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SPECIAL EDITION

# CUSTOMS NETS P2B AMID COVID

*May collection surpasses target by P522.5M*

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Cebu has collected P2.23 billion for the month of May 2020 alone which is almost one-fourth of the P10.4 billion 2020 annual budget of Cebu City Government.

The May 2020 collection surpasses the monthly target of P1.7 billion by P522.54 million of 30.59 percent.

BOC Port of Cebu District Collector Charlito Martin Mendoza said they hit the target collections for the months of January, March, April and May 2020 despite the Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic. They missed the target collection only for the month of February.

Mendoza, lawyer and engineer by profession, told Cebu Business Week that for May 2020 alone, they already have a collection surplus of P340 million.

Mendoza said the target for May 2020 is P1.707 billion and the actual collection was P2.047 billion.

Mendoza added that despite the Enhanced Commu-

nity Quarantine (ECQ) as a result of Covid-19 for more than two months, the BOC processing on imported products has been constant.

He said there was really a tremendous plunge of importation volume at the Port of Cebu, but they maximized the duties and taxes that they can collect from importers.

“We collect what should be from the importers, resulting to significant collections,” Mendoza said.

One of the significant collections for the month of May 2020 was the duties and taxes

in the amount of P240 million paid by Filoil Corporation, a fuel importer.

For several years, Filoil paid as high as P450 million a month in duties and taxes but because of Covid-19 pandemic, it had no fuel importation for almost two months due to lesser demands. The Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) halted public transport and private vehicles.

On the other hand, the Department of Finance (DOF), where the BOC is attached, has lowered the 2020 collection target of the entire

Bureau of Customs to P520 billion, from the original P731 billion.

So, the BOC has downgraded the 2020 target collection for all ports proportionately.

For Cebu, Mendoza said the original target was P37 billion for 2020, now it has been lowered to P26.7 billion.

“I am optimistic that we can hit this new target for the year 2020 in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic,” Mendoza said.

There is also a continuous coal importation for coal-fired power generating plants of KEPCO-SPC in the City of Naga, Cebu Energy Development Corporation (CEDC) and Global Power in Toledo City.

In the assessment division, all personnel are reporting for work to make sure that all the shipments are smoothly processed and released. These are also overtime work when needed.

“I always remind them that all import entries must be processed within the day so the importers can pay duties

and taxes immediately and have their shipments released early. This way, we can easily accomplish our tasks and collect more for the government,” Mendoza said.

“We have good working relationship with Cebu Port Authority (CPA) headed by General Manager Leonardo Miolo and Oriental Port and Allied Services Corporation (OPASCOR) under Chairman Tomas A. Riveral.

“OPASCOR is very efficient especially in trouble-shooting. If there are several shipments, I call on OPASCOR officials to add cargo trucks, and they responded immediately,” Mendoza said.

He said workers of both BOC and OPASCOR are reporting even on Saturdays and Sundays to inspect and release shipments.

Meanwhile, the Sub-Port of Mactan has low collection due to no operation at Mactan Cebu International Airport. But the Sub-Port of Dumaguete is doing well because of fuel and palm oil importation.

ELIAS O. BAQUERO

“We collect what should be from the importers, resulting to significant collections.”

CHARLITO MARTIN MENDOZA  
BOC Port of Cebu District Collector.

