

# CUSTOMS GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Bureau of Customs

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

## BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

### BOC COLLECTS ₱615-B FOR FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 2024

January to August 2024

**₱614.781 B**  
TOTAL COLLECTION

↑ **0.9%** | **₱5.189 B**    **₱609.592 B**  
Surplus                                  Target

#### 2024 vs. 2023 Collection

**₱581.491 B**  
2023 Collection

↑ **5.7%** | **₱33.290 B**  
Growth

#### Aug 2024 vs. Aug 2023

**₱78.908 B**  
August 2024

↑ **5.21%**  
or  
**₱3.907 B**  
Growth

**₱75.000 B**  
August 2023

## BOC Collects PhP615-B for First Eight Months of 2024

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### President Marcos Highlights Customs' Landmark Successes in State of the Nation Address

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President Marcos Highlights Customs' Landmark Successes in SONA 2024

### BOC and PCCI Launch ATA Carnet System in the Philippines

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### BOC and DA Seize Smuggled Agricultural Goods in Navotas City

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The significant revenue growth underscores the BOC's effective strategies in valuing goods and ensuring precise import duty assessments. Through stringent customs compliance, the BOC has effectively minimized under-declaration and misclassification, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and overall fiscal management.

In August 2024, the BOC collected PhP78.908 billion. Although this fell 2.52% short of the PhP80.945 billion target, this shortfall was largely due to recent policy changes. Executive Order (EO) 62, which reduced the rice tariff from 35% to 15%, accounted for a PhP2.353 billion revenue loss. Additionally, the reduction of the motor vehicle tariff to 0% resulted in a PhP1.034 billion deficit.

These policy adjustments were essential for broader economic and consumer benefits, reflecting a strategic shift towards more affordable essential goods. Despite these temporary setbacks, the BOC remains resolute in its mission to achieve its 2024 revenue goals. The BOC is actively addressing these challenges and working diligently to bridge the revenue gap, thereby supporting the country's fiscal health and stability.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, the BOC is poised to sustain its positive revenue trajectory. These accomplishments not only support the nation's economic growth but also enhance the operational effectiveness of government functions.

## BOC and Other Gov't Agencies Lauded for Revenue Collection Success

During the second briefing session of the Senate Committee on Finance on the Proposed 2025 National Expenditure Program (NEP), key government agencies, including the Bureau of Customs (BOC), received notable praise for their exceptional revenue collection performance. Senate Minority Leader Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III recognized the BOC, along with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Department of Finance's (DOF) Corporate Affairs Group, for their contributions to a 15% increase in government revenues in the first half of 2024.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto reported that government collections for mid-2024 reached PhP2.15 trillion, marking a 15%

growth from the PhP1.9 trillion collected during the same period in 2023. When Senator Pimentel inquired about which agencies should be credited for the achievement, Secretary Recto promptly acknowledged the efforts of the BOC, BIR, and DOF's Corporate Affairs Group.

The BOC alone contributed PhP455.518 billion to national revenue from collections between January and June 2024.

Senator Pimentel congratulated the BOC and BIR for their improved revenue collection, highlighting that these contributions have positively impacted and helped reduce the budget deficit.

Under Commissioner Rubio's leadership, the BOC remains committed in increasing revenue

collection, which is crucial for supporting social development and infrastructure projects. Commissioner Rubio stated, "The revenue we secure is instrumental in funding key initiatives that drive economic growth and improve public services. We will continue to prioritize efficiency and integrity in our operations to ensure that we meet and exceed our revenue goals for 2024."



BOC and Other Gov't Agencies Lauded for Revenue Collection Success

# President Marcos Highlights Customs' Landmark Successes in State of the Nation Address 2024

During the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., on July 22, 2024, the President acknowledged the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) monumental feats in delivering its duties to optimize collection efficiency, advance trade facilitation, and intensify border control.

## Strengthening Border Control

With the seizure of over PhP2.7 billion worth of smuggled agri-fisheries products, the Bureau successfully demonstrated unwavering commitment in safeguarding the nation's borders through modernized customs procedures and stringent enforcement efforts.

In his address, President Marcos emphasized the importance of addressing smuggling by stating, "Bilang leksyon, ang mga nasabat na kargamento ng bigas ay agad nating ipinamahagi sa ating mga mahihirap na kababayan. Ganoon din ang sasapitin ng lahat ng mga ipupuslit na mga bigas." He noted that the confiscated rice shipments were promptly distributed to Filipino communities in need. As a testament to this, President Marcos Jr., in cooperation with the BOC and Department of Social Welfare and Development spearheaded the distribution of 42,180 to the qualified beneficiaries in Mindanao and several areas in Metro Manila and nearby regions. This donation sprung from a successful seizure operation in Zamboanga City on May 19, 2023.

This initiative underscores the government's dedication in repurposing smuggled goods to benefit the masses. The President's firm stance against smugglers was further articulated with the statement, "Ang ibang mga produkto naman ay ating sisirain o susunugin — bukod pa sa pagkakakulong sa mga mahuhuling mga salarin."

The forthcoming implementation of Administrative Order No. 23, which introduces Pre-border Technical Verification and Cross-border Electronic Invoicing for import commodities, was also discussed. This mandate aims to establish a more secure, harmonized, and streamlined trading environment, with the BOC at the forefront of its execution.



## Driving Digital Transformation

Additionally, the President expressed gratitude for the implementation of the eTravel system, stating, "Air transport and tourism have been made more convenient because of the shift to paperless immigration and customs forms, thanks to the e-Travel system." He noted that the system has significantly simplified air transport by easing the travel process for passengers. To date, the BOC has successfully fully implemented the e-Travel System at international airports.

## Fiscal and Revenue Performance

"The Philippine financial system remains robust and resilient. Tax and non-tax revenue collection has also become more efficient, in pace with our rejuvenated economy", emphasized by President Marcos when touched the fiscal performance of the country, he urged all government agencies to ensure the judicious expenditure of every centavo, prioritizing urgent needs and socially impactful programs.

Under President Marcos' administration, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has collected a total of PhP1.730 trillion, surpassing its target of PhP1.601 trillion by PhP126.260 billion, or 8.07%, demonstrating leniency with the government's directives.

As the nation's second-largest revenue-generating agency, the BOC continues to strive for robust collection performance to support the government's funding of national projects, strengthened border protection and simplifying trade processes. Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio reaffirms the BOC's dedication to upholding the President's vision, ensuring that the agency remains a vital contributor to the country's progress and development.

## BOC and PCCI Launch ATA Carnet System in the Philippines



The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) launched the ATA Carnet, or “Passport for Goods,” at The Manila Hotel on July 15, 2024, marking a significant advancement for Philippine trade.

The ATA Carnet enables duty-free export and import of exhibition items, equipment, and samples, provided they are re-exported. As the 81st country to adopt this system, the Philippines aims to boost trade efficiency and global standing.

The event saw strong support from key organizations, including the International Chamber of Commerce

and various government departments.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, in his remarks, stressed the ATA Carnet’s role in simplifying trade and boost the Philippines’ global competitiveness.

Managed by PCCI, the ATA Carnet is expected to facilitate international trade, support professional travel, and reduce administrative burdens for temporary imports.

The launch underscores the effective collaboration between the BOC, PCCI, and other stakeholders, with the BOC committed to optimizing the new system.

## BOC, PTTC, EU-ARISE Philippines Hold Workshop on Emerging Trade Facilitation Initiatives for the PTFC



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), in partnership with the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) and supported by the EU-ARISE Plus Philippines Project, conducted a workshop on “Emerging Trade Facilitation Tools and Initiatives” for the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) on August 27, 2024, in Pasay City.

The workshop aimed to update PTFC agencies on the latest developments under the World Trade Organization-Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO-TFA) and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), focusing on the BOC’s Integrated Risk Management (IRM) system and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program. PTTC-ARISE Plus Training Platform was also conducted in the event, which provides Filipino

MSMEs with the knowledge to navigate export rules and improve their global market competitiveness.

Interactive sessions allowed participants to collaborate on trade strategies and data-sharing initiatives essential for advancing the AEO Program, promoting inter-agency cooperation to enhance the Philippines’ trade environment.

Department of Finance Assistant Secretary Dakila Elteen M. Napao, on behalf of DOF Undersecretary Charlito Martin R. Mendoza, the Permanent Representative of the PTFC Chair, emphasized the importance of trade programs in addressing current challenges and fostering sustainable development, urging collaboration at national and international levels. **(continued on page 5)**

PTTC Executive Director Fe J. Avila highlighted the workshop as a testament to the government's commitment to inclusive economic growth and empowering MSMEs to succeed globally through enhanced trade facilitation.

Wilnora R. Cawile, representing the PTFC Vice-Chairperson and Supervising Deputy Commissioner of the AEO Program, Deputy Commissioner Vener S. Baquiran, noted that customs authorities have evolved into facilitators of trade, streamlining processes and

improving efficiency, requiring closer collaboration with regulatory agencies.

Under BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, the BOC is dedicated in improving trade efficiency and aiding local businesses. Commissioner Rubio emphasized, "Our goal is to simplify trade procedures and enhance global competitiveness. This workshop significantly highlights the agency's commitment to promoting economic growth and supporting MSMEs."

## BOC Forges Stronger Ties at 6th Customs and Industry Consultative Advisory Council Meeting



On August 30, 2024, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) held its 6th Customs and Industry Consultative Advisory Council (CICAC) meeting at the Rizal Park Hotel, Manila, hosted by Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PhilExport), to enhance stakeholder collaboration.

PhilExport President Dr. Sergio R. Ortiz-Luiz Jr. underscored the value of public-private partnerships and praised the BOC's ongoing efforts, stressing the need for proactive engagement in global trade.

One of the event's highlights was the signing of an MOU between the BOC and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry to improve revenue collection, address smuggling, and safeguard local industries.

In addition, the BOC introduced the Customs Memorandum Order 08-2024, providing clear guidelines on the implementation of the ATA Carnet System in the Philippines.

The meeting included presentations from the private sector on trade facilitation, promoting productive discussions between the BOC and industry participants.

Moreover, the BOC welcomed a new member into the council. Currently, the Central CICAC consists of 45 member organizations and companies, while the District CICAC has 122 members.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio was honored with the "2024 Outstanding Achievement Award" from the International Container Terminal Services and a commemorative gift from PhilExport for his exceptional leadership.

In his closing remarks, Commissioner Rubio acknowledged the valuable discussions and emphasized the BOC's dedication to improving trade facilitation and protecting local industries.

## BOC and DA Seize Smuggled Agricultural Goods in Navotas City

In a coordinated effort, BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio and DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. led a seizure operation in Dagatdagatan, Navotas City, uncovering various smuggled agricultural items.

On August 15, 2024, BOC and DA agents, assisted by the Northern Police District, conducted a search and found two cold storage units containing 63 metric tons of smuggled onions, carrots, tomatoes, pickled radish, and egg noodles. **(continued on page 6)**



The BOC, with help from the Business Permit and Licensing Office, SWAT teams, barangay officials, and the Local Government Unit of Navotas led by Mayor John Rey Tiangco, secured the warehouse.

The operation reflects the ongoing commitment of the BOC, DA, and law enforcement to enforce trade regulations and protect the agricultural sector from illegal activities.

Commissioner Rubio highlighted the operation's effectiveness in fighting agricultural product smuggling and committed to further protecting local businesses and pursuing those responsible.

The warehouse owner/operator has 15 days to dispute the findings and demonstrate the goods' legality. An investigation into the smuggling network will follow, with criminal charges anticipated.

## BOC Inspects Warehouses Storing Illicit Cigarettes and Infringing Goods

Agents of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP) served a Letter of Authority (LOA) in warehouses in Meycauayan, Bulacan, reportedly storing imported goods without payment of correct duties and taxes.

Pursuant to the LOA, the CIIS-MICP agents with the Enforcement and Security Service-MICP operatives, representatives from the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers, the Philippine Coast Guard—Task Force Aduana, and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, with further support from the Bulacan Police Provincial Office and barangay officials in the area, proceeded to inspect the subject warehouses.



During the operation, they found in the subject warehouses a volume of stored imported cigarettes amounting to PhP500 Million and PhP5 Billion worth of IPR-infringing items (gadgets, devices, and garments, among others) with an aggregate estimated value of PhP5.500 Billion.

Following the discovery of the subject imported goods, the agents temporarily secured the entrance and exit gates of the warehouses with padlocks and seals, while affording the warehouse owners/operators a period of fifteen (15) days from service of the LOA to submit documents to show that the subject imported goods were legitimately imported and that the correct duties and taxes due thereon were duly paid pursuant to Section 224 of Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

The BOC, under the leadership of Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, remains committed in protecting the country's borders and upholding the law by preventing the entry and distribution of illicit and counterfeit goods.

## BOC NAIA Seizes PhP56.5M Worth of Illegal Drugs, Arrests Two Passengers



In a significant stride against illegal drug trafficking, the Bureau of Customs Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA), in collaboration with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG), successfully intercepted two passengers attempting to smuggle illegal drugs worth PhP56,557,000 during back-to-back operations at NAIA Terminal 3 in Pasay City on August 13 and 14, 2024.

On August 13, 2024, a South African passenger arriving from Abu Dhabi via Etihad Airways flight EY424

was intercepted with 5.256 kilograms of Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, commonly known as shabu, valued at PhP35,802,000.

While on August 14, 2024, a Thai passenger arriving from Thailand via Thai Airways flight TG620 was apprehended with 14.825 kilograms of Kush, a high-grade marijuana, with an estimated street value of PhP20,755,000.

Both passengers were subjected to rigorous baggage screening processes, including x-ray scanning, K9 inspection, and thorough physical examinations, which led to the discovery of the illicit substances.

The apprehended passengers and the seized illegal drugs were immediately turned over to PDEA for custodial investigation and the initiation of inquest proceedings for violations of Republic Act No.

9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended, and Republic Act 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio issued a stern warning to those attempting to smuggle illegal goods into the country, stating: "The BOC will remain vigilant in protecting our borders against the smuggling of illegal goods."

Under the leadership of District Collector Yasmin O. Mapa, BOC NAIA remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguard the nation's borders.



## BOC Participates in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Ports Best Practices Exchange Visit



The Bureau of Customs (BOC), headed by Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, gained knowledgeable insights and valuable experience in the 'U.S. Customs and Border Protection Ports Best Practices Exchange Visit' hosted by the United States Customs Border Protection (US-CBP) in Los Angeles from June 24-28, 2024.

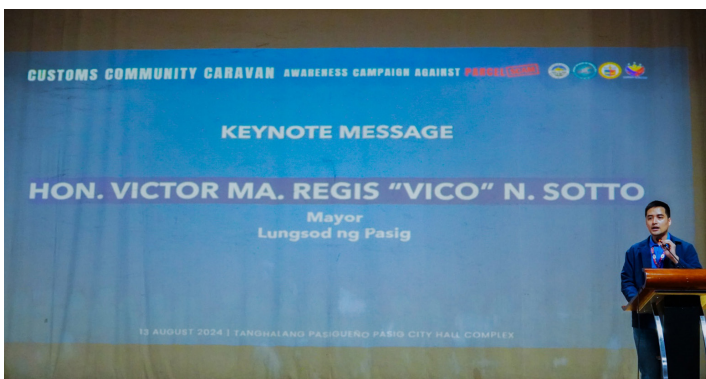
During the visit, BOC officials were able to observe best practices and activities at several U.S. Customs facilities and ports, such as the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach and Los Angeles International Airport. One of the essential goals of this event was to share CBP's currency fraud detection operations with Philippine Customs to aid in removing the Philippines from the Financial Action Task Force grey list.

Aligned with the U.S. Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) Program, this Port Best Practices Visit aims to foster greater collaboration between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Moreover, it also served as an excellent venue to explore future collaborations and reinforce shared efforts in securing borders and enhancing measures against financial fraud and illicit transactions.

The Commissioner was supported by key officials from the bureau, including two Deputy Commissioners and District Collectors from five major ports in the Philippines, who actively participated and shared feedback and insights on different strategies for customs enforcement and currency smuggling detection.

## BOC Launches First-Ever Community Caravan in Pasig City, Empowering Local Leaders and Communities to Combat Parcel Scams



On August 13, 2024, the Bureau of Customs (BOC), in partnership with the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), launched the inaugural Customs Community Caravan: Awareness Campaign Against Parcel Scam in Pasig City. This initiative aims to educate communities on preventing parcel scams and protecting personal information.

Nearly 100 participants, including barangay officials and community leaders, joined the event. District Collector Atty. Yasmin M. Obillos-Mapa emphasized the importance of collaboration in combating cybercrime, while Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto expressed his support for the caravan and its role in disseminating crucial information to residents.

Experts from CICC and BOC led discussions on

identifying cybercrimes and parcel scams.

Atty. Vincent James V. Fajardo of the Central Mail Exchange Center provided key insights into recognizing scam red flags, while Atty. Norberto V. Castillo of DHL Express shared tips on safe parcel handling.

The BOC advised participants to verify online contacts, avoid sharing sensitive information, and authenticate documents with relevant agencies. Assistant Commissioner Atty. Vincent Philip C. Maronilla closed the event by reaffirming the bureau's commitment to fostering safer communities through education.

BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio highlighted the caravan as part of the bureau's strategy to raise public awareness and combat scams, with plans to expand the program nationwide.



# PARCEL SCAM!

ANO ITO AT PAANO MAIIWASAN?



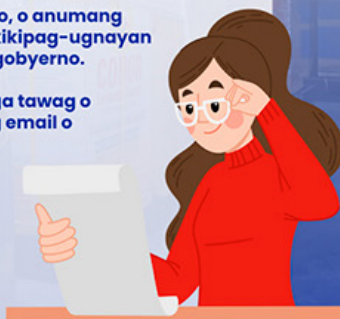
## NARITO ANG ILAN SA MGA MODUS OPERANDI NG MGA SCAMMERS:

- Gumagamit ng pekeng pagkakakilanlan upang mambiktima sa social media, WhatsApp, Viber, dating app, email, text messages, tawag, at iba pa.
- Nagpapanggap bilang online seller sa social media upang makapangikil ng pera mula sa kanilang mga biktima.
- Kakaibiganin hanggang sa makuha ang tiwala ng biktima at sasabihin may pinadalang alahas, pera, gadgets, at iba pa na naka-hold sa BOC, na kailangang bayaran ng fees para ma-release.
- Nagpapanggap na empleyado ng BOC o courier/ forwarder at nagpapadala ng pekeng resibo, tracking number, website, at dokumento para mapaniwala ang biktima.
- Naniningil ng fees o bayad sa pamamagitan ng e-wallet (hal., GCash, PayMaya/Maya), online banking, money remittances (hal., Cebuana Lhuillier), o personal bank account.



## PARA MAIIWASANG MAGING BIKTIMA NG GANITONG PANLOLOKO:

- I-check ang profile account ng kausap online at iwasang magbigay ng personal na impormasyon na maaring gamitin sa panloloko.
- Huwag agad magtiwala sa mga produkto na ibinebenta sa social media; tiyakin na lehitimo ito sa pamamagitan ng mga reviews at komento.
- Tiyaking lehitimo ang website, resibo, o anumang dokumento sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa BOC o kinaaukulang ahensya ng gobyerno.
- Huwag basta-basta sagutin ang mga tawag o mag-reply sa mga kahina-hinalang email o mensahe.
- Makipag-ugnayan muna sa BOC upang masiguro na lehitimo ang transaksyon.



## PARA SA KARAGDAGANG IMPORMASYON AT TULONG, MAKIPAG-UGNAYAN SA CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATION AND COORDINATING CENTER (CICC), PNP ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP (PNP-ACG), AT SA BUREAU OF CUSTOMS GAMIT ANG SUMUSUNOD NA CONTACT DETAILS:



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