

# CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

## BOC

### ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

#### 1ST QUARTER OF 2024

#### Digitalization of Customs Processes

- Attained digitalization rate of **96.99%** in Q1 2024.
- 161 out of 166** Customs processes are now digitalized.
- Nine (9)** international airports across the country are now under the pilot implementation of the e-Travel Customs System and are currently utilizing the Electronic Customs Baggage and Currency Declaration Form.

#### Simplify Procedures and Facilitate Secured Trade

- Established the **Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council** to serve as a bridge between the BOC and the business sector in addressing customs and industry issues, fostering mutual understanding, and strengthening partnerships.
- Collaborated with the **National Telecommunications Commission** on an information campaign to caution OFWs and citizens against unscrupulous freight forwarders, ensuring the security of their balikbayan boxes.

#### Curb Smuggling in All Forms

- Seized **PhP18.11 billion** worth of smuggled goods.
- Marked **4.81 billion liters** of fuel, collecting a total of **PhP61.1 billion** in duties and taxes.
- Revoked accreditation of **11** importers and **3** customs brokers.
- Filed **16** criminal charges before the Department of Justice against unscrupulous stakeholders.

#### Hit and Surpass the Target

- Collected **PhP219.385 billion** in total revenue, resulting in a surplus of **PhP8.489 billion**.
- Generated **PhP1.088 billion** from Prior Disclosure Program applications and **PhP89.071 million** from other audit findings.
- Collected **PhP3.890 million** additional revenue from public auctions.

#### Uplift Employee Welfare and Development

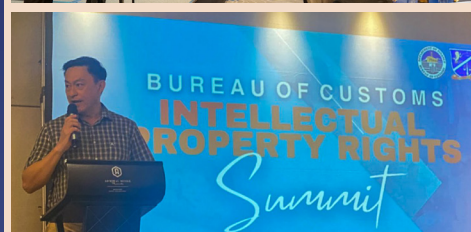
- Hired and promoted **121** personnel.
- Twenty-four (24) offices and ports** acquired ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certifications.
- The BOC secured approval and distributed the **Employee Rewards** for the 2018 revenue collection performance under Republic Act No. 9335.

**BAGONG ADUANA SA BAGONG PILIPINAS**

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**BOC, LandBank Ink Memorandum of Agreement for Efficient and Streamlined Customs Payment Procedures**

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A modernized and credible Customs administration that upholds good governance and is among the world's best

**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

**REVENUE COLLECTION**

| March 2024                     | January to March 2024           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| P75.429 B                      | P219.385 B                      |
| (↑3.45%)                       | (↑4.03%)                        |
| P72.910 B<br>Target Collection | P210.896 B<br>Target Collection |
| P2.519 Billion<br>Surplus      | P8.489 Billion<br>Surplus       |

BAGONG ADUANA SA BAGONG PILIPINAS

**BOC Surpasses March 2024 Target Collection; Earns PhP2.5 Billion Surplus**

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# BOC

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Collaborated with the **National Telecommunications Commission** on an information campaign to caution OFWs and citizens against unscrupulous freight forwarders, ensuring the security of their balikbayan boxes.



Signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for **Efficient and Streamlined Customs Payment Procedures** with Land Bank of the Philippines.



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In line with its mission to enhance collection performance, streamline trade processes, and reinforce border security, for the first quarter of 2024 the Bureau of Customs (BOC) remarkably delivered breakthrough results as aligned to Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio's five-point priority programs for the current year.

First, the BOC made significant progress in digitalizing customs processes. During the first quarter of 2024, the BOC commenced the pilot implementation of the e-Travel Customs System, along with the utilization of the Electronic Customs Baggage and Currency Declaration Form in nine international airports nationwide, which significantly expedited current customs procedures that consequently elevated transacting travelers' experience.

Second, in terms of revenue collection, the BOC generated PhP219.385 billion, surpassing its

first-quarter target by PhP8.489 billion. Additional revenue were collected through the Prior Disclosure Program and other audit findings, totaling to PhP1.088 billion and PhP89.071 million, respectively.

Further, PhP3.890 million was obtained through public auctions. Third, to bolster trade facilitation and foster partnerships, the BOC established the Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council. This initiative fosters constructive dialogues between the bureau and the business sector, addressing customs and industry concerns effectively.

Likewise, collaborative efforts with the National Telecommunications Commission were initiated strategically aimed to caution Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and citizens against unscrupulous freight forwarders and ensure the security and integrity of balikbayan boxes.

Fourth, the BOC's intensified efforts against smuggling similarly yielded significant results, with the seizure of PhP18.11 billion worth of smuggled goods. Notably for the first quarter of 2024, BOC marked 4.81 billion liters of fuel and collected PhP61.1 billion in duties and taxes, not to mention silently discouraging illicit trade and fraudulent practices against customs revenue through an effective fuel marking program. In addition, the revocation of accreditation of 11 importers and 3 customs brokers, along with the filing of 16 criminal charges against unscrupulous stakeholders, further bolster the Bureau's efforts to enforce customs regulations and maintain trade integrity.

Fifth, in quarter 1 of 2024, 121 individuals were promoted or appointed, 24 offices and ports received ISO 9001:2015 certifications, and Employee Rewards were distributed for 2018 revenue collection performance under Republic Act No. 9335, highlighting the Bureau's dedication to employee welfare and development. Commissioner Rubio expressed gratitude for the collective resolve of the men and women of the Bureau, stating, "While the weight of our responsibilities may be heavy, our unified efforts have not only met but surpassed expectations. I extend heartfelt appreciation to the entire BOC community for their commitment and hard work." "I also encourage everyone to maintain the same level of determination in their work, striving continuously to push boundaries for a more modernized and reputable customs administration that every Filipino deserves," the Commissioner added.

## BOC Surpasses March 2024 Target Collection; Earns PhP2.5 Billion Surplus

*A modernized and credible Customs administration that upholds good governance and is among the world's best*

### BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

## REVENUE COLLECTION

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Surplus**BAGONG ADUANA SA BAGONG PILIPINAS**

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has exceeded its revenue collection target for March 2024, marking the third consecutive month this year of consistently hitting its target under the leadership of Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio.

Based on the preliminary data in March 2024, the BOC collected PhP75.429 billion, surpassing the target of PhP72.910 billion by an impressive 3.45%, resulting in a surplus of PhP2.519 billion.

From January to March 31, 2024, the BOC exceeded its cumulative revenue target by 4.03%, collecting PhP219.385 billion versus its target of PhP210.896 billion. This reflects a robust growth of 2.60%, or PhP5.557 billion, compared to the PhP213.829 billion collection for the same period in 2023.

The BOC's strong fiscal performance is attributed to its higher rate of assessment or enhanced system for determining the customs value of imported goods. Additionally, the BOC boosted its revenue collection through its strict monitoring and collection of deferred payment of Government Importation.

Intensified post-clearance audit also resulted in ensuring compliance to customs laws and collection of rightful duties and taxes from importers. Recently, BOC signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Landbank of the Philippines, which facilitates digital payment of miscellaneous fees and streamlines payment processes for stakeholders to further improve its collection.

Moreover, the BOC's strengthened border protection efforts significantly contributed to its enhanced collection performance. By intercepting various smuggled goods through multiple seizure operations in March, the agency effectively prevented revenue loss due to illicit activities.

Commissioner Rubio expressed gratitude for the collective efforts of the men and women of the BOC and reiterated the agency's dedication to strengthening revenue performance in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr's directive.

As the BOC marks another milestone, the Commissioner emphasized that, "The revenue collected by our agency serves as a lifeline for our government coffers, funding crucial national projects such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and disaster preparedness. Every peso collected is a testament to our commitment to serving the Filipino people and building a brighter future for our nation."

## BOC, LandBank Ink Memorandum of Agreement for Efficient and Streamlined Customs Payment Procedures

In its bid towards modernization and digital transformation in customs processes, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Landbank of the Philippines (Landbank) inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the use of Link.BizPortal to facilitate digital payment of miscellaneous fees. The MOA was signed by BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio and Landbank President and Chief Executive Officer Lynette V. Ortiz on Monday, March 4.

The utilization of a digital payment system will further enhance operational efficiency, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and improve overall service delivery. By leveraging the capabilities of the Landbank Link.BizPortal, the BOC aims to streamline payment processes, minimize delays, and provide a more convenient and user-friendly experience for stakeholders.

"Through Landbank's Link.BizPortal, we are not only facilitating smoother transactions but also fostering



greater transparency and accountability," said Commissioner Rubio.

Among its salient functions includes the ability to handle small and large-value payments, allow real-time debit from payor's account and batch credit to merchant's account, generate and issues online payment confirmation via email, and other functionalities that will improve the transaction experience of stakeholders.

The ceremonial signing was witnessed by key BOC officials, including Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Collection Monitoring Group, Atty. Clarence S. Dizon, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Internal Administration Group, Michael C. Fermin, and Officer-in-Charge of the Management Information Systems and Technology Group, Atty. Kriden F. Balgomera.

LandBank's President and CEO, Ms. Lynette V. Ortiz also expressed their continuous support for the BOC and promised to do their part in serving the nation.

This partnership marks a collective effort in the continuous pursuit to enhance, digitize, and simplify government services in accordance with one of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s eight-point socioeconomic agendas to improve bureaucratic efficiency, prioritize digitalization, harmonize, and standardize governmental processes.



## BOC-IPRD Launches First Intellectual Property Rights Summit

To ensure the integrity of products and credibility of businesses in the Philippines, the Bureau of Customs-Intellectual Property Rights Division (BOC-IPRD), in collaboration with partner government agencies and international companies, gathered in the first Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Summit of the Bureau of Customs last March 7 to 8, 2024, in Manila.

The summit delved into different topics, including IPR enforcement, customs jurisdiction and exercise of police authority, product identification, and other infringement challenges within the domain of IP practice, as discussed by distinguished speakers from various private and government organizations.



Atty. Kristian Nico C. Acosta, one of the speakers and head of the Legal Department of the Guess group, discussed leveraging technology to combat cyber infringements, utilizing online databases, GPS systems, advanced cameras, and other IP certification tools. Collaborative efforts among brand owners, law enforcement agencies, prosecution authorities, and courts were emphasized as crucial in the enforcement of intellectual property rights, especially against infringing activities online.

The program also featured specialized sessions on counterfeit

product identification, facilitated by brand representatives from esteemed businesses such as SO-EN, Bio-Oil, Mattel, Louis Vuitton, Nike, Unilever Philippines, Shimano, and other reputable brands.

The two-day event allowed the BOC and other attendees to engage in informative dialogues designed to broaden intelligence and enforcement networks, forge new alliances, and upskill field agents to protect consumers and trademark owners from the dangers of counterfeiting.



On behalf of the Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence Group (IG), Juvymax R. Uy, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) Director Verne Y. Enciso delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the success of IPR seizure operations, significant of which were led by the exemplary leadership

of BOC-Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio when he was still in the CIIS.

“In the past five years, seizures of IP-violating goods have totaled over 45 billion pesos; many of those raids were headed, of course, by Commissioner Rubio when he was still with the CIIS,” Director Enciso stated.

Commissioner Rubio also conveyed an address commending the IG and CIIS’ efforts in securing the IP rights of the brands in the country, saying, “In 2023 alone, the Bureau of Customs recorded 268 seizures of counterfeit cigarettes, apparel, bags, shoes, and accessories valued at 25.379 billion pesos. With this, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the Intelligence Group and the CIIS for this achievement.”

In closing, IPRD-Acting Chief Paul Pacunayen expressed trust in the turnout of the event and conveyed gratitude to the participants: “The war against counterfeit goods may seem ambitious, but we do not doubt that the people in this room, right here, right

now, are the right people to make the effort successful. We thank you again for your continued support and dedication and look forward to seeing you at future events.”



## BOC-PCAG Celebrates Mutual Cooperation with Importers and Stakeholders

The Bureau of Customs’ (BOC) – Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) convened its annual Stakeholders’ Engagement and Awarding Ceremony on March 5, 2024, at the OCOM Conference Room. The event brought together Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip C. Maronilla, key officials, importers, and stakeholders to celebrate mutual cooperation and recognize outstanding contributions to revenue collection and trade facilitation.

In his opening remarks, Atty. Melvin Joseph L. Banzon, Chief of the Audit Division 2, highlighted the pivotal role of the PCAG within the BOC, emphasizing the group’s importance in ensuring the bureau’s efficiency as a revenue-generating agency and strengthening the trade facilitation of the country.

The success of the post-clearance audit program was attributed to the strong collaboration between the BOC and importers, with the event serving as a platform to showcase this mutual cooperation.



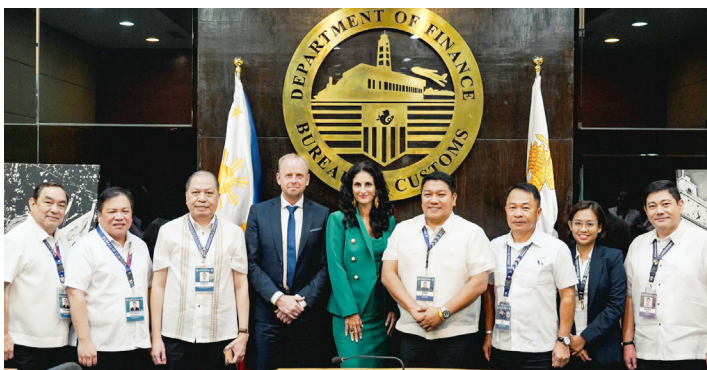
Importers and private sector entities that demonstrated compliance and made significant contributions to the bureau’s collection efforts over the past year were duly acknowledged and honored during the ceremony.

The top taxpayers for CY 2023 are JT International (Philippines), Inc., Anda Power Corporation, Merck Sharp & Dohme (I.A) LLC, Royal Canin Philippines Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., Abbott Laboratories Philippines, Organon (Philippines), Inc., Mondelez Philippines, Inc., GNPowder Dinginin Ltd. Co., and CSC Time Inc. These companies were awarded for their exemplary commitment to paying duties and taxes to the government.

Assistant Commissioner Maronilla expressed gratitude and reiterated Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio’s commitment of fostering collaboration with stakeholders. He stated, “All the achievements that we made for the past years and all the achievements we will make in the future will not be possible without your cooperation. We are all part of one Customs family; stakeholders and the government should work hand in hand. As promised by the Commissioner, we will work with you, we will hear you out, and we will adapt to meet your needs.”



## BOC meets with WCO and HRMC for Multi-Year Mercator Initiative to strengthen Risk Management in Customs Operations



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), led by Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, convened with the World Customs Organization (WCO) for a multi-year Mercator partnership and risk management stock-taking session funded by His Majesty Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The meeting attended by representatives from the Risk Management Office, External Affairs Office, and key Bureau officials, underscored the commitment to fortify risk management practices within the customs domain.

The discussions stressed the importance of effective risk management, which is recognized as the bedrock strategy for fulfilling the mandates of the BOC. Experts emphasized the significance of maintaining a responsive and efficient risk management system to address evolving challenges and enhance operational efficacy.

The collaboration between the BOC, WCO, and HRMC

signifies a concerted effort to leverage international expertise and best practices in bolstering risk management frameworks. Through shared insights and collaborative initiatives, both entities aim to further strengthen customs operations and ensure the integrity and security of cross-border trade.

The WCO representatives commended the BOC for its proactive approach in hosting the meeting and expressed appreciation for the bureau's enthusiasm in advancing the development of risk management practices.

As the meeting ended, Commissioner Rubio emphasized that: "We acknowledge the need for a holistic approach to effective risk management, which entails a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities by every office and officer," and reaffirmed the BOC's commitment for continuous improvement and innovation in customs administration.



## BOC-POM, PDEA Bust Illegal Drugs Concealed in Balikbayan Boxes

The Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of Manila (POM) intercepted an estimated PhP 337.73 million worth of illegal drugs concealed in balikbayan boxes on March 7, 2024.

The shipment underwent initial verification and K-9 inspection based on X-ray images.

Following the K-9 inspection, the balikbayan boxes proceeded through Mobile X-Ray Rapiscan for further scrutiny.

Subsequently, the boxes were segregated and tagged for a comprehensive physical examination.

Representatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) K-9 Unit, POM-XIP, CAIDTF, ESS, CIIS, and the consignee were present to witness the physical examination.

PDEA agents actively participated, collecting samples for chemical laboratory analysis and assisting in the inventory of illicit substances.

The findings from the physical examination revealed that 18 balikbayan boxes contained unlawful goods. Among them, five (5) boxes contained 122 packs or 132,100 grams of marijuana (kush) valued at PhP158,520,000.

Furthermore, 13 boxes were found to have 344 packs of marijuana, weighing 147,007 grams, with an estimated value of PhP176,408,400. This included three (3) packs



of dried mushrooms containing Psilocybin, valued at Php312,592 for 560 grams, and 2,234 grams of cannabis oil concealed in 1,117 pieces of e-cigarettes, with an estimated value of Php2,494,037.60.

Both the forwarder and the owner of the boxes are currently under investigation for alleged breaches of Republic Act (RA) No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, and RA 10863 Section 118, which pertains to the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Acting District Collector Rizalino Jose C. Torralba assures the public that POM remains vigilant in monitoring and preventing the entry of illegal drugs into the country.

Under Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio's leadership, ongoing efforts to combat all types of smuggling remain consistent. He stressed, "We are dedicated to preventing smugglers from resorting to such tactics in the future. Safeguarding the integrity of balikbayan boxes, which hold significant meaning for us Filipinos, is crucial. Utilizing this tradition as a smuggling method is completely unacceptable, and we are committed to ensuring that such actions are thwarted."

## BOC-NAIA Seizes Over Php200 Million Worth of 'Shabu'

The Bureau of Customs – Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA) intercepted a parcel containing approximately 32 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine) with an estimated street value of Php218,484,000 at the Paircargo Warehouse, Pasay City.

The shipment was declared as "machinery muffler" from Zimbabwe and underwent rigorous profiling by the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service and x-ray screening by the X-Ray Inspection Project of the Port, k9-dog sniffing and physical examination, which led to the discovery of shabu concealed inside the mufflers.

In coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG), the consignee was arrested, and appropriate charges will be filed for violation of the Customs Modernization Tariff Act and Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

NAIA District Collector, Atty. Yasmin O. Mapa, emphasized the continuous and strengthened border security currently implemented in airport resulted in the timely identification and discovery of the subject parcel of illegal drugs. Atty. Mapa further stressed that: "This seizure represents the effective policies of the Bureau on border protection and underscores the effectiveness of the port's customs officers."



On the other hand, Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio commended the Port stating that: "We continue our drive to combat illegal drugs entering our country, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to prevent its proliferation to the detriment of our countrymen. This seizure showcases our intensified efforts and dedication."



# CONGRATULATIONS!

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IS

# PBB

Performance - Based Bonus

Eligible for FY 2022



# PBB Good News

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) is pleased to announce that it is eligible for the Fiscal Year 2022 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB). The Bureau qualified for this prestigious grant after scoring a commendable 90 points on the PBB Criteria and Conditions, as outlined in Section 4.0 of AO25 Inter-Agency Task Force Memorandum Circular No. 2022-1.

The PBB program maintained a goal-driven approach throughout fiscal year 2022, giving agency performance objectives top priority. The BOC has demonstrated its persistent commitment in improving operational effectiveness in pursuit of its vision towards a modernized and credible customs administration.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT "CHILDCARE PRODUCTS" CAN BE BROUGHT INTO THE PHILIPPINES?

The importation of childcare articles such as, but not limited to, feeding bottles, sippy cups, pacifiers/soothers, teething aids, bottle teats/nipples, toothbrushes for babies, and baby feeding sets is allowed without Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Clearance, provided that:

- (a) these items are not for personal use/consumption; and
- (b) the quantity does not exceed a total of 5 kilograms.



For a more detailed and updated regulations on the importation of childcare articles, please email the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at [info@fda.gov.ph](mailto:info@fda.gov.ph) or contact the hotline at (02) 8857-1900.

### CUSTOMS GAZETTE

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