

# CUSTOMS

## GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs



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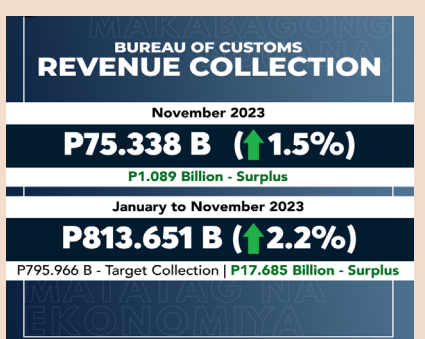


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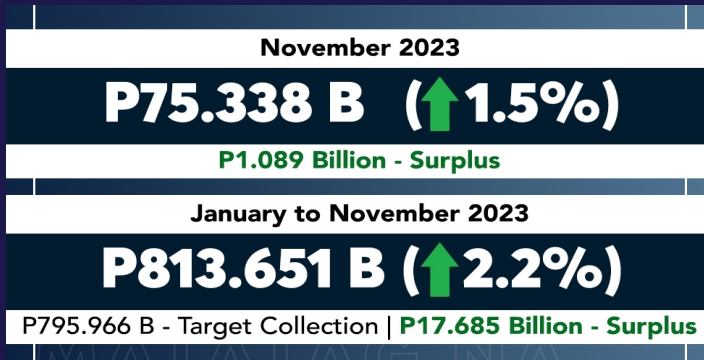
### BOC and Other Agencies Introduce the eTravel Customs System for Streamlined Border Control

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has achieved a significant milestone in bolstering national security and streamlining customs procedures as the BOC collaborated with key stakeholders to introduce the E-Travel Customs System on November 21, 2023. This innovative system, launched at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1, is a joint effort with the Bureau of Immigration (BI), the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).



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## BOC Achieves P75.338 Billion Collection in November 2023, Surpassing Monthly Target



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From January to November 2023, BOC surpassed its revenue goal, reaching a substantial P813.651 billion—surpassing the target of P795.966 billion by 2.2%, equivalent to P17.685 billion.

The overall revenue for this year also displayed a positive upswing, showcasing a 3.09% increase, equivalent to P24.405 billion, in comparison to the previous year's collection of P789.246 billion.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio emphasized, “Our stringent revenue collection initiatives resulted in a significant increase in the Bureau’s collection. We are fully committed in enhancing trade efficiency to collect more funds for the various public service programs of our honorable President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.”

BOC has intensified its digitalization initiatives through innovative systems that streamline procedures and reduce processing times in import and export transactions. Additionally, the bureau has heightened border control and security measures to combat illicit trade and customs fraud, contributing to improved revenue collection performance.

## BOC Commissioner Rubio Fast-Tracks the Approval and Distribution of Employee Rewards for the Agency’s 2018 Revenue Collection Performance Under the Attrition Act of 2005



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



In line with his priority program to boost the morale and welfare of employees, Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio pushed the expeditious processing of all prerequisites related to the Bureau of Customs’ (BOC) application for rewards for the agency’s 2018 revenue collection performance under Republic Act No. 9335, commonly known as the Attrition Act of 2005.

The Revenue Performance Evaluation Board (RPEB), established under RA 9335, is composed of the Secretary of Finance as the Chairperson, the

Secretaries of Budget and Management, and the National Economic and Development Authority as voting members. On the other hand, representatives from the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) serve as non-voting members.

Upon completion of all prerequisites for the application, granting, and distribution of rewards for 2018 revenue performance, on November 22, 2023, the board convened to deliberate the BOC’s application.

Enacted in 2005, the Attrition Act aims to optimize the collection capabilities of the country’s leading revenue-generating agencies.

The implementation of the Attrition Act reflects a genuine recognition of the hard work and dedication of public servants and concomitantly cultivates a culture of motivation among BOC employees. This motivation, in turn, contributes to the consistent realization of the agency’s mandates: revenue collection, trade facilitation, and border protection.

Commissioner Rubio stressed: “Our commitment of recognizing and rewarding the dedication of our employees is a key element in fostering a culture of excellence within the Bureau. Through incentives enshrined under the Attrition Act, we aim to motivate our team to consistently achieve and surpass their respective targets that ultimately redound to the benefit not only of our organization but as well as the entire country.”

## BOC and Other Agencies Introduce the eTravel Customs System for Streamlined Border Control

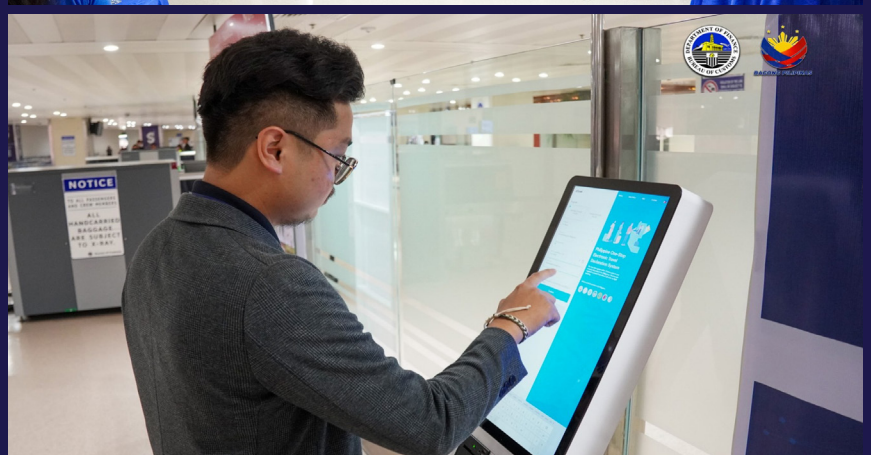
The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has achieved a significant milestone in bolstering national security and streamlining customs procedures as the BOC collaborated with key stakeholders to introduce the E-Travel Customs System on November 21, 2023. This innovative system, launched at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1, is a joint effort with the Bureau of Immigration (BI), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

The integration of the Electronic Customs Baggage Declaration Form (e-CBDF) and Electronic Currencies Declaration Form (e-CDF) into the BI's eTravel System represents a pivotal step in digitizing data collection processes for travelers and crew members arriving in and departing from the Philippines. This collaborative initiative aims to optimize border control, enhance health surveillance, and facilitate economic data analysis.

The E-Travel Customs System, a unified digital data collection platform, simplifies the passenger experience at airport terminals. Notably, its key feature is the Electronic Customs Baggage and Currency Declaration interface, formerly part of the BOC's I-Declare System, introduced on June 29, 2022.

Travelers and crew members can now utilize a user-friendly and single web portal which integrates the border control requirements of the Bureau of Immigration, Bureau of Quarantine, Bureau of Customs and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Additionally, timely sharing of information with AMLC and BSP strengthens the nation's commitment to combat money laundering and ensure financial security.

Bureau of Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio expressed confidence in the E-Travel Customs System's potential to revolutionize customs processes, stating, "This collaborative initiative demonstrates our commitment to innovation and efficiency in customs management. The E-Travel Customs System will play a pivotal role in ensuring the security of our borders and fostering a seamless travel experience for all. We are dedicated to advancing our customs practices, aligning with global standards, and safeguarding the interests of our nation." The Commissioner also extended appreciation to the BI, DICT, BSP and AMLC for their invaluable partnership in achieving this milestone.



## BOC Advances in ASEAN Commitments, Receives Accolades for Implementing the ASEAN Single Window and Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate System



In its commitment in facilitating secure trade, the Bureau of Customs (BOC), under the leadership of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, has earned recognition for its promotion and timely implementation of the exchange of electronic documents through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) regional platform. This acknowledgment took place during the 31st meeting of the ASEAN Single Window Steering Committee (ASWSC) held at the Diamond Hotel, Manila, from November 29 to December 1, 2023.

Mr. Lim Teck Leong, Deputy Director-General (DDG) of Singapore Customs and Chair of the 3-day ASWSC Meeting, conveyed appreciation to Commissioner Rubio for setting the tone, bringing together leaders from the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), fostering the exchange of viewpoints, and facilitating a robust discussion on the future work plans for the ASW.

Moreover, Kathy Tin, Deputy Office Director of the United States Mission to ASEAN praised the BOC for advancing its implementation of the electronic Phytosanitary (e-Phyto) Certificate System and ASW, saying, “I cannot stress to you enough how amazing the Bureau of Customs has been to work with. Not only are they appreciative, but they’re also very motivated to make sure that the e-Phyto and the ASW are sustainable. So, I wish the Bureau of Customs nothing but success in the new endeavor with ASW.”

Based on the outcome of the 31st ASWSC Meeting, the Philippines successfully passed the end-to-end test exchange of the e-Phyto Certificate with Indonesia. The Philippines and Indonesia will move in the conduct of the live parallel testing and aim to

implement the live operation by the end of the year.

The 31st ASWSC Meeting served as the central coordination point for required actions at both national and regional levels, focusing on policy discussions to enhance the efficient implementation and operation of the ASW.

The ASWSC Meeting also considered the needs of the future development of the ASW under the 2023 and 2024 ASW Annual Priorities and Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) of ASEAN. This includes the expansion of the ASW to accommodate the exchange of additional trade-related documents with Dialogue Partners, including Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, the United States, and New Zealand using the ASW regional platform.

BOC Commissioner Rubio expressed appreciation for the uplifting messages from two notable speakers at the ASW Meeting. He affirmed that “the BOC will carry on with their duty towards harmonizing, simplifying, and facilitating trade across the ASEAN region and will continue to work closely with our partners in the global customs community to streamline trade processes to deliver quality and efficient service for the stakeholders and citizens of our nations.”

Commissioner Rubio also reaffirmed the BOC’s continued dedication to leverage technology and digital innovation in pursuit of shared goals for the ASW. The BOC, acting on his directive, is continuing to innovate customs processes, with the recent launch of the eTravel System serving as evidence of this effort.

The 31st ASWSC Meeting was a collaborative effort led by the BOC External Affairs Office and the Port of Manila.

## BOC-NAIA, PDEA, NAIA-IATG Nab Consignee of P67.306M Worth of Shabu



The Bureau of Customs – Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA), in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG), intercepted a parcel containing approximately 9,898 grams of shabu (methamphetamine) with an estimated street value of P67,306,400.00 at the Paircargo Warehouse, Pasay City.

The shipment, which was declared as “bearing” originated from Mozambique, Southeastern Africa via Hong Kong through Ethiopian Airlines flight number ET644 which arrived on December 2, 2023.

The parcel underwent rigorous profiling, x-ray screening, and physical examination which led to the discovery of its concealment inside the bearings.

The composite team arrested the consignee, who allegedly was picking up the parcel for her partner she met online.

“The public is warned to be more aware of the variations of the love scam, where smugglers of illegal drugs use their Filipino partners to serve as couriers. Our laws are very clear that whoever is identified as the owner of the shipment remains under the pain of imprisonment if found to be in violation of the rules,” stressed Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio.

The consignee will be prosecuted for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9165 or the Anti-Illegal Drugs Act, and RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

The BOC, in support of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s anti-illegal drug campaign, remains at the forefront in ensuring the protection of the country's borders against the entry of illegal drugs and other prohibited goods.

## BOC Zamboanga Destroys Smuggled Cigarettes Worth P323.59-M

The Bureau of Customs, Port of Zamboanga, destroyed 5,624 master cases and 1,171 reams of seized and forfeited smuggled cigarettes on November 30, 2023, in a customs-rented warehouse in Brgy. Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

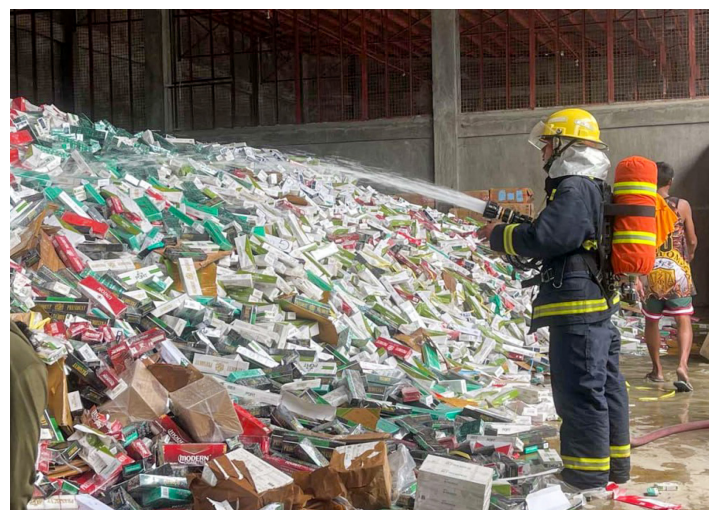
The subject cigarettes worth Php 323.59 million were seized during separate maritime patrol operations and customs checkpoints in Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, from May to November 2023.

Engr. Arthur G. Sevilla Jr., Acting District Collector of the Port of Zamboanga, led the condemnation activity, which was witnessed by partner agencies in the Bureau's anti-smuggling campaign. Among those present were the local government unit, law enforcement agencies, representatives from the Commission on Audit, and other concerned stakeholders.

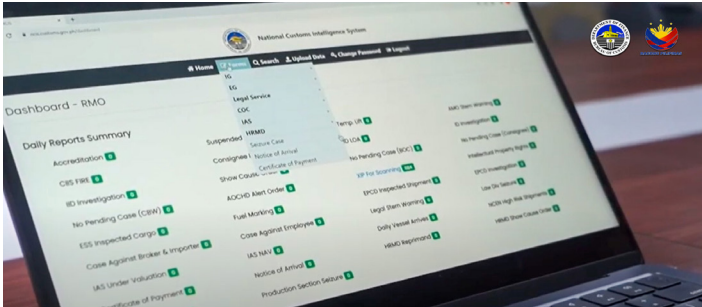
Acting District Collector Sevilla stressed that the seizure and destruction of these contrabands resonate with the instruction of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio to relentlessly combat the illicit tobacco trade in the country and forge a close partnership with the law enforcement agencies to further strengthen the Bureau's anti-smuggling campaign.

The cigarettes are drenched in water by elements from the Bureau of Fire Protection, subsequently crushed by payload equipment, and then disposed of in the sanitary landfill in Brgy. Salaan.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio commended Acting District Collector Sevilla and the men and women of the Port of Zamboanga for their vigilance in preventing the entry of illicit cigarettes into the country. “The Bureau of Customs will be persistent in its relentless efforts in stopping the proliferation of unlawfully imported tobacco products in the country and safeguard the nation's interests against smugglers”, he stated.



## BOC Implements the National Customs Intelligence System, Empowering Officials with Actionable Insights for Enhanced Border Security



In a historic leap towards modernizing border security and streamlining operational processes, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) implemented the National Customs Intelligence System (NCIS) on December 13, 2023, during the Intelligence Group (IG) Conference held at Diamond Hotel Manila.

A pivotal moment at the event ensued as Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio officially signed Customs Memorandum Order 19-2023, entitled “Mandatory Submission of Reports & Data in the National Customs Intelligence System.” This momentous step underscores the Bureau’s unwavering dedication in leveraging technology, marking a breakthrough in advancing intelligence and border security protocols.

The NCIS, developed by the BOC – Management Information Systems and Technology Group (MISTG)

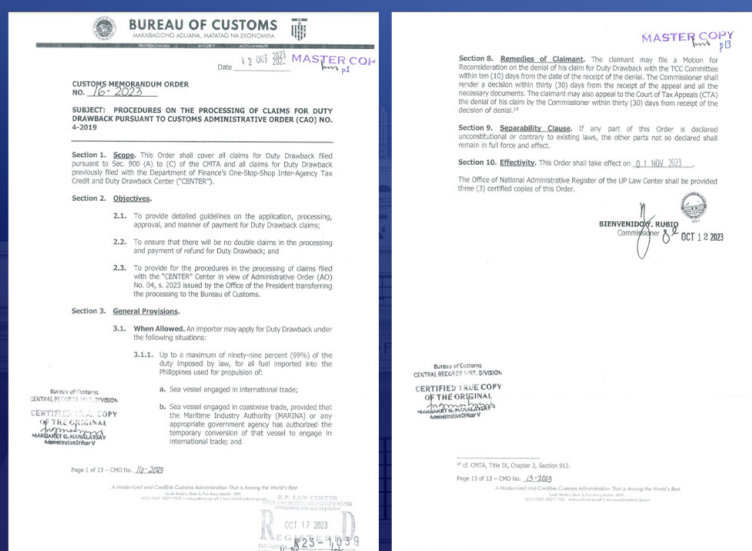
upon the initiative of the IG, serves as a secured data warehouse for intelligence information from various units of the agency. It provides a database to generate actionable intelligence information, and support case build-up, risk profiling, and analysis.

The system’s capabilities extend to equipping authorized officials with data-driven insights, thereby enhancing the Bureau’s operational efficiency and effectiveness, and reinforcing its ability to better safeguard national borders and facilitate international trade.

The strategic direction of Commissioner Rubio, with strong emphasis on the forefront missions of the BOC to enhance trade facilitation, strengthen border control, and improve the collection of lawful revenues, and the dedicated teamwork of the IG, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Juvymax R. Uy, have been instrumental in the successful implementation of NCIS.

The NCIS marks a monumental stride in the Bureau’s intelligence capabilities, marking a new era in the efficient and effective management of intelligence operations. With the system now operational, the Bureau is poised to navigate the future with heightened intelligence, resilience, and steadfast dedication in safeguarding the nation’s interest.

## BOC issues Guidelines for Duty Drawback Claims



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has outlined the procedures for processing duty drawback claims through the issuance of Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 16-2023, in accordance with Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 4-2019.

This order aims to provide comprehensive guidelines for the application, processing, approval, and payment methods related to Duty Drawback claims. It shall cover all claims for Duty Drawback filed pursuant to Sec. 900 (A) to (C) of the CMTA and all claims for Duty Drawback previously filed with the Department of Finance’s One-Stop-Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty

Drawback Center (“CENTER”) in view of Administrative Order (AO) No. 04, s. 2023 issued by the Office of the President transferring the processing to the Bureau of Customs.

Claims for duty drawback shall be processed, generated, and released within sixty (60) to one hundred twenty (120) days following the receipt of properly completed claims and validated supporting documents.

## BOC Recognized by ARTA for its Steadfast and Valuable Contributions to the Landscape of Doing Business in the Philippines



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) received recognition during the “2023 Ease of Doing Business Convention”, hosted by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) at the Philippine International Convention Center, on December 1, 2023. In the said event, the BOC’s significant role in enhancing efficiency and reducing red tape was duly cited and acknowledged.

Assistant Commissioner Atty. Vincent Philip C. Maronilla represented the bureau and endorsed ARTA’s efforts to streamline government services. He emphasized BOC’s commitment to supporting ARTA’s initiatives, simplifying procedures for foreign donations, relief goods, and improving disaster response.

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Internal Administration Group of the BOC, Michael C. Fermin, received the plaque of recognition for the Bureau’s unwavering support for ARTA’s programs throughout the year.

Aligned with the ARTA’s mission of promoting ease of doing business, the BOC has initiated modernization projects to streamline customs processes, achieving a 96.99% digitalization rate.

Under the guidance of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, the partnership between BOC and ARTA has been strengthened, underscoring the agencies’ collective dedication to providing an efficient and business-friendly environment. The recognition signifies a milestone for BOC, reaffirming its commitment to actively contribute to the ongoing enhancement of government processes.



# DID YOU KNOW THE IMPORTATION OF CHEMICALS REQUIRES AN IMPORT CLEARANCE?



Chemicals posing risks to public health, workplaces, and the environment require securing an Import Clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB). This is pursuant with the Chemical Control Orders issued on October 26, 1990, for various priority chemicals, which include the following:

1. Mercury and Mercury Compounds
2. Cyanide and Cyanide Compounds
3. Asbestos
4. Polychlorinated Biphenyls
5. Lead and Lead Compounds
6. Arsenic and Arsenic Compounds
7. Chromium (VI)
8. Cadmium
9. Ozone-Depleting Substances
10. Hydrofluorocarbons
11. Other related CCO policies



For details on import permit requirements and procedures, please contact DENR-EMB at (02) 920-2263, (02) 8539-4378 local 128, or via email at [chemicals@emb.gov.ph](mailto:chemicals@emb.gov.ph).

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**  
**MANAGING EDITOR:**  
**PROJECT ASSISTANT:**  
**CONTRIBUTORS:**

**GRAPHIC ARTIST:**  
**MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER:**  
**CIRCULATION STAFF:**  
**PHOTOJOURNALIST:**

*Karren April A. Noronio-Gabion*  
*Jessil F. Garlando*  
*Joanne D. Agudo*  
*Alyzza Sophia A. Vinluan*  
*Cyd Kim A. Valenzuela*  
*Karen Jean M. Cagadas*  
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