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The Philippines' only shipping and transport guide

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## NCR, 4 Luzon provinces revert to MECQ: know which businesses can operate

THE National Capital Region (NCR) and the Luzon provinces of Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan have reverted to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) from general community quarantine (GQ) from August 4 until August 18.

President Rodrigo Duterte made the announcement on August 2 amid calls from various medical associations to revert to ECQ for two weeks so government can "recalibrate strategies against COVID-19."

The healthcare groups said the Philippines' healthcare system is overwhelmed and healthcare workers experiencing burn-out from handling the growing number of COVID-19 cases, which topped 106,000 on August 3.

NCR and other areas in the country were placed in June under GCQ, a more relaxed form of community quarantine than MECQ. Last July 31, Duterte announced these places would remain under GCQ until August 15.

In reverting to MECQ, work and quarantine passes will again be required to minimize movement of people and contain the spread of COVID.

MECQ is a less restricted form of ECQ that allows limited movement within zone for obtaining essential services and work; operation of selected manufacturing and processing plants at a maximum of 50% capacity; limited transporting services for

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# MSC Expands Intra-Asia Network with New Seahorse Service

MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company is expanding its intra-Asia network with the addition of a new Seahorse service, starting on week 30.

The service provides comprehensive port coverage of eight countries within Asia, and includes a call at the Manila North Harbor. With direct connections to various markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan, it will help to facilitate the flow of more intra-Asia cargo to/from the Philippines.

The service also connects shippers in the Philippines with major transshipment ports in Vietnam and Malaysia, providing accessibility to MSC's network of main-haul services to markets in the US and Europe.

With this first MSC feeder service to the Philippines, MSC affirms its commitment to offer reliable services to/from worldwide destinations to its valued clients in the Philippines. Furthermore, customers will benefit from greater capacity and improved schedule reliability with the deployment of MSC feeder vessels on this service.

The service offers an improved connection between Yantian and Manila, which will help to facilitate more speedy shipments of dry and reefer imports from the United States and Canada. The transit time between Yantian and Manila is 3 days, compared to the previous 6 days. The service also provides the possibility for cargoes from the Philippines such as automotive components, building materials and electronic goods to be shipped to Japan via transshipment in Vietnam.

The Seahorse service is a weekly service, and the first call in Manila will be on 9 August 2020 by MSC GIANNA (voyage number: HO030A). The service will link seamlessly to MSC's other intra-Asia services and to its global ocean liner network, as well as to its inland and barge services within the Asia region.

[msc.com](http://msc.com)

## Port rotation of the Seahorse service:

Tanjung Pelepas – Singapore – Jakarta – Yantian – Kaohsiung – Manila – Vung Tau – Laem Chabang – Tanjung Pelepas



## Benefits to customers:

- First time MSC feeders directly call at Manila and Kaohsiung
- Greater capacity and improved schedule reliability with deployment of MSC feeders
- First service MSC is offering between Kaohsiung and Manila, facilitating imports from Kaohsiung
- Direct connection to Vung Tau & Laem Chabang

Port call	Transit time
Manila to Vung Tau	5 days
Manila to Laem Chabang	9 days
Jakarta to Manila	10 days
Yantian to Manila	3 days
Kaohsiung to Manila	1 day

# PH airlines ordered to quickly inform passengers of cancelled flights

THE Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) have asked local airlines to quickly inform passengers of cancelled or suspended flights with reimposition of the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

MIAA said air carriers should provide their passengers at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) proper rebooking instructions for suspended domestic flights as the National Capital Region (NCR) returned to MECQ on August 4.

The Civil Aeronautics Board, in a separate advisory, reminded air carriers to adhere strictly to provisions of the Air Passenger Bill of Rights. Airlines should also immediately notify passengers about flights cancelled or postponed via all available means of communication to avoid

inconveniencing the riding public.

NCR, where NAIA is located, as well as the provinces of Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan, reverted to MECQ from general community quarantine (GCQ) from August 4 to 18 in response to calls by medical associations for a two-week return to ECQ so government can "recalibrate strategies against COVID-19." The medical groups said the Philippines' healthcare system is overwhelmed and healthcare workers are burned out from handling the sudden surge in COVID-19 cases.

Under MECQ, domestic flights are suspended, and only limited international flights allowed based on Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) guidelines. Controlled inbound travel is allowed only for overseas Filipino workers and return-

ing Filipinos while inter-island travel is prohibited.

Cargo flights will continue in compliance with the July 16 IATF omnibus guidelines mandating unhampered movement of cargo.

Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific, and Cebgo announced all their domestic flights to and from Metro Manila are cancelled during the MECQ period.

Cebu Pacific said flights between Manila and Taipei, along with all other international flights, are also cancelled during this time.

Their Clark-Cebu-Clark (every Tuesday) and Cebu-Davao-Cebu (every Tuesday) flights will remain operational.

Cebu Pacific said it intends to operate limited international routes: Manila-Dubai-Manila, Manila-Seoul (Incheon), Tokyo (Narita)-Manila, Osaka-Manila, and Manila-Singapore-Manila.

It added all-cargo flights will continue to ensure transport of essential goods across the country.

Guests on cancelled flights can choose from among these options: unlimited rebooking, two-year travel fund, or a full refund.

PAL, in a separate advisory, said domestic flights between Clark, Cebu, Davao and cities other than Manila are not affected by the suspension and will remain operational.

International

flights to and from Manila will also continue to operate, subject to further guidelines from authorities in line with quarantine capacity and related arrangements.

Domestic passengers of PAL's canceled flights have the option to rebook, refund or convert their ticket into a travel voucher.

AirAsia Philippines said its domestic flights to and from Manila for August will resume on August 19.

Meanwhile, the MIAA will deploy 50% of its workforce to do back office work in compliance with guidelines for areas under MECQ, said MIAA general manager Eddie Monreal in a statement.

Frontline employees, however, are not included in this directive. These include those assigned to flight operations, terminal monitoring, facilities management and maintenance, security, safety and emergency services.

MIAA will provide shuttle buses for the use of airport workers, plying routes covering Manila, Quezon City and Cavite. The workers are also to be provided free meals as well as hazard pay equivalent to P500 per day.



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## Pre-procurement for P10B Cebu int'l port to start this month

THE P10.1-billion New Cebu International Container Port (NCICP) project, currently undergoing consultancy works, is expected to start pre-procurement for construction works this month, according to Cebu Port Authority (CPA) general manager Leonilo Miolo.

Miolo said he is hopeful that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, timelines for the project will start as scheduled within the year, as pre-procurement for construction works is seen to start this month and procurement for civil works around October.

The NCICP will be built on a 25-hectare reclaimed land in Consolacion town in Cebu. Once completed, NCICP will be the main international port of the province, with the existing base port in Cebu City—the Cebu International Port (CIP)—converted into a purely domestic terminal, Miolo said during a virtual talk show hosted by the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas.

In June 2018, the Philippines and South Korea's Export Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) signed a US\$172.64 million (P8.8 billion) loan agreement for construction of a new international terminal.

The Philippines will provide counterpart funding of \$26.09 million (about P1.4 billion).

In December 2018, CPA's mother agency, Department of Transportation, through the Procurement Service (PS), began inviting firms to provide consultancy services for the project. The limited competitive bidding was only for Korean firms, in keeping with terms of the loan agreement.

In January 2020, the contract for the consultancy works was awarded to Yooshin Engineering Corp. and a notice to proceed issued on May 29, 2020.

The new port will include a berthing facility with a 500-meter-long quay wall that can simultaneously accommodate two 2,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit vessels; operating facilities and structures for containers such as a freight station and an inspection shed; an access road and bridge; and a dredged waterway and turning basin.

The loan includes procurement of cargo-handling equipment.

A new international terminal is seen as the long-term solution to growing volumes handled at CIP.

Several feasibility studies, the most recent one by KEXIM, suggest relocating the new sea hub in Tayud, Consolacion, some 8 kilometers from the Cebu base port. - **Roumina Pablo**

## Avail of e-CO to enjoy preferential tariffs, BOC advises exporters

PHILIPPINE exporters intending to sell goods within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) were urged to apply for an electronic certificate of origin (e-CO) via TradeNet to secure preferential tariffs.

Deputy Commissioner Atty. Edward James Dy Buco, of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG), said exporters should submit an application for the issuance of the e-CO through the trading platform TradeNet to enjoy ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) benefits.

Utilizing the e-CO aligns with BOC's 10-Point Priority Program that includes automation of frontline services, enhancement of trade facilitation, and simplification of programs for exporters, Dy Buco said in AOCG Memo No. 114-2020 dated July 15.

It also complies with Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 15-2019, issued last year and which provides guidelines for the application, submission, and processing of ASEAN e-COs using TradeNet.

Under CMO 15-2019, TradeNet (tradenet.gov.ph) shall be used in the application, processing, and issuance of e-COs for export, and in utilizing e-COs for imports.

TradeNet is the government's online platform for applications for permits relating to imports and exports. It serves as the country's national single window and is required for the country to connect to the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). More than 70 trade regulatory agencies in the Philippines target connecting to TradeNet to make the platform fully operational.

Meanwhile, a CO, or Form D, is an international trade document attesting that goods in a particular export shipment were wholly obtained, produced, manufactured, or processed in a particular country.

Under ATIGA, the CO, which also serves as an exporter's declaration, has to be submitted to secure preferential tariffs, which are tariff schedules giving one or more nations lower rates or other advantages over other countries.

To access TradeNet, exporters and importers must create a TradeNet account and company profile with their respective usernames and passwords. Procedures for using and accessing TradeNet by the exporter, BOC or other users are detailed in the TradeNet Client User Manual for e-CO Issuance and TradeNet Agency User Manual that are attached as annexes in CMO 15-2019.

## PH manufacturing recovery stalls in July on further lockdowns

THE Philippine manufacturing sector worsened in July as ongoing lockdown restrictions caused new orders to decline and export demand to weaken sharply even as foreign markets began relaxing COVID-19 measures.

After a recovery in June, the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) dropped to 48.4 in July from 49.7 in June, signaling a moderate decline in operating conditions, according to the latest survey of IHS Markit.

The headline index fell for the first time since April after approaching the 50 growth threshold at the end of the second quarter, IHS Markit said.

A reading above 50 indicates an expansion of the manufacturing sector compared to the previous month; below 50 represents a contraction, while 50 indicates no change.


The recovery in output levels stalled in July as parts of the country such as Manila and Cebu experienced further lockdown

restrictions. Production declined only modestly, but still erased the slight improvement seen in June amid steps to reopen the economy.

Furthermore, manufacturers saw new orders decline for the fifth consecutive month, with the contraction rate quickening for the first time since April. While modest, the decline signaled clients' continued uncertainty and hesitance to purchase, IHS Markit said.

The downturn was also driven by a much more severe fall in new export orders during July. While foreign markets have relaxed COVID-19 measures, ongoing restrictions in Philippine cities have meant some firms were unable to sell to external customers.

Supply of raw materials was again stretched in July, contributing to limited production and lower sales. Delivery times lengthened markedly as suppliers continued to operate with smaller workforces. Road checkpoints and lack of air freight



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For every export product whose origin cannot be easily ascertained by its nature, exporters intending to export goods to an ASEAN member state must first submit an application for pre-evaluation before applying for a CO.

They must use the prescribed form for application of pre-evaluation and submit it to BOC's Export Division (ED) at the port where they regularly process their export declarations. For Port of Manila, this should be Manila International Container Port (MICP) or Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), and for all other ports it should be the Export Coordination Division (ECD).

Application for pre-evaluation of the export product must be submitted by the exporter or authorized representative at least 20 working days prior to the intended exportation of the products.

Results of the pre-evaluation of export products applying for CO will be contained in the Product Evaluation Report or PER.

Though the PER is valid for five years, the exporter must still apply for a new PER if the tariff rate of the same product is affected by the issuance of a new ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature.

If an application does not qualify with

the rules of origin (ROO) and operational certification procedure of ATIGA, the applicant will be sent a notice by the ECD/Export Division stating the reason for disqualification, but not disallowing the exporter from filing a new application for PER.

After ECD or ED completes the pre-evaluation, its authorized personnel should upload the PER as well as the list of pre-evaluated goods for newly approved applications to TradeNet.

The exporter should then receive a notification email indicating the successful upload of the PER.

From there, evaluated export products for which PERs have been issued and uploaded to TradeNet can already apply for e-CO via the same platform.

The exporter should download then print and sign the e-ATIGA Form D, and submit the system-generated ATIGA Form D to BOC for manual signature and the seal.

Under CMO 15-2019, a Preferential Rate Unit (PRU) should have been created under BOC's Formal Entry Division or its equivalent units in all ports to receive the e-COs transmitted by the sending ASEAN member state to the Philippines through the ASW. - **Roumina Pablo**

services also made it difficult to acquire inputs.

"The latest Philippines Manufacturing PMI data showed that conditions are yet to improve at the start of the third quarter," IHS Markit economist David Owen said in a statement.

"As parts of the country remained under lockdown, goods producers appeared to lose out in terms of foreign trade, as new export sales fell dramatically despite the relative easing of global restrictions. While domestic demand may stabilize, it will be important for businesses to re-strengthen foreign sales in order to recover from this period of (likely) deep recession," he added.

IHS Markit forecasts a -6% annual drop in Philippine gross domestic product in the second quarter.


A renewed fall in production led companies to reduce procurement of inputs in the latest survey

period. Stocks of both raw materials and finished items were depleted, partly in an effort to cut inventory costs.

Meanwhile, business expectations for the coming 12 months weakened for the first time since March in July, as less than half of all respondents gave a positive prediction for output growth. Companies that were more pessimistic expect COVID-19 to have a long-term impact on production, while others hoped that demand would increase once restrictions were fully lifted and consumer confidence improved.





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AS Serafina	20006N	6-Aug	8-Aug	SKU/10-Aug	ONW/11-Aug	OMIT			
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Navios Dedication	OKRELN	6-Aug	8-Aug	13-Aug	15-Aug				
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Xin Chi Wan	052E	7-Aug	13-Aug	15-Aug	17-Aug				
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## BOC creates MICP, POM portals for goods declaration filing

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) has established dedicated portals for online filing of goods declaration at two of its biggest ports, Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port (MICP).

Starting August 1, 2020, BOC said submission of goods declaration and import documents for POM and MICP will be submitted through the following portals:

- [pomportal.customs.gov.ph](http://pomportal.customs.gov.ph) for POM
- [micpportal.customs.gov.ph](http://micpportal.customs.gov.ph) for MICP

Users should register and log in using their username and password to access the portals, BOC said in an advisory.

For issues on account activation, stakeholders may contact the BOC Customer Assistance and Response Services (BOCCARES), the agency's call center-type customer service and assistance center.

BOC said "tickets" related to goods declaration that are still on process as of July 28, 2020 were already transferred to the dedicated portals.

Tickets are provided to users of BOC's Customer Care Portal System (CCPS) where concerns and requests are assigned a unique ticket number that clients can use to track the progress and responses online.

Processing of BOC transactions and online filing for other ports will remain through the CCPS at [client.customs.gov.ph](http://client.customs.gov.ph).

Just last month, CCPS—a system introduced in June last year—experienced a system slowdown that led to delays in processing for

a few days.

BOC has been encouraging stakeholders to use its online portals for transactions to avoid the need to travel and have face-to-face transactions during the coronavirus disease pandemic.

## DOTr eyes activation of 32 vehicle inspection centers this month

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Land Transportation Office (LTO) are looking to activate by end-August some 32 private motor vehicle inspection centers (PMVICs) to speed up emissions inspection of vehicles applying for registration.

The PMVIC Authorization Committee (AC) is fast tracking ocular inspections of PMVICs to check if they are in compliance with standards. PMVIC AC formulates guidelines and procedures governing PMVICs, and evaluates their conformity with requirements for authority to operate.

PMVICs are privately owned automated vehicle inspection facilities that check compliance with emission standards and roadworthiness, a requirement prior to a vehicle's registration.

Of the 138 identified sites, 113 have already been awarded to private operators, with 25 sites still for awarding, said DOTr assistant secretary for procurement and project implementation and head of PMVIC AC Giovanni Lopez.

"We have been conducting ocular inspections, despite travel limitations due to COVID-19, to determine the readiness of these sites," Lopez said in a statement.

He said one requirement they are looking at is compatibility and connectivity with the LTO Information Technology (IT) system.

Set to operate this August are PMVICs in the following sites in Luzon:

- Region 1: San Fernando City, La Union; Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; within Lingayen and Alaminos, Pangasinan
- Region 3: Angeles City, Pampanga
- Region 4A: Dasmariñas, Cavite; San Pedro, Laguna
- Region 4B: Calapan, Oriental Mindoro
- National Capital Region: Pasig City; Valenzuela City

Region 5: Pamplona, Camarines Sur; Pili, Camarines Sur; Sorsogon City; and Daet, Camarines Norte

In the Visayas, PMVIC will operate in the following sites:

- Region 6: Roxas City, Capiz
- Region 7: Mandaue City, Cebu (2 sites); Danao City, Cebu; Naga City, Cebu; Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental (2 sites); Tagbilaran City, Bohol; Tubigon, Bohol; Bais City, Negros Oriental

Region 8: Maasin City, Southern Leyte; and Ormoc City, Leyte

For Mindanao, motorists will soon be able to have their motor vehicle inspected at the following PMVIC sites:

- Region 9: Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Region 10: Iligan City, Lanao del Norte; Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental
- Region 11: Mati City, Davao Oriental; Panabo City, Davao del Norte
- Region 12: General Santos City, Cotabato

Following activation of the 32 PMVICs by end-August, 29 PMVICs are targeted to be operational in September, 14 in October, three in November, five in December, and 25 by January 2021.

"The operationalization of the remaining awarded sites (30 PMVICs) will be for further determination," Lopez noted.

Transport Secretary Arthur Tugade underscored the benefits of an automated inspection system in determining a vehicle's roadworthiness. He said that with automated inspection, machines will be used, providing more accurate results.

And with limited human intervention, there will be no more opportunities for corruption, Tugade explained.

LTO assistant secretary Edgar Galvante said the agency is likewise fast tracking preparation of its IT system to accommodate and process results from the PMVICs.

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# NCR, 4 Luzon provinces revert...

Continued from page 1

essential goods and services; and suspension of physical classes.

Under omnibus guidelines as of July 16, places under MECQ should observe strict home quarantine, and movement of all residents will be limited to accessing essential goods and services.

Law enforcement agencies should recognize any of the following IDs: IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, bona fide IDs issued by establishments exempted from the strict home quarantine requirement, or RapidPass IDs.

The movement of cargo vehicles should still be unhampered. Cargo vehicles as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, business process outsourcing (BPO), and export-oriented establishments are not subject to an ID system.

Activities and businesses allowed to operate at 100% capacity are:

- Agriculture, forestry, and fishery
- Manufacturing of essential goods
- Essential retail
- Food preparation insofar as take-out and delivery services
- Water-refilling stations
- Laundry services (including self-service)
- Public and private hospitals
- Other medical, dental, rehabilitation and optometry clinics, non-aesthetic dermatological clinics, EENT
- Logistics service providers (cargo handling, warehousing, trucking, freight forwarding, and shipping)
- Delivery and courier services, whether in-house or outsourced transporting food, medicine, or other essential goods, including clothing, accessories, hardware, house wares, school and office supplies, as well as pet food and other veterinary products
- Water supply and sanitation services and facilities, including waste disposal services, as well as property management and building utility services
- Establishments engaged in repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment, including those in the repair of computers and household fixtures and equipment
- Telecommunications companies
- Energy and power companies
- Gasoline stations
- Workers accredited by the Department of Transportation to work on utility relocation works, and specified limited works across 13 railway projects, including replacement works for the Metro Manila Rail Transit System Line 3
- Airline and aircraft maintenance, pilots and crew, and employees of aviation schools for purposes of the pilot's recurrent training for flight proficiency and type rating using simulator facilities; and ship captains and crew, including shipyard operations and repair
- Essential public and private construction projects
- Manufacturing companies and suppliers of equipment or products necessary to perform construction works, such as cement and steel
- BPO and 100% export-oriented companies, including mining and quarrying
- Printing presses authorized by the BIR or other appropriate agencies to print official receipts and other accountable forms
- Media establishments
- E-commerce companies
- Postal, courier and delivery services for articles or products other than food, medicine, or

other essential goods, including clothing, accessories, hardware, house wares, school and office supplies, as well as pet food and other veterinary products

- Rental and leasing, other than real estate, such as vehicles and equipment for permitted sectors
- Housing service activities, such as but not limited to plumbing, roofing, and electrical works
- Veterinary activities
- Security and investigation activities
- Funeral and embalming services
- Banks, money transfer services, pawnshops, microfinance institutions, and credit cooperatives
- Capital markets
- Employment activities that involve recruitment and placement for permitted sectors

Allowed to operate at 50% capacity are:

- Other manufacturing industries classified as beverages, including alcoholic drinks; electrical machinery; wood products and furniture; non-metallic products; textiles and clothing/wearing apparels; tobacco products; paper and paper products; rubber and plastic products; coke and refined petroleum products; other non-metallic mineral products; computers, electronic and optical products; electrical equipment; machinery and equipment; motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers; other transport equipment; and other
- Other real estate activities
- Administrative and office support such as, but not limited to, providing photocopying and billing services
- Other financial services such as, money exchange, insurance, reinsurance and non-compulsory pension funding
- Legal and accounting services
- Management consultancy services or activities
- Architectural and engineering activities, including technical testing and analysis
- Science and technology, and research and development
- Recruitment and placement agencies for overseas employment
- Advertising and market research
- Computer programming and information management services
- Publishing and printing services
- Film, music and television production
- Photography, fashion, and industrial, graphic and interior design
- Wholesale and retail trade of vehicles and

- their parts and components
- Repair and maintenance of vehicles as well as its parts or components, including car wash services
- Malls and commercial centers
- Dining establishments and restaurants, but for delivery and take-out only
- Hardware stores
- Clothing and accessories
- Bookstore and school and office supplies
- Baby or infant care supplies
- Pet food and pet care supplies
- Information technology,

- communications and electronic equipment
- Flower, jewelry, novelty, antique and perfume shops
- Toy stores
- Firearms and ammunition trading establishments
- Pastors, priests, rabbi, imams, and other religious ministers insofar as providing home religious services to households. Provided that proper protocols are observed



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SEASPAN FRASER	006S	07/26	07/31	AIN SNAN	018W	08/05	08/23	08/25	08/29
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## Misdeclared limited-edition McLaren seized at Port of Manila

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) has seized a misdeclared race car that should have netted government duties and taxes of up to P16 million.

The McLaren 620R arrived at the Port of Manila on July 16 and was declared by the importer as a brand-new Porsche Cayman sports car, BOC said in a statement.

The shipment's consignee, Llorin Trading, allegedly declared duties and taxes amounting to only P1.5 million. The McLaren 620R has a value of P33 million and corresponding duties and taxes worth P16.772 million.

BOC assistant commissioner Atty.

Vincent Philip Maronilla in a virtual presser on August 3 said the shipment's port of origin was declared as Hong Kong, although the agency was not discounting the possibility it was only transhipped through Hong Kong from Europe or United States.

BOC Port of Manila district collector Michael Angelo Vargas immediately issued a warrant of seizure and detention on the shipment upon recommendation of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service, which sounded the shipment alert.

The consignee and customs broker of the shipment will face possible charges

for violation of Section 1400 (Misdeclaration, Misclassification, Undervaluation, in Goods Declaration) in relation to Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture) of Republic Act No. 10863, or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Maronilla said they will seek guidance from higher-ups on the sports car's mode of disposition; an option is public auction or redemption to get needed government funds.



Seized McLaren 620R at the Port of Manila | Photo from BOC

## Gov't earns P92B from fuel marking program

THE Philippine government took in P91.7 billion in import duties from its fuel marking program over an 11-month period from September 2019, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

A total of 10.66 billion liters of oil products was marked over the period. DOF documents showed diesel represented 61.96% (6.610 billion liters) of the total volume marked, gasoline 37.55% (4.007 billion liters), and kerosene 0.49% (52.552

million liters).

About 75% of the total was marked in terminals and refineries in Luzon, 20% in Mindanao, and 5% in the Visayas.

Petron Corp. led the 20 participating oil companies, accounting for 23.59% or 2.517 billion liters of the total, followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. with 20.16% or 2.151 billion liters.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. had a 10.71% share or 1.143 billion liters of

the total, followed by Chevron Philippines Inc. with 8.63% or 920.497 million liters, and Seaoil Philippines Inc. with 8.51% or 908.444 million liters.

The 15 other participating oil companies were ERA1 Petroleum Corp., Phoenix Petroleum Corp, Oilink International Bataan, Insular Oil Corp, Total Philippines/Filoil, Jetti Petroleum, Inc., PTT Philippines Corp., Marubeni Corp, Micro Dragon Petroleum Corp,

Warbucks Industries Corp., High Glory Subic International Logistics, Golden Share Commerce and Trading, Inc., SL Gas, Jade Link Subic, Inc. and SL Harbor.

Marking of fuel products, whether imported or manufactured in the Philippines, becomes mandatory five years after the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law took effect January 2018.

The fuel marking program has two parts: fuel marking, which started in August 2019, and random field testing and confirmatory tests.

## Balikbayan box yields luxury bags, accessories worth P15M

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) seized a balikbayan (personal effects) shipment containing misdeclared high-end brands of bags, shoes, wallets and earrings valued at around P15 million.

The balikbayan box from Milano, Italy was declared as 17 cartons of personal effects such as shampoo, soap, towels, toiletries, canned goods, milk, and chocolates, BOC records showed.

But a review of commercial documents by customs examiners prompted the immediate 100% physical examination of the shipment, which confirmed that it actually consisted of bags, shoes, wallets

and earrings from high-end brands Chanel, Hermes, Christian Louboutin, Valentino, Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Balenciaga.

"The misdeclaration is an apparent attempt to evade payment of correct duties and taxes by circumventing duty and tax free privileges afforded to balikbayan boxes," BOC said in a statement.

Qualified Filipinos while abroad are allowed to send to their families or relatives in the Philippines balikbayan boxes which should be exempt from the payment of duties and taxes for up to three times in a calendar year.

BOC-NAIA district collector Carmelita M. Talusan said the shipment

will be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of relevant provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act. Records and details of the ap-

prehension will also be referred to BOC's Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers for case profiling and build-up against the personalities involved in the shipment.

## DOTr eyes activation...

Continued from page 4

"We have been testing the LTO IT system and its connectivity with that of the inspection centers to identify issues, and iron out glitches. This is to ensure that once operational, the transaction process will be smooth and efficient," the LTO chief said.

DOTr in February 2019 issued Depart-

ment Order 2019-002, the revised order on the privatization of MVICs through authorization. Transport undersecretary for road transport and infrastructure Mark Richmond De Leon earlier said the private sector will establish MVICs much faster than government given the latter's tedious procurement process.



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