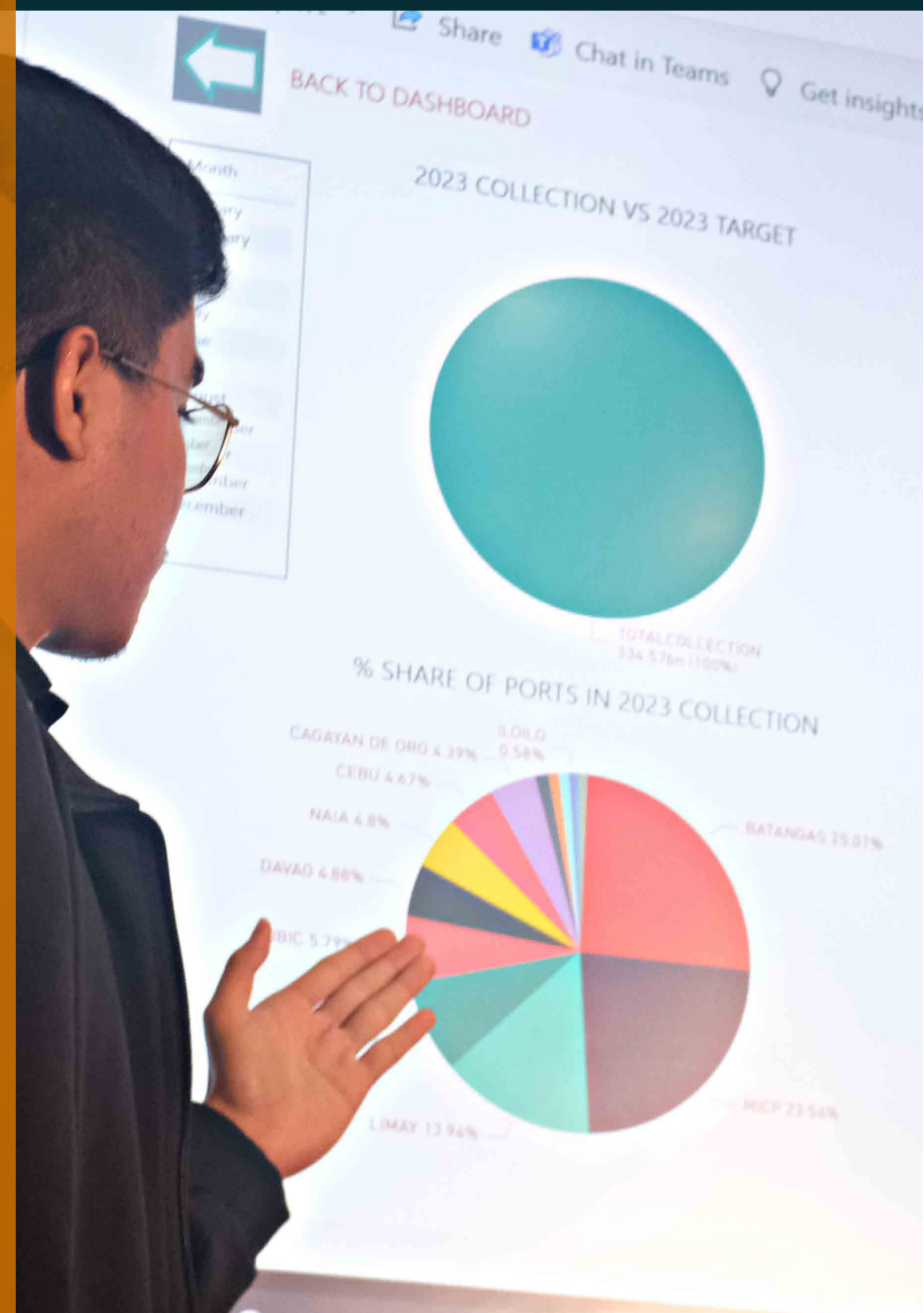
The DICT has been working on an e-government system that will allow for the digital transformation of customs procedures, such as electronic filing and processing of customs forms, electronic payment of duties and taxes, and electronic monitoring of goods in transit.

In addition, the BOC is being included in the expanded e-travel application of the e-government system at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1, which will allow travelers to complete customs forms and pay duties and taxes electronically, reducing the need for physical forms and in-person interactions with customs officials. To test the effectiveness of the e-travel application, the BOC has launched a pilot version of the i-Declare system, which allows travelers to declare their goods electronically before arriving at the customs checkpoint of NAIA 1 airport.

The commitment of Commissioner Rubio to digitalization is expected to improve the efficiency and transparency of customs procedures, while also enhancing the overall travel experience for both citizens and visitors to the Philippines. The BOC's digitalization efforts are also expected to bolster revenue collection and reduce incidents of corruption. Through this initiative, the BOC aims to become more responsive to the requirements of its stakeholders, encompassing businesses, travelers, and the general public.

HIT AND SURPASS THE REVENUE TARGET

Recognizing its vital role in revenue collection to facilitate numerous programs and projects of the Philippine government, the BOC has undertaken several measures to achieve its revenue collection target. These measures include ensuring the correct implementation of valuation and classification rules, conducting personnel audits to ensure accurate valuation and liquidation across all ports, regular consultations with stakeholders to promote communication and compliance, and diligent monitoring of outstanding duties and taxes with prompt remittance of collections.

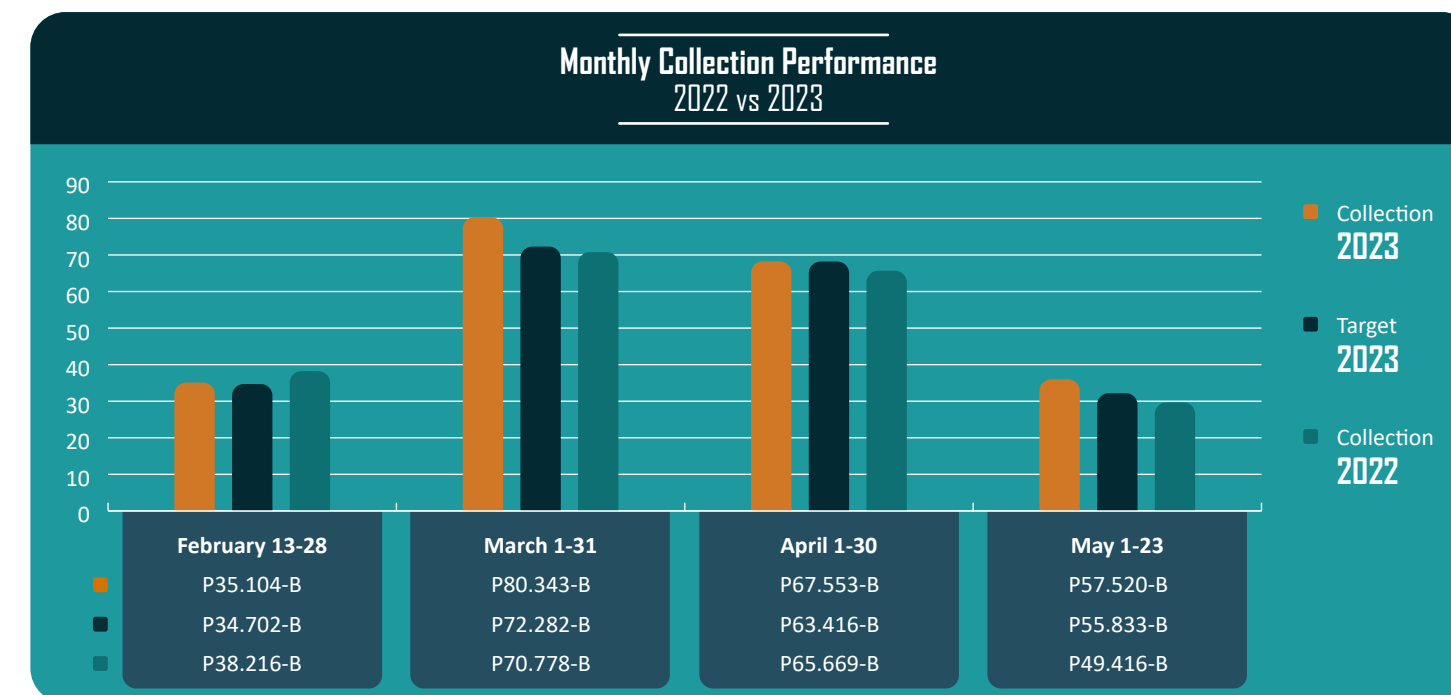


Driving the BOC Towards Revenue Collection Success

In February 2023, Commissioner Rubio took office as the new head of the BOC, an integral agency responsible for collecting duties and taxes on imported goods.

After a hundred days in office, Commissioner Rubio has shown that he is a leader with clear vision and skills to achieve his goals. Under his leadership, the BOC has surpassed its monthly collection targets for three consecutive months, signifying a favorable and significant advancement for the country's economy.

From 13-28 February 2023, the BOC was able to collect P35.104 billion, surpassing its revenue target of P34.702 billion by 1.2%. This demonstrates that the agency's endeavors to enhance its revenue collection performance are in the right direction.

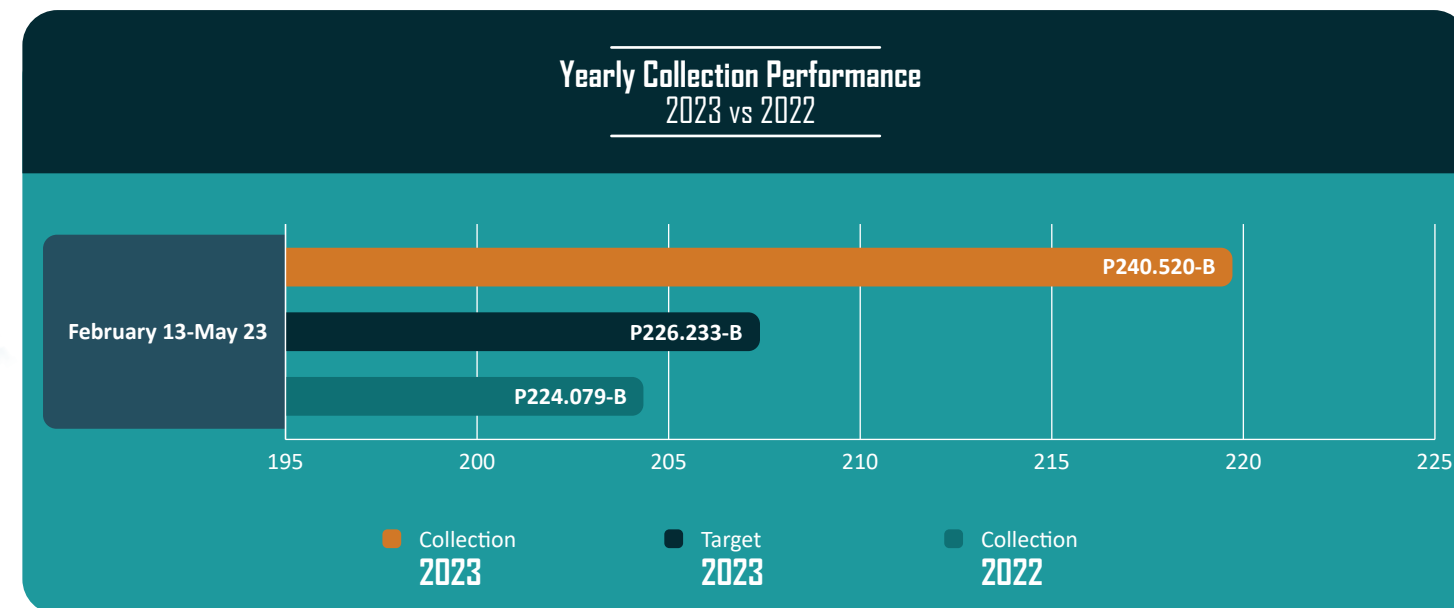


In March 2023, the BOC recorded its highest monthly collection for the year, amounting to P80.343 billion, exceeding its revenue target of P72.282 billion by P8.061 billion or 11.15%. This achievement is even more impressive considering that it is also 13.5% or P9.56 billion higher compared to the previous year's collection of P70.778 billion for the same period.

In April 2023, the BOC continued its streak of exceeding its revenue collection target, generating P67.553 billion, a 2.87% increase from last year's collection of P65.669 billion for the same period. The BOC's highest daily collection for the year was also recorded on 28 April 2023, amounting to over P7.51 billion.

According to the latest data, the BOC recorded a revenue collection of P57.520 billion from 1 May to 23 May 2023, exceeding the target by P1.687 billion or 3%. Compared to the previous year's collection for the same period, this represents a significant increase of P8.105 billion or 16.4%.

With Commissioner Rubio's clear direction and focused management, the BOC has accomplished a noteworthy collection of P240.520 billion from 13 February to 23 May 2023. This amount exceeds the P226.233 billion target by P14.287 billion or 6.32% and surpasses last year's collection by P16.441 billion or 7.34%, reflecting a substantial increase in revenue under his leadership.

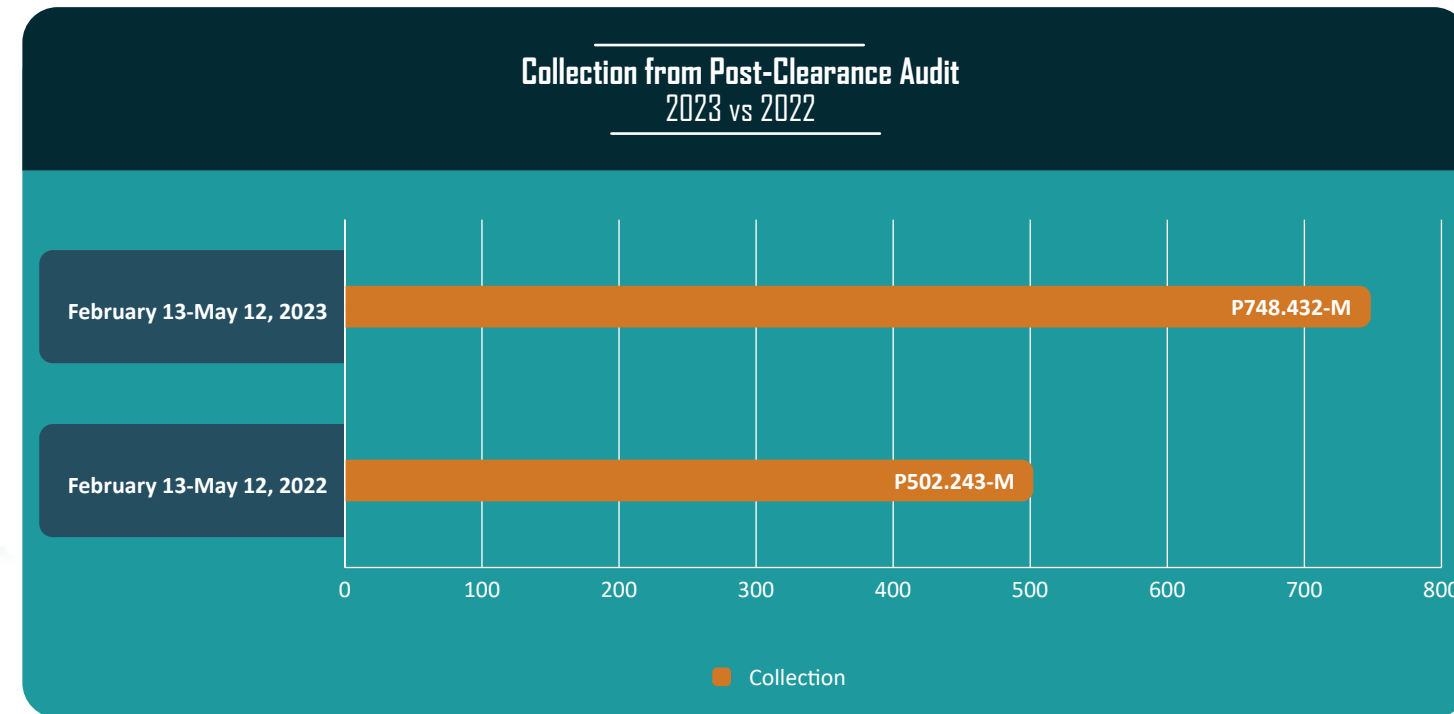


These impressive numbers demonstrate Commissioner Rubio's unyielding commitment to increase revenue collection, a welcome development for the Philippine government as it seeks to generate revenue to jumpstart various programs and projects.

The BOC's rise in revenue collection is primarily a result of its higher rate of assessment, particularly the improved valuation of non-oil importation. This signifies the agency's consistent and continued efforts to implement reforms aimed at resolving persistent issues, while emphasizing transparency and efficiency in its processes.

BOC Raises Revenues Through Post-Clearance Audit

Another notable development in the BOC under Commissioner Rubio's leadership is the success of the Post-Clearance Audit Group (PCAG). The PCAG is responsible for conducting audit examinations, inspections, verifications, and investigations of importation records to ensure the accuracy of goods declaration of importers. As a result of their efforts, the PCAG has generated additional revenue from audit findings.



In the first 100 days of Commissioner Rubio's term, a total of 133 Audit Notification Letters were approved, resulting in an additional revenue collection of P13.120 million from audit findings.



Moreover, the Prior Disclosure Program (PDP) has also been successful, with a total collection of P735.312 million since 13 February 2023. This amount comprised 75.6% of the total PDP collections for this year, with the highest monthly collection recorded in April 2023 at P507.914 million.

Overall, the PCAG has contributed a total of P748.432 million in additional revenue during the first 100 days of Commissioner Rubio's term, surpassing last year's collection by 49.02%. This impressive figure demonstrates the BOC's commitment in promoting compliance with customs laws and regulations and improving trade facilitation through informed compliance and record-keeping.

On 15 February 2023, the PCAG awarded its top taxpayers for 2022 with plaques of recognition for their exemplary tax compliance and commitment to responsible tax payments. This ceremony was attended by various senior officials and representatives from different companies, as well as the senior management of the PCAG.

The success of the PCAG and the PDP collections is another validation of Commissioner Rubio's decisive action to enhance revenue collection. The Commissioner's emphasis on public service, transparency, and accountability has inspired the entire workforce and earned the trust of the Filipino people.

Collections Derived from Public Auctions

The successful conduct of public auctions by various ports across the country has been instrumental in augmenting the collection performance of the BOC, resulting in revenues exceeding P25 million since 13 February 2023.

Port	Total Proceeds from Public Auctions (PHP)
Port of Manila	23,574,000.00
Port of Davao	1,250,600.00
Manila International Container Port	241,600.00
TOTAL	25,066,200.00

The Port of Manila topped the list, generating P23.574 million from public auctions, followed by the Port of Davao with P1.250 million and the Manila International Container Port with P241,600.

The public auction acts as an additional means for the government to collect rightful duties and taxes imposed on importations when importers fail to fulfill their obligations and comply with documentary requirements within the specified timeframe. This leads to abandonment, seizure, or forfeiture proceedings that are due and demandable to the goods. With the success of the public auctions, the BOC has proven its commitment in ensuring that all importers comply with regulations and contribute to the country's economic growth.



BOC Moves Towards Digital Payments

In his first 100 days in office, Commissioner Rubio has recognized the need to streamline processes and improve the ease of doing business for BOC stakeholders. One of his game-changing program initiatives is the adoption of digital payments through the Link.BizPortal in collaboration with LandBank, a major step towards modernizing government services and enhancing efficiency.

The new system allows for real-time debit from payors' accounts and batch credit to the merchants' account, generating online payment confirmation, and offering multiple payment options. This digital payment solution is available seven days a week, making it more convenient for importers and brokers to transact with the BOC without the hassle of queuing and over-the-counter payments.

Aside from the convenience it provides, adopting digital payments also mitigates risks inherent to the manual handling of cash and improves cost-efficiency for the BOC.

SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES AND FACILITATE SECURED TRADE

The BOC recognizes the importance of trade facilitation and a secure supply chain in promoting the country's economic growth. The BOC aims to streamline and modernize its customs procedures to ensure the efficient and transparent movement of goods across borders. It acknowledges that trade facilitation not only encompasses the expeditious release of goods but also ensures the safety and security of the supply chain. By simplifying procedures and reducing bureaucratic red tape, the BOC can help reduce the cost of doing business and improve the competitiveness of the country.



Philippines Jumps 17 Spots in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index

The BOC has made significant strides towards improving the logistics performance of the Philippines. As a result, the country moved up 17 places in the latest report of the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI), from 60th in 2018 to the 43rd spot this year, among 139 countries.

World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI)

Philippines' Rank on Trade Efficiency and Customs Performance among 139 Countries

	RANK 2018	RANK 2023
PH Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	60th	43th
Customs Performance	85th	59th

43rd
PH Logistics Performance Index (LPI)

59th
Customs Performance



The World Bank LPI rates economies based on customs performance, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics competence and equity, timeliness, and tracking and tracing metrics. This year's report shows that the Philippines has made significant progress in all these areas, particularly in customs performance.

In terms of Customs Performance, the Philippines ranked 59th this year, up from 85th in 2018. This improvement can be attributed to the implementation of several reforms, such as the risk management system, the introduction of e-payment for customs duties, and the establishment of a customs advisory committee to provide feedback on customs policies.



The Philippines also showed significant improvements in other areas of the LPI, such as infrastructure, where it ranked 47th this year, up from 67th in 2018. This is due to the government's efforts to invest in infrastructure projects such as the Build, Build, Build program, which aims to improve the country's transport infrastructure.

Another area where the Philippines showed improvement is in logistics competence and equity, where it ranked 46th this year, up from 69th in 2018. This is due to the government's efforts to improve the skills and capabilities of customs personnel, as well as its efforts to promote gender equality in the customs sector.

The Philippines also improved its performance in timeliness, tracking and tracing metrics, and international shipments, ranking 21st, 49th, and 47th, respectively.

The accomplishments of Commissioner Rubio in his first 100 days are testaments to his leadership and commitment to enhancing the logistics performance of the Philippines. Through his reforms, notable advancements have been achieved in the country's customs performance, infrastructure, logistics competence, equity, and overall logistics performance.

It is crucial for the BOC to sustain the implementation of reforms aimed at advancing the logistics performance of the country. By doing so, the Philippines can attract increased investments, foster the creation of more job opportunities, and make substantial contributions to the overall economic growth of the nation.

e-Phyto Certificate Exchange with ASEAN Countries

One of the notable accomplishments in Commissioner Rubio's first 100 days in office is the successful implementation of the electronic Phytosanitary (e-Phyto) Certificate exchange with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. This initiative was made possible through the collaboration between the BOC and the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Plant Industries (BPI), and their participation in the ASEAN Single Window (ASW).

In the past, the phytosanitary certification system was paper-based, which made it susceptible to document falsification and other forms of fraud. This posed significant challenges for customs clearance, particularly for plants and agricultural products that require phytosanitary certificates. With the adoption of the e-Phyto Certificate, the BOC has taken a major step towards reducing document fraud, increasing transparency, and facilitating faster and secure customs clearance for these products.



This digitalization project is not only significant in terms of enhancing trade facilitation and border control, but it also strengthens the relationship and support between the BOC and BPI and among the ASEAN member countries. The exchange of e-Phyto Certificates through the ASW will not only benefit the Philippines but also our trading partners in the region. It will help create a more secure and transparent trading environment, ultimately contributing to the growth of trade and investment in the region.

With several digitalization projects underway, the BOC is on track to becoming a world-class customs administration that prioritizes transparency, efficiency, and innovation.



Facilitating Trade and Ease of Doing Business: BOC Takes Swift Action in Disposing of Overstaying and Forfeited Containers

In its efforts to facilitate trade and ease of doing business for its stakeholders, the BOC has taken swift action in disposing overstaying and forfeited containers. This measure is significant in maintaining the standard utilization rate of yards and avoiding port congestion, which can cause delays and added costs to importers and exporters.



44
Auctioned



97
Condemned

141

TOTAL Disposed of Overstaying and Forfeited Containers



Since February 2023, the BOC has disposed 141 overstaying and forfeited containers through various means such as public auction and condemnation. This has not only contributed to revenue collection but also freed up valuable yard space that could be utilized for incoming cargoes.

An aggregate value of P25.066 million was collected from the public auction of 44 containers of forfeited goods, including rice and galvanized steel.

The BOC has also condemned 97 overstaying containers, which included various smuggled items such as plywood, assorted personal effects and used clothing, among others. These actions show the BOC's commitment to ensure strict compliance with the law and that all goods imported contrary to law are forfeited in favor of the government of the Philippines.

BOC's Daily Situation Report: A Game-Changer in Port Management

To prevent port congestion and ensure efficient operations, Commissioner Rubio ordered the accomplishment of the Daily Situation Report. This report provides a helpful indicator to assess the daily situation in ports yard, enabling the BOC to supervise container movement in piers and prevent congestion.

To align with the global standard of Yard Utilization, the BOC has mandated that utilization rates do not exceed 70%. This standard is indicative of efficient and effective operations, and the BOC is determined to make it the norm.

The implementation of the Daily Situation Report is just one of the many measures that the BOC is taking to ensure facilitated trade and ease of doing business for its stakeholders.



BOC Leads ASEAN Trade Facilitation Talks

Another demonstration of the BOC's commitment to streamlining customs procedures and improving trade facilitation was its recent hosting of the 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG) from 21 to 23 March 2023 in Mactan, Cebu.

During the three-day event, ASEAN Customs officials gathered to discuss progress on customs cooperation and trade facilitation, with a focus on implementing the World Trade Organization-Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-FTA). The BOC's External Affairs Office spearheaded the meeting, which was supported by other key officials of the BOC.

The BOC's active participation in international events such as this is in line with Commissioner Rubio's priority program to simplify customs procedures and facilitate secured trade through strengthened cooperation with regional and international entities. The BOC recognizes the importance of Customs-to-Customs and Customs-to-Business partnerships to achieve its objectives.

The 34th Meeting of the ASEAN CPTFWG is yet another affirmation of the BOC's unwavering commitment to continuous improvement and enhancement of its services in line with international standards and best practices.

Building Stronger Partnerships: BOC Hosts Stakeholders' Night

The BOC recognizes the pivotal role of its stakeholders in accomplishing its mandates. To show its appreciation and commitment to partnership and collaboration, Commissioner Rubio hosted the Stakeholders' Night event on 17 March 2023.



Aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the BOC has identified five (5) priority programs for a revitalized and strengthened collaboration and partnership with its stakeholders. These programs include digitalizing customs processes, surpassing revenue targets, simplifying procedures for secure trade, curbing smuggling, and uplifting employee welfare and development.

During the event, Commissioner Rubio emphasized the importance of inclusivity and the role of stakeholders in achieving effective solutions. He also stressed the need to strengthen Customs-stakeholder partnerships and placed the feedback and evaluation of partners and stakeholders at the core of his plans of action. The Stakeholders' Night event solidified the BOC's commitment to working closely with its partners towards achieving its goals.

By undertaking these endeavors, the BOC strives to establish a Customs system that is characterized by enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. This system aims to facilitate ease of doing business, secure revenue collection, and safeguard society against the detrimental consequences of illicit trade.



CURB SMUGGLING IN ALL FORMS

As the nation's first line of defense against smuggling and other customs violations, the BOC is responsible in safeguarding the Philippine economy and national security. Unfortunately, smuggling has become deeply entrenched in the country, with smugglers evading payment of duties and taxes.

To combat this problem, Commissioner Rubio has set directives aimed at curbing smuggling and collecting lawful revenue. The BOC has been enforcing customs laws and procedures vigorously, leaving no room for illegal activities that threaten the nation's welfare and security. With these efforts, the BOC remains steadfast in fulfilling its duty to protect the country's interests and prevent illicit trade from destabilizing the economy.



Cracking Down on Smuggling

Within a few months of assuming office, Commissioner Rubio has exhibited resolute dedication to combat smuggling and safeguard the welfare and security of the nation. Under his guidance, the BOC has successfully confiscated unlawfully imported goods, including counterfeit items, cigarettes and tobacco products, agricultural goods, and illicit drugs, with a combined value amounting to over P15.611 billion.

Commodity	No. of Seizures	Estimated Value (PHP)
Counterfeit Goods	84	11,731,437,002.49
Cigarettes/Tobacco	88	1,533,249,816.25
Agricultural Products	57	1,467,817,631.65
Illegal Drugs	23	731,190,552.19
General Merchandise	49	65,581,139.89
Fuel / Oil	2	41,120,190.90
Firearms	2	11,986,218.42
Currency	2	11,136,400.00
Chemicals	4	9,969,328.97
Vehicles & Accessories	1	3,103,312.93
Other Products	5	2,417,320.94
PPE, Medical Supplies, Cosmetics	1	2,057,113.50
Food Stuff	1	403,359.16
Jewelry	22	108,472.00
TOTAL	341	15,611,577,859.29



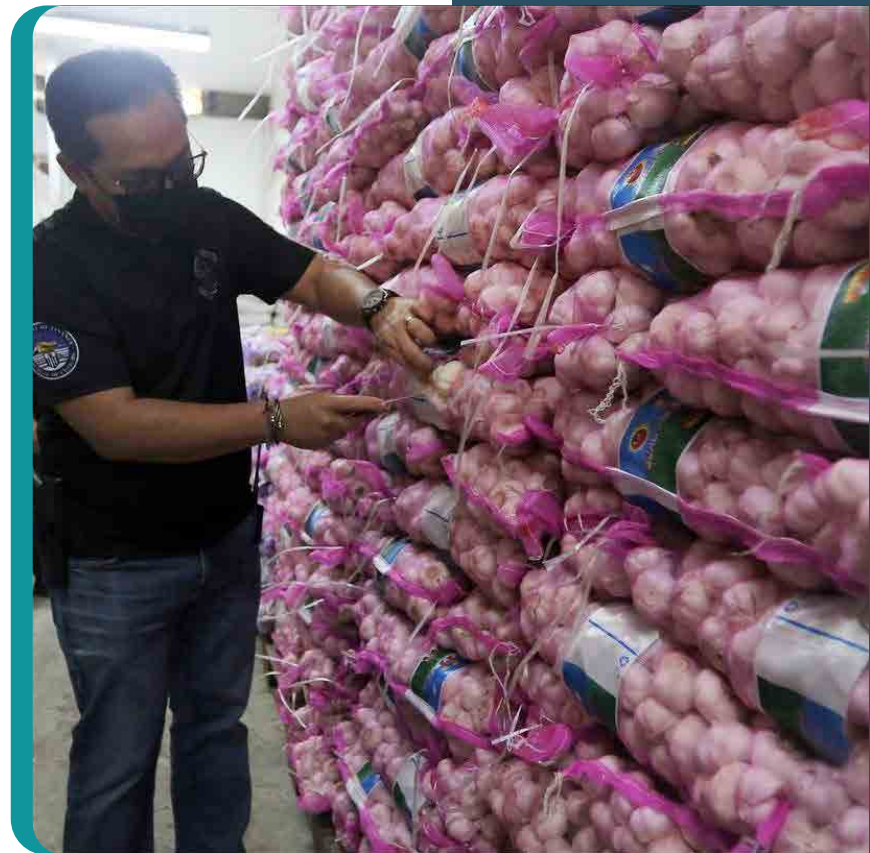
The BOC's recent successes highlight its continuous monitoring and enforcement efforts against smugglers and importers who violate customs laws, rules, and regulations. By cracking down on the trade of illegal goods, the Bureau ensures the safety of Filipinos and promotes economic competitiveness.

Commissioner Rubio's decisive actions are solid indicators of his bold leadership and determination to curb smuggling in the country. The BOC remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that all imported goods are legitimate and compliant with the law.



BOC Takes Strong Action Against Agricultural Smuggling

The BOC has continuously intensified its efforts to combat agricultural smuggling in the country, and its success is evident in the first 100 days of Commissioner Rubio's leadership. With over P1.467 billion worth of smuggled agricultural products seized; the Bureau's anti-smuggling campaign has gained significant momentum.



One of the most notable seizures was the discovery of 30x20 containers of misdeclared sugar from Hong Kong in the Port of Subic. The shipment was declared as slipper outsoles and styrene butadiene rubber, but upon inspection, it was revealed to contain smuggled sugar worth P86,000,000. This seizure showcases the effectiveness of the BOC's heightened intelligence and enforcement operations against agricultural smuggling.

Another successful operation by the Bureau was the inspection of 24 warehouses in Metro Manila which resulted in the seizure of P150,000,000 worth of agricultural products. The operation was conducted by the Intelligence Group and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service operatives on February 17, 2023.

These significant seizure operations demonstrate the BOC's commitment to curb agricultural smuggling and collect lawful revenue. The BOC will continue to intensify its efforts to ensure that all imported goods, especially agricultural products, comply with customs laws, rules, and regulations.

BOC Ramps Up Campaign against Smuggling of Illicit Cigarettes and Tobacco Products

The BOC has been making impressive strides in its campaign against the smuggling of cigarettes and tobacco products in the country. Since Commissioner Rubio assumed office, the BOC has seized an impressive P1.533 billion worth of smuggled tobacco products in just three months.

To ramp up its campaign, the BOC has focused on intensifying its intelligence and enforcement operations against illicit tobacco products. Their efforts have led to the discovery of numerous illegal shipments of tobacco products, which have been promptly seized and confiscated.

In a joint operation with the BOC Intelligence Group, Port of Zamboanga, and other enforcement agencies, 18,533 master cases of assorted imported cigarettes valued at P1.4 billion were seized in a warehouse in Sulu on March 2, 2023.

These seizures manifest the BOC's unwavering commitment to collect lawful revenue and protect the country's citizens from the harmful effects of counterfeit and illegal tobacco products. These operations also send a very clear message to smugglers and importers who violate customs laws and regulations that the BOC will not back down on its efforts to ensure faithful compliance with the law.

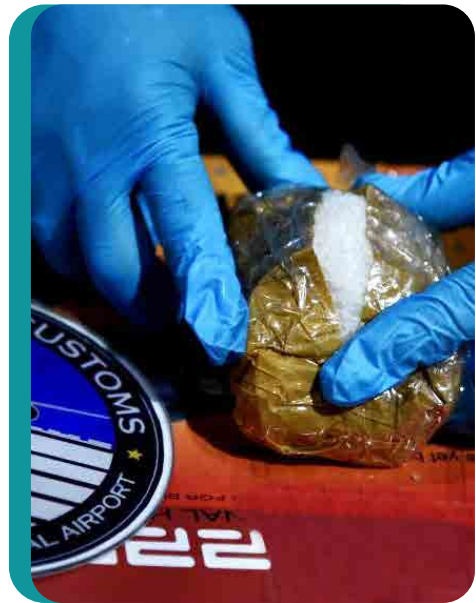


BOC's Anti-Drug Campaign Yields Impressive Results

Through increased collaboration with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Group, the BOC was able to achieve impressive results in its fight against drug smuggling.

The BOC has implemented more rigorous profiling of shipments suspected to contain contraband, subjecting them to non-intrusive examination using their state-of-the-art x-ray machines. As a result of these efforts, the BOC has apprehended 23 shipments of various illegal drugs valued at P731 million in just three months.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Rubio, the BOC has demonstrated its resolve to combat the illegal drug trade and ensure that smugglers are brought to justice. The BOC's accomplishments in this campaign send a stern warning to those who engage in drug smuggling that their illegal activities will not be tolerated.



Curbing Illicit Fuel Trade Through Fuel Marking Program

The BOC has demonstrated its commitment to curb illicit trade and collect rightful duties and taxes for the government.

The Fuel Marking Program aims to level the playing field of the Philippine oil industry and raise revenues while curbing fuel smuggling. In just three months, the program has marked an impressive 5.08 billion liters of fuel, equivalent to P68.96 billion in duties and taxes. This clearly demonstrates the program's effectiveness in combating the illicit fuel trade and creating a fair competitive environment for lawful participants in the oil industry.

Diesel fuel has the highest volume of marked fuel with 2.95 billion liters, followed by gasoline with 2.1 billion liters, and kerosene with 16.4 million liters marked volume. In terms of location, Luzon has the highest volume of marked fuel at 3.79 billion liters, followed by Mindanao with 1.01 billion liters and Visayas with 280 million liters.

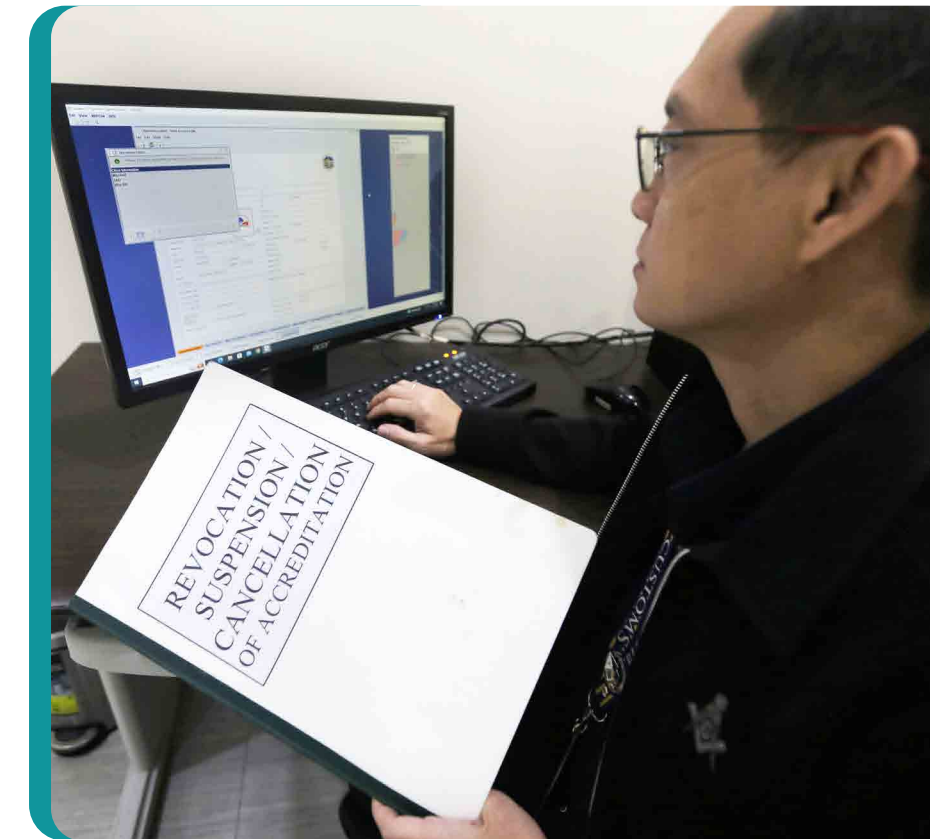
The BOC conducted several seizure operations against vessels carrying unmarked fuel. On 16 February 2023, MT Braleman 1 which carried 847 kiloliters of unmarked diesel fuel was apprehended. MT Palawan was caught withdrawing fuel from MT Braleman 1 during the seizure operation. Another inter-agency operation conducted by BOC, Philippine Navy, and Philippine Coastguard on 04 May 2023 resulted in the apprehension of vessel MT Veronica 1. It was found carrying an estimated 1,350 kiloliters of illicit diesel fuel in the waters of Sual, Pangasinan.

The commendable achievements of the Fuel Marking Program, under Commissioner Rubio's leadership, proves the BOC's commitment in combating fuel smuggling, boosting government revenues, and fostering fair competition in the Philippine oil industry. The BOC is determined to eliminate illicit fuel trade. The BOC's efforts to combat illicit trade and protect the country's economic interests are steps towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.



No Tolerance for Smuggling: Commissioner Rubio Revokes Accreditation of 49 Entities

The BOC continues to intensify its efforts against smuggling by taking strict action against those who violate customs laws, rules, and regulations.



Recently, 14 customs brokers and 35 importers had their accreditation revoked due to alleged involvement in illegal activities. This move is part of the BOC's post-evaluation process and ongoing efforts to ensure that importers and brokers comply with the law.

Commissioner Rubio's commitment is exemplified through his steadfast measures in combating smuggling and ensuring the lawful collection of revenue in the country. The revocation of accreditation serves as a stern message to others, underscoring the BOC's zero-tolerance stance towards any illicit activities that jeopardize the welfare and security of the nation.

BOC Takes a Strong Stance against Customs Law Violators

The BOC has taken a strong stance against customs law violators. As a result of his priority programs, the BOC has filed 28 criminal complaints against violators of customs laws, rules, and regulations.

This action effectively communicates the BOC's steadfast stance against any breaches of Customs laws, reaffirming that individuals involved in such activities will face consequences and be held responsible. Among the cases filed are 12 criminal complaints against importers and customs brokers involved in the illegal importation of sugar.

As the BOC continues to intensify its operations, these filings serve as a warning that there are serious consequences for any attempt to circumvent Customs laws.



Strengthening Collaboration for Efficient Prosecution

To intensify the prosecution of customs law violators, Commissioner Rubio has initiated a strengthened the BOC's collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ). The two agencies discussed the DOJ-BOC Task Force and to explore ways to enhance measures in prosecuting cases.

During the meeting, the DOJ and BOC reviewed several policies and circulars to resolve bottlenecks and streamline communications and procedures for case processing. The BOC also proposed a BOC-DOJ Legal Summit to renew commitments and boost understanding and capabilities in areas of prosecution and customs processes.

This strengthened collaboration between the BOC and DOJ conveys that Customs law violators will be held accountable and that both agencies are committed in upholding transparency and accountability. With the full cooperation and support of the DOJ, the BOC can optimize the means provided by the criminal justice system to bring Customs law violators to justice.

BOC-DOJ Legal Summit Advances Customs Prosecution Efforts

In April 2023, the BOC held a Legal Summit in partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ), aimed at strengthening the prosecution of customs cases. The summit brought together prosecutors, lawyers, and essential stakeholders with the objective of enriching participants' knowledge and capabilities in prosecuting customs cases.

During the summit, various topics related to customs laws and regulations, legal procedures, and jurisprudence were discussed. Experts shared insights on the latest developments in customs laws and regulations, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by prosecutors in handling customs cases.



The BOC-DOJ Legal Summit underscored the importance of a collaborative and coordinated approach to the prosecution of customs cases. It aimed to promote cooperation and coordination among the different agencies involved in customs law enforcement.

The agency is committed in ensuring the integrity and efficiency of its operations, as it works towards promoting good governance and efficient public service delivery.



Inter-agency Intelligence Summit: BOC Takes Lead in Combating Smuggling

The BOC has made progress toward curbing smuggling activities in the country by spearheading the Inter-agency Intelligence Summit on 30 March 2023. The summit, in response to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to curb all forms of smuggling, aimed to enhance cooperation among national law enforcement agencies and border protection measures.

Representatives from various agencies, including the National Security Council, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, were in attendance. Discussions centered around intelligence gathering, processing, and sharing best practices to counter the proliferation of illegal drugs and challenges in agricultural smuggling.

The BOC reiterated its commitment to provide efficient mechanisms for trade facilitation while recognizing the need for strict implementation of laws concerning border control. The BOC emphasized that economic growth and development should be balanced with border control and revenue collection.

The summit offered a platform for agencies to exchange best practices and advancements in intelligence operations and law enforcement. By spearheading the Inter-agency Intelligence Summit, the BOC is actively advancing its efforts to combat smuggling within the country, achieving notable progress.

UPLIFT EMPLOYEE WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The BOC acknowledges that the commitment and diligence of its employees are its most valuable assets. Commissioner Rubio recognizes that cultivating a culture of professionalism, meritocracy, empowerment, and motivation within the organization translates into improved overall performance.

While modernized systems and processes are crucial, the individuals who drive them serve as the foundation of the BOC's accomplishments. In line with this, the BOC's Internal Administration Group has implemented various initiatives that focus on the welfare and morale of its employees. These initiatives include recruitment, selection, and placement; learning and development; and rewards and recognition.

With strict adherence to relevant government regulations, the BOC is committed in creating a work environment that empowers and motivates its workforce to achieve excellence.



BOC Bolsters Workforce with CBHRM

In a move towards fostering an efficient and competent workforce, Commissioner Rubio has steered several initiatives aimed at improving the BOC's organizational development and employee morale.

Under his leadership, the BOC's Human Resource Management Division has led a comprehensive merit and selection program. This program ensures that the hiring and promotion process adheres to Competency-based Human Resource Management (CBHRM) standards, aimed at hiring the most qualified personnel for the job.

To-date, the BOC has hired 66 new personnel and promoted 186 personnel. This move not only enhances the BOC's organizational development but also boosts employee morale.





Commissioner Rubio Leads Quarterly Assessment for Improved Performance

Commissioner Rubio conducted a quarterly assessment with the agency's top executives in preparation for the upcoming months.

Commissioner Rubio emphasized the BOC's dedication in continuously improving performance and delivering excellent service to stakeholders, adding that the assessment allowed them to identify areas for improvement and discuss solutions.

Commissioner Rubio emphasized that the BOC is committed to provide its employees with a fair and conducive working environment, which, in turn, translates to improved services for its clients. With his commitment in organizational development and employee morale, the BOC moves towards achieving its goal of efficient public service delivery.



BOC Launches Employees' Consultative Assembly: Fostering Professionalism and Boosting Employee Morale

The BOC recently launched its first-ever Employees' Consultative Assembly. The event was a resounding success, with over a hundred employees participating and actively engaging in the activities.



The event kicked off with a blood donation program and medical examinations. The afternoon session was highlighted by a presentation of the Commissioner's 5-Point Priority Programs, highlighting the BOC's focus on promoting participatory governance and improving employee welfare and development. The event also recognized 73 employees who had served the Bureau continuously for 10 years or more, a testament to the dedication and loyalty of the BOC's workforce.

The assembly aimed to encourage more active involvement of internal partners and stakeholders in the planning, development, implementation, and monitoring of the BOC's programs and activities.

BOC Earns 23 ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certificates

The BOC has secured 23 ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certificates. This prestigious certification serves as evidence of the BOC's dedication to rendering exceptional service to clients, all while maintaining compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

Eleven collection districts, namely, the Port of Manila, Manila International Container Port, Port of NAIA, Port of Batangas, Port of Legazpi, Port of Cebu, Port of Davao, Port of Tacloban, Port of Cagayan de Oro, Port of Subic, and Port of Clark, have obtained ISO QMS certification. The certification also extends to the Customer Care Centers of all collection districts, including the CCC of the Port of Zamboanga and the Port of Limay.



In addition, seven subports, namely the Customs Postal Office, Subport of PEZA Cavite, Subport of PEZA Laguna, Subport of Mactan, Dumaguete, Iligan, and General Santos, have successfully achieved ISO certification.

Moreover, the customs processes at international airports, including NAIA Terminal 1 and Davao International Airport, have met the ISO standards. Notably, the Risk Management Office is the first ISO-certified office in the central office.

Annual surveillance audits are conducted to ensure that all 23 offices maintain the ISO standards. Offices that have already earned the certification are pursuing improvements and expanding their QMS scope to their subports and units.

Commissioner Rubio emphasized that the certification shows BOC's commitment to continuously improve its quality management systems and meet consumer expectations.



BOC Takes Strong Measures Against Graft and Corruption Within Its Ranks

Commissioner Rubio is leaving no stone unturned in his campaign to combat corruption in the agency. The BOC has taken a firm stance against graft and corruption by implementing strict anti-graft measures and taking action against those found guilty of engaging in corrupt practices.

From 13 February to 12 May 2023, the BOC served Show-Cause Orders to seven customs personnel. Further, ten were investigated by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service, which led to the suspension of one personnel and the reprimanding of another.

Commissioner Rubio emphasized that the BOC is committed in ensuring that its personnel adhere to ethical and professional standards in the performance of their duties. The BOC's anti-corruption measures include the strict implementation of policies, procedures, and systems that promote transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Under Commissioner Rubio's leadership and his dedication to combat corruption, the BOC is making notable progress in the pursuit of becoming an institution free from corruption, thereby fostering principles of good governance.



CONTACT US



G/F OCOM Building,
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila



(02) 8527-1968



(02) 8705-6000



customs.gov.ph



boc.cares@customs.gov.ph

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Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

G/F OCOM Building, 16th Street, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
(632) 705-6000
www.customs.gov.ph