

CUSTOMS

G A Z E T T E

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



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BOC Reports Strong Collection Performance for Q1 2023, Exceeds Target by P16.6 Billion

First Quarter of 2023

P213.619 B (↑ 8.43%)

P197.020 Billion - Target Collection | P16.599 Billion - Surplus

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has reported a strong collection performance for the first quarter of 2023, exceeding its revenue target by P16.6 billion or 8.43%. The BOC collected a total of P213.619 billion for the period of January to March, as against the revenue target of P197.020 billion for the same period.

The BOC's collection for March 2023 alone was P80.133 billion, exceeding its target of P72.282 billion by P7.851 billion or 10.86%.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio attributed the strong collection performance to the BOC's 5-point priority programs, which focused on digitalizing Customs processes, simplifying procedures, curbing smuggling in all forms, and uplifting employee welfare and development. "Our positive collection performance for the first quarter of 2023 is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our men and women at the Bureau. We will continue to implement our priority programs and introduce new initiatives to sustain this positive momentum," said Rubio.

The BOC's collection performance for the first quarter of 2023 is a significant improvement from the same period last year, exceeding the P188.557 billion collection in 2022 by P25.062 billion or 13.29%.

"I am proud of the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Bureau of Customs," the Commissioner said in a statement. "This achievement is a testament to our collective effort to improve our revenue collection and promote good governance," he added.

The BOC's strong performance in the first quarter of the year would significantly contribute to the country's economic recovery. It demonstrates that the government's efforts to improve revenue collection and promote good governance are yielding positive results. The BOC's consistent improved performance bodes well for the government's revenue targets and commitment to promoting economic growth and development.

"We will continue to work hard and strive for excellence as we aim to become one of the world's best Customs administrations," said Rubio.

BOC Exceeds Monthly Collection Targets for March and April 2023

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS REVENUE COLLECTION

March 2023

P80.133 B (↑ 10.86%)

P72.282 B - Target Collection

April 2023

P68.274 B (↑ 0.11%)

P68.119 B - Target Collection

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has achieved remarkable success in its revenue collection efforts for March and April 2023, exceeding its targets for both months.

In March, the BOC collected P80.133 billion, surpassing its revenue target of P72.282 billion by P7.851 billion or 10.86%. In April 2023, the BOC once again exceeded its revenue collection target, generating P68.274 billion, a 3.97% increase from last year's collection of P65.669 billion for the same period.

The BOC also recorded its highest daily collection for the year on 28 April 2023, amounting to over P7.51 billion, indicating the agency's continued efforts to improve its collection performance.

For the first four months of 2023, the BOC's total revenue collection reached P281.902 billion, surpassing the target collection of P265.220

billion by 6.29% or P16.682 billion. This year's collection is also 10.89% higher than the previous year's collection of P254.226 billion for the same period.

The BOC attributes its collection performance to its higher rate of assessment, mainly due to improved valuation of non-oil importation, according to the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group - Financial Service.

The BOC's consistent increase in revenue collection is a positive development for the Philippine government as it seeks to generate revenue to fund various programs and projects. Commissioner Rubio stressed that the BOC will continue to uphold its commitment for transparency, accountability, and service excellence as it strives to meet its revenue targets and contribute to the growth and development of the country. With these promising results, the BOC remains optimistic in achieving its revenue target for the rest of 2023.

Commissioner Rubio expressed his pride and gratitude for the agency's dedication to public service, emphasizing that they will continue to push for reforms to provide the best service for the Filipino people and contribute to the country's economic growth.

BOC Welcomes World Bank's Report on the Philippines' Improved Ranking in Customs Performance

World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI)

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



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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The Bureau of Customs (BOC) welcomes the report of the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) citing the country's significant improvement in trade facilitation and customs performance.

The World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI), which measures countries' ability to trade goods across borders with speed and reliability, reported that the Philippines moved up 17 places from 60th in 2018 to the 43rd spot this year out of 139 countries.

Economies are rated based on customs performance, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics competence and equity, timeliness, and tracking and tracing metrics. The survey, which was conducted from September 6 to November 5, 2022, consulted logistics professionals to assess how easy or difficult it is to trade manufactured goods with various countries. In particular, the Philippines ranked 59th in customs performance this year, up from 85th in 2018.

Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio expressed satisfaction with the report, stating that the improved customs ranking proves the effectiveness of the Bureau's trade facilitation program.

"The latest results of the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) prove that the BOC is on the right track as regards trade efficiency. We shall continue these trade facilitation efforts while implementing new measures to maximize the performance of Customs processes." BOC is now working to achieve a digital approach to Customs processes to further enhance its effectiveness.

"We will continue to automate our systems and processes, computerize our work, and modernize our facilities and procedures. We are setting our goals towards the achievement of our priority programs under the guidance of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr."

BOC, BPI Lead Regional Exchange of E-Phyto Certificate in ASEAN

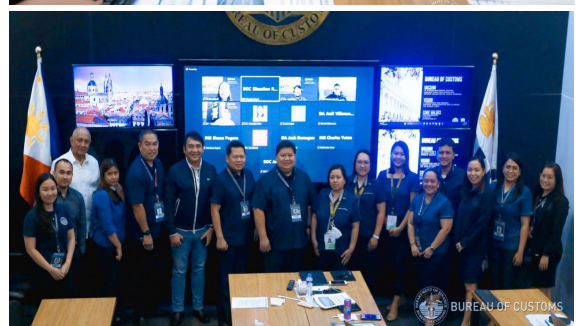
The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) have taken the lead in facilitating the exchange of the Electronic Phytosanitary (e-Phyto) Certificate system with Indonesia and Thailand. This initiative aims to promote the adoption of digital systems for the issuance and verification of phytosanitary certificates, which will help ensure efficient, reliable, and secure trade in agricultural products within the region.

The e-Phyto Certificate is an electronic version of the phytosanitary certificate, which certifies that agricultural products being exported are free from pests and diseases that could harm the receiving country's crops. This digital system will enhance the efficiency of the trade process and reduce the risk of fraud and errors associated with paper-based systems.

During the meeting, the BOC and BPI agreed to participate in the pilot e-Phyto exchange with Indonesia in May and with Thailand in June this year.

As two key agencies involved in the implementation of phytosanitary measures, the BOC and BPI are committed in working closely to ensure the successful testing and implementation of the e-Phyto Certificate exchange. This will involve ongoing coordination and support with ASEAN counterparts throughout the testing process.

The end-to-end test exchange of the e-Phyto Certificate with Indonesia and Thailand is a concrete step of the BOC, under the leadership of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, towards harmonizing, simplifying, and facilitating trade across the region.



BOC Hosts 34th Meeting of the ASEAN CPTFWG; Strengthens Collaboration with ASEAN Member States



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the External Affairs Office (EAO), hosted the 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation Working Group (CPTFWG) from March 21 to 23, 2023 in Mactan, Cebu, Philippines.

The progress on ASEAN Customs cooperation under the CPTFWG and its Sub-Working Groups (SWG) and the implementation and commitments relative to the World Trade Organization – Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-FTA) were comprehensively discussed during the Meeting.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Michael C. Fermin, Director of the Administration Office and Officer-in-Charge Deputy Commissioner for the Internal Administration Group (IAG), highlighted that the ASEAN CPTFWG confronts an extensive range of challenges to simplify, harmonize, standardize, and modernize ASEAN Customs Procedures in furtherance of a resilient regional trade environment. He further underscored the importance of Customs-to-Customs and Customs-to-Business partnerships, and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the ASEAN Customs in achieving its objectives.

On the other hand, Mr. Lim Teck Leong, Assistant Director General, Policy and Planning, Singapore Customs and Chairperson of the ASEAN CPTFWG, noted that the ASEAN is recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic. He recognized the need for Customs procedures to keep up with emerging trends. He also emphasized the role of the ASEAN CPTFWG in contributing to setting policy direction, streamlining customs procedures, and strengthening collaboration among ASEAN Member States (AMS).

The priorities of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio include proactive engagement with the international community to exemplify a globally competitive Customs Administration and strengthen cooperation with regional and international entities.

BOC Strengthens Partnership with DOJ to Intensify Prosecution of Cases



Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Boying Remulla met with Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio to discuss the Department of Justice-Bureau of Customs (DOJ-BOC) Task Force and enhance measures in the prosecution of cases.

The DOJ and BOC revisited several policies and circulars to resolve bottlenecks and streamline communications and procedures for case processing.

The BOC also proposed to conduct a BOC-DOJ Legal Summit to renew commitments and boost the understanding and capabilities of the Bureau in areas of prosecution and the DOJ in customs processes, which are indispensable to the successful prosecution of cases.

Secretary Remulla committed full cooperation and support to the BOC in upholding transparency and accountability and assured efficient administration of the criminal justice system.

“We convey our sincere gratitude to Secretary Remulla for his support in ensuring a more aggressive prosecution of cases to

serve justice and punish those found guilty of violating national laws,” says Commissioner Rubio.

“We will continue to intensify our border protection efforts to safeguard the interests and welfare of Filipinos against smuggled and unsafe goods that pose hazards to our society,” he added.

BOC Presents its Priority Programs; Recognizes Top Importers for 2022

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio gathered the stakeholders of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at the Stakeholders' Night event to recognize their contributions in fulfilling the Bureau's mandates and present his plans and programs for the agency.

Aligned with the overarching directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the BOC will focus on accomplishing its five priority programs: (1) digitalize Customs processes; (2) hit and surpass the target; (3) simplify procedures and facilitate secure trade; (4) curb smuggling in all forms; and lastly (5) uplift employee welfare and development.

"The Five-Point Priority Program is the testament of our commitment in improving efficiency, upgrading systems and processes, and promoting integrity and professionalism," said Commissioner Rubio.

Gracing the event, Department of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno expressed his support to the BOC.

"I believe Commissioner Rubio has perfectly captured in his presentation the depth and breadth of the Bureau's achievements, plans, and programs to help us sustain these gains," said Secretary Diokno.

"I challenge the Bureau of Customs to set a fresh vision and even loftier targets. I believe that you have what it takes to become a modern and world-class institution," he added.



Recognizing that inclusivity is a catalyst in obtaining effective solutions, the Commissioner also emphasized his plans to strengthen Customs-stakeholder partnerships, placing the feedback and evaluation of partners and stakeholders at the core of his plans of action.

The BOC announced the creation of an Advisory Council, which will be the official forum for communications and consultations between the Bureau and the business community. Among its intended functions is to assist the Commissioner in achieving excellent delivery of customs policies and services and identifying obstacles in trade facilitation that result in delays and unnecessary costs.

"We believe that by bringing together various stakeholders to form an industry-wide advisory council, we will be able to develop even more relevant policies that respond to our present needs," Commissioner Rubio stressed.

The BOC also awarded its 2022 top importers during the event. Among those recognized were Petron Corporation, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc., and Seaoil Philippines Inc., to name a few.

Aside from plugging revenue leakages, the BOC attributes its success to its importers, who had religiously paid the rightful duties and taxes due on their importations, contributing to the positive collection performance of the agency.



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

STAKEHOLDERS' NIGHT



BOC Zamboanga Destroys P1.43-B worth of Smuggled Cigarettes



The Bureau of Customs Port of Zamboanga (BOC-POZ) destroyed a total of 19,419 cases and 667 reams of smuggled cigarettes on 28 April 2023. The destruction took place in a Customs-rented warehouse in Barangay Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

Alongside representatives from the Commission on Audit, the local government unit, operating units from partner agencies, and other stakeholders, the BOC condemned the seized cigarettes worth PHP 1,439,586,900.

The cigarettes were apprehended during various anti-smuggling operations in the Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi in the first quarter of this year.

Acting District Collector, Engr. Arthur G. Sevilla, Jr., reported that this is the largest condemnation of seized cigarettes in various areas under the jurisdiction of the Port of Zamboanga.

The condemned master cases of cigarettes were seized for violating Section 117 of R.A. 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) of 2016 in relation to Executive Order Number 245 entitled "Amended Rules and Regulations Governing the Exportation and Importation of Leaf Tobacco and Tobacco Products."

With the firm directive of BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio to curb smuggling in all forms, BOC-POZ continues to implement intensified anti-smuggling operations and remains steadfast in maintaining close coordination and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

"The BOC persistently exerts effort to curb smuggling in all forms. Condemnations and destruction of these smuggled items, along with filing of appropriate criminal charges, will continue to deter the citizenry from committing criminal acts of smuggling," said Commissioner Rubio.

The condemnation of seized goods by the BOC-POZ is consistent with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s standing order to implement anti-smuggling and border control measures in the country.

The cigarettes were drenched in water and repeatedly crushed by payloaders in the presence of all partner agencies and stakeholders. The condemned cigarettes will be transported and disposed of in the sanitary landfill.

BOC-NAIA Intercepts Shabu worth P400.724-M



Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, with BOC Intelligence Group Deputy Commissioner Juvymax Uy, inspected a shipment from Guinea, Africa, said to contain spare parts on March 20, 2023, at the Pair Cargo Warehouse in Pasay City.

Due to a suspicious image seen by NAIA Customs X-Ray Operatives, a physical examination was conducted by the assigned Customs Examiner which yielded 58.93 kilograms of Shabu (Methamphetamine Hydrochloride), with a total estimated street value of Php400,724,000.00 as confirmed by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

PDEA is investigating the consignee who is set to undergo inquest proceedings for violation of RA 9165 and RA 10863 also known as the Customs Modernization Act (CMTA).

The BOC-NAIA, under the guidance of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, is steadfast in protecting the country against any form of smuggling, aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

The BOC-NAIA will heighten its vigilance against illicit goods and border protection efforts to safeguard the country's border.

BOC participates in High-Level Border Security, Strategic Trade Control Enforcement seminar



The Bureau of Customs has joined a series of seminar on border security and trade control sponsored by the United States Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance (U.S. EXBS) in coordination with World Customs Organization (WCO).

The first in a series is the “High-Level Border Security Seminar” held on April 17-18, 2023 at the Diamond Hotel, Manila.

The one and a half day seminar tackled the security role of customs, the strategic trade controls and how to build an STCE system within Customs.

The activity also discussed experiences from Philippines related Security activities and organizational capabilities that are required to successfully implement security enforcement functions and some of the STC enforcement best practices.

Resource speakers Adam Vas, STCE Programme Coordinator and Debika Pal, STCE expert facilitated the seminar attended by 15 Senior Customs Managers and Supervisors who are involved in the role of strategic trade facilitation and enforcement.

Another training on “National Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE)” was held on April 18-21, 2023.

During the three and a half day conference, the attendees learned many aspects of “Strategic Trade Control” (STC) including its legal framework, the elements of an STC system, STC risk management, STC targeting, and STC investigation.

More detailed explanations of CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) materials and how they are shipped and transported were also discussed.

The STCE training was attended by 20 Frontline Customs Officers from the Export Divisions of Port of Manila, Manila International Container Port, Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Port of Clark – the most preferred ports of departure of Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO) – registered and authorized entities.

The third activity, “Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures (COPES)” Training was held on April 24-28, 2023.

Throughout the five-day program, Resource speakers Bernard Crossey, COPES consultant and Mr. Heung Wing (Henry) Fong, COPES accredited expert equipped the 20 Enforcement and Intelligence personnel with a wealth of knowledge in areas such as risk assessment, targeting, investigation techniques, and evidence handling.

BOC joins US-DTRA training on identification of Weapon of Mass Destruction



The Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO) invited the Bureau of Customs to participate in the “Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) Materials Identification Training” of United States Defense Threat Reduction (U.S. DTRA) on April 24-25, 2023 (Batch 1) and April 27-28, 2023 (Batch 2) at the Marriott Grand Ballroom, Pasay.

U.S. DTRA experts led by Alex Bednarek and Lt. Col. Walter Pratt discussed different types and specifications of rockets and missiles and materials used for chemical and biological warfare. The DTRA team also brought and showcased samples of the discussed materials and equipment.

The training was attended by trade control examiners, enforcement officers, and intelligence officers from the Bureau’s collection districts. Also included in the training are officers from other government agencies such as Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Drug and Enforcement Authority (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO).

ARE YOU A FAN OF FIREARMS SUCH AS GUNS, AIRSOFT RIFLES, PISTOLS, AND OTHER WEAPONS?

Importing gunpowder, ammunition, firearms, and other weapons of war into the Philippines without legal or regulatory authorization is strictly prohibited.

To import or export rifles and/or pistols, you must first obtain an Import or Export Permit (Authority to Import/Export) from the PNP-Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO). Only authorized producers and dealers are allowed to import and export such goods, and individuals importing or exporting firearms for personal use are not permitted.

Following these regulations ensures everyone's safety and helps avoid legal consequences.



If you have any questions about firearms regulations, contact the PNP-FEO directly via email at polsection.fldfeo@gmail.com and feocsg@pnp.gov.ph.

Sources: Section 117 of RA 10863 (<https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CMTA-RA-10863.pdf>) and PNP Circular No. 11-2007 (<https://www.pntr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PNP-Circular-No.-11-Dec.04-2007.pdf>)

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