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Lessons in High Tobacco Taxes and Smuggling in the Philippines

Case Study

Lessons in High Tobacco Taxes and Smuggling in the Philippines

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I. Introduction

High and rising taxation of tobacco products is a favorite policy measure of governments, multilateral institutions, health NGOs and other sectors. The belief is that making tobacco products become more expensive via higher taxation achieves two socio-economic goals: to reduce smoking incidence in the population, and to raise revenues for government universal healthcare (UHC) program. Yet, as tobacco taxes rise, smuggling is also a favorite response by criminal syndicates, terrorist organizations, and corrupt government officials, national and local. The smoking public patronize the cheaper smuggled products.

In an effort to reveal the consequences of high taxes on consumption this paper will review academic studies and news reports about the smuggling of bulk tobacco, cigarettes, as well as fake and counterfeit cigarettes. Finally it will offer modest recommendations on how to balance taxation and fight illicit trade to reach public health goals.

II. Tobacco Tax Rates

Tobacco tax rates were already raised under Republic Act (RA) 9334 (2004). For instance, cigarettes that were below P5.00 per pack, tax rates could be more than half the retail prices, up to P2.72 per pack by 2011.

Table 1: Excise tax rates under RA 9334 (2004), P/pack

Source: RA 9334, Sections 1-5.

Products	2005	2007	2009	2011
Cigarettes: < 5.00	2.00	2.23	2.47	2.72
5.00 - 6.50	6.35	6.74	7.14	7.56
6.51 - 10.00	10.35	10.88	11.43	12.00
> 10.00	25.00	26.06	27.16	28.30

The tax rates were further revised and increased under the Sin Tax Reform law of 2012 or RA 10351 as many smokers shifted to cheaper, lower-tax brands affecting government tobacco tax revenues. Taxation was socialized, lower tax for cigarettes made by hand and higher tax for cigarettes made by machines and stamped. In the latter group, there were only two brackets, below P11.50/pack, net retail price (NRP) and above this amount. The P12/pack in 2013 would become P30/pack by 2017.

Table 2: Excise tax rates under RA 10351 (2012)*Source: RA 10351, Sections 1-5.***NRP = net retail price, prices before taxes.*

Products	Unit	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tobacco Products	P/kilo	1.75	Specific rates increase 4% annually				
Cigars	P/cigar	5 + 20%	Specific rates increase 4% annually				
Cigarettes by Hand	P/pack	12	15	18	21	30	+4%/yr
Cigarettes manufactured by machines and stamped:							
Below P11.50 NRP*	P/pack	12	17	21	25	30	+4%/yr
Above P11.50 NRP	P/pack	25	27	28	29	30	+4%/yr

Smokers shifted to lower-tax brands and cigarettes that are made by hand, resulting in lower-than-expected government tobacco tax revenues. In response the government further revised the tax into a single tier under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law of 2017 or RA 10963.

This law was implemented in 2018 but by July 2019, Congress created another law, RA 11346 that further raised the tax rates. For instance, the P37.50/pack tax by 2020 under RA 10963 became P45.00/pack under RA 11346. The P40.00/pack by 2022 became P55.00/pack.

Tobacco tax revenues did not rise significantly in 2020 despite the big rise in tax rates. The economic contraction and massive job losses in 2020 contributed to this. Tobacco excise tax collections in previous years: P99.5 B in 2015, P95.1 B in 2016, P125.9 B in 2017.

Table 3: Excise tax rates under RA 10963 (2017) and RA 11346 (2019), P/pack, Tobacco excise tax revenues, P Billion*Source of tobacco excise tax collections: DBM, Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF), various years, Table C.3.*

	Jan. 2018	July 2018	2020-2021	2022-2023	2024 onwards
RA 10963 (P/pack)	32.50	35.00	37.50	40.00	+4% per year
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 onwards
RA 11346 (P/pack)	45.00	50.00	55.00	60.00	5% indexation
	2018	2019	2020	2021 Proj.	2022 Proj.
Tobacco excise tax, P Billion	136.0	147.6	149.6	172.3	199.6

The four laws' tax rates can be summarized below.

Table 4: Summary of tobacco tax rates, Pesos per pack										
<i>*NRP - net retail price, prices before taxes.</i>										
Laws	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RA 9334 (2004)										
P6.5-P10/pack	11.43	12.00								
> P10/pack	27.16	28.30								
RA 10351 (2012)										
< P11.50 NRP*			12	21	30	+4% yearly				
> P11.50 NRP			25	28	30	+4% yearly				
RA 10963 (2017)						35	37.50	37.50	40	40
RA 11346 (2019)							45	50	55	60

RA 9334 has four tiers of taxes, RA 10351 has two tiers, and many smokers shift to lower-taxed tiers affecting government revenues. Under RA 10963 and 11346, there is only one tier.

A random check of cigarette prices in a convenience stores revealed that the cheapest brand is P100/pack, highest is P145/pack. Since the tax is P50/pack, then the NRP of these products are perhaps only P30 to P75/pack. As a result of the ballooning tax rates the government earns more than the tobacco companies and retailers.

III. Review of Literature

Oxford Economics (2016) estimated Illicit tobacco consumption in the Philippines at 6.4 M sticks or 0.3 M packs in 2012, 19-20 M sticks or 1 million packs each in 2013 and 2014, and 0.7 million packs in 2015. The estimated illicit consumption in 2013 has increased 3 times the 2012 level. Producers and suppliers of illicit and smuggled products have anticipated the high cigarette prices and prepared for the shift of many smokers to cheaper smuggled products. The level has tapered in 2015 to twice the 2012 level.

Table 5: Oxford Economics estimate of illicit cigarette consumption, million sticks, 2012-2015

Source: Oxford Economics (2016). "Asia: Illicit Tobacco Indicators 2015"

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015%
Legal domestic sales	102.2	86.3	82.3	83.5	
Outflow of duty paid	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	
Legal dom. Consumption	102.1	86.2	82.2	83.3	86.2%
Non-domestic legal	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	
Non-domestic illicit	0.3	1.9	0.9	1.5	
Total non-dom. Inflow	0.4	2.1	1.0	1.8	1.9%
Domestic illicit	6.1	17.1	19.0	11.6	12.0%
Total consumption	108.7	105.5	102.3	96.7	100%
Total illicit consumption	6.4	19.1	19.9	13.0	13.5%

The Center for Research and Communication (CRC, 2017) has a much bigger estimates of the volume of smuggled cigarettes in the Philippines: 37.9 million packs/year in 2010-2012, 34.7 million packs/year in 2013-2015. Estimated losses in tax revenues (excise + VAT) by the government was P473 million/year in 2010-2012 and P952 million/year in 2013-2015.

CRC referred to smuggling only to foreign-produced cigarettes that were either not declared or under-declared/under-stated in values, and do not include domestically-produced cigarettes that were either not declared or under-declared. The numbers show that smuggling has been going on even during RA 9334.

Table 6: CRC estimate of tax losses from cigarettes smuggling, 2010-2016*Source: CRC, "Illicit Trade Research Study: Cigarettes", August 2017.*

Products	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 1H
Quantity, tons a*	6,524	5,549	5,240	5,958	5,611	4,036	967
Packs, millions b*	41.7	37.0	35.0	39.7	37.4	26.9	6.4
Excise tax, P/pack c*	2.72	2.72	2.7	12	17	21	25
Excise tax loss, P mill.	113	101	95	477	636	565	161
VAT loss, P/pack	401	344	364	396	412	370	108
Excise + VAT loss, P mill.	515	445	459	873	1,048	935	270

a* Total of difference between data reported by Philippines and partner countries.

b* Assumed 150 grams/pack

c* Lowest net retail price (NRP)

Oplas (2018) estimated that some 497 M packs of smuggled tobacco were consumed in and this attracted some 2.48 million new smokers that year.

BIR total collection of excise tax from locally-manufactured and imported cigarettes in 2016 was P94.5 billion. Adding this to the BOC estimate of P16 billion losses from cigarette smuggling, potential tax revenues in 2016 should have been P110.5 billion. Lost revenues from smuggling then was 14.5% of potential total tobacco tax that year.

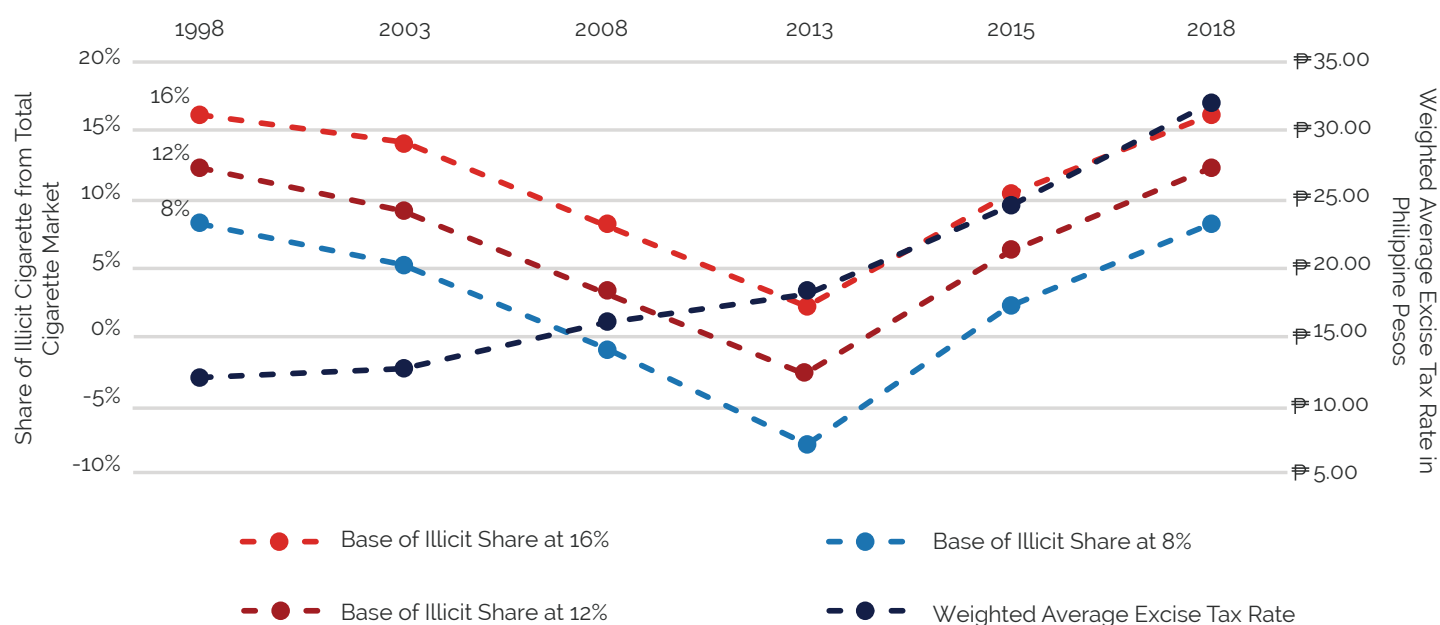
Table 7: Oplas estimate of tobacco smuggling and additional smokers in 2016*Source: Oplas (2018)*

Factors	Quantity	Sources
(1) Tobacco taxes, BIR + BOC collections	P113.23B	PhilStar report
(2) Tobacco volume withdrawal	3.52 B packs	
(3) Implied taxes (1)/(2)	P32.20/pack	
(4) BOC estimated smuggling	P 16 B	
(5) Implied smuggled cigarettes (4)/(3)	496.9 M packs	GATS 2015
(6) Ave. daily cigarettes consumption in PH	11 sticks/day	
(7) Ave. yearly consumption [(6) x 365]/20	200 packs/yr	
(8) Additional smokers served by smuggling (5)/(7)	2.48 M people	

Lavares et al (2020) do not believe in high smuggling incidence and they used low under-reporting numbers of 8%, 12% and 16%. They noted, "According to the lower bound estimates, the illicit cigarette market in the Philippines was negligible in 2008, 2013 and 2015 and it only reached 8.7% in 2018.... the share of illicit cigarette market had increased again to a prevalence comparable with its 1998 level, even though the tax rate more than tripled in real values during that time."

FIGURE 1: Lavares, et al. estimated share of illicit cigarette market with three under-reporting scenarios.

Source: Author, based on World Trade Integrated Solution (2020).



Austria and Villanueva (2021) estimated that illicit tobacco at 20% under-reporting, in number of cigarette sticks: 9.4 B in 2014, 8.5 B in 2016, 14.2 B in 2017. At 40% under-reporting, 23.6 B in 2014, 20.7 B in 2016, and 26.7 B in 2017.

Table 8: Austria and Villanueva estimate of illicit cigarette, 2013-2017*Source: Austria (2021), Table 3.*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total est. cigarette consumption, B sticks	69.21	70.78	60.63	61.06	62.32
Illicit cig. Trade, 10% under-reporting, B sticks		2.32		2.39	1.97
At 20% under-reporting		9.40		8.49	14.21
At 30% under-reporting		16.47		14.60	20.44
At 40% under-reporting	5.87	23.55	2.05	20.70	26.67
At 10% penetration of illicit, % of consumption		3.3%		3.9%	12.8%
At 20% penetration		13.3%		13.9%	22.8%
At 30% penetration		23.3%		23.9%	32.8%
At 40% penetration	8.5%	33.3%	3.4%	33.9%	42.8%

IV. Discussion:

Of the five studies mentioned, Austria and Villanueva (A&V) paper has the highest, and very likely, most realistic estimates of illicit tobacco trade. Even at 20% penetration rate of illicit tobacco, some 14% of consumption in 2016 and 22.8% of consumption in 2017 were illicit products.

The paper with the least estimates of illicit tobacco trade is Lavares et al. To say that "illicit cigarette market in the Philippines was negligible in 2008, 2013 and 2015" is incorrect as shown by official data from the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO) where the estimated illicit tobacco were P19.9 B in 2014, P17.9 B in 2015. Also the high tax rates even under RA 9334 of 2004.

The second smallest estimate is the CRC paper. Their P1 B a year in foregone tax revenues until 2014, 2015 due to smuggling is small compared to other estimates of P16 to P20 B a year.

The Oxford Economics estimates approximate those of A&V paper. Their estimate of illicit tobacco at 13.5% of total consumption in 2015 is close to A&V's 14% in 2016 at 20% illicit penetration rate.

V. Geographical Distribution of Tobacco Smuggling in the Philippines, Newspaper Reports

The Annex of this paper has 40 pages of newspaper reports of cigarette smuggling the past four years. Below is a summary of those reports but those with value below P5 M are not included. Not many reports in 2017-2019 but notice a report by Ms. Padin of Philippine Star in March 2019. Huge estimates of tobacco smuggling nationwide of P18 B in 2015, P20 B in 2014 and 2018. But a low estimate of P2.7 B in 2019.

Acronyms of newspapers: BM – Business Mirror; MB – Manila Bulletin; PNA – Philippines News Agency; PDI – Philippine Daily Inquirer; PhilStar – Philippine Star.

Table 9: Reported tobacco smuggling, 2017-2019			
Year, Place	Value	Remarks	Source Report
2017: Nationwide	P16 B	Full 2017 estimate	Customs sets probe on P50-B smuggling, PhilStar, 2/12/2017
Nationwide	-52% decline	Oxford Econ. est.	PDI, 11/12/2018
2018: Nationwide	P18.5 M	From China	Cigarette smuggling on the rise – BIR, PDI, 4/16/2018
GenSan City	P5 M+	From Indonesia	Jakarta Post, 4/25/2018
Zamboanga City	P7 M	From Sabah, Malaysia	P7-M smuggled cigarette shipment seized in Zamboanga, PNA, 11/13/2018
2012-2018: Nationwide	P2.6 B in 2012, P19.9 B in 2014, P17.9 B in 2015, P20.25 B in 2018	UA&P estimates (2012-2015) NCIPR-IPO est (2018)	"Special Report: Government cracks down on cigarette smuggling, counterfeiting" by Mary Grace Padin, PhilStar, 3/4/2019
Gapan, N. Ecija	P200 M	17 Chinese arrested	
Pampanga	P200 M	cig.-making machines	
Tacloban	P385 M	fake cigs, tax stamps, achines	

Table 9: Reported tobacco smuggling, 2017-2019

Year, Place	Value	Remarks	Source Report
Nationwide	10.9 B sticks 2016 5.3 B sticks 2017	Oxford Economics estimates Est. tax losses: P17.4 B in 2016, P9.4 B in 2017	
Gapan, N.Ecija	P200 M	17 Chinese arrested	BM, 8/20/2018
Bugallon, Pang.	P5 B/year	P2 B/year taxes	ABS-CBN 11/29/2018, MS 12/02/2018
Bugallon, Pang.		P3.5 M/day taxes	PDI, 12/05/2018
2019:			
Davao City	P6.7 M		ABS-CBN, 2/20/2019
Zambo. City	P50 M	2,000+ cases	ABS-CBN, 4/11/2019
Bugallon, Pang.	P3.4 B taxes	Ops since 2013	BM, 4/26/2019
Zambo. City	P20 M	From Indonesia	ABS-CBN, 6/20/2019
Basulta, Zambo	P70 M	Jan-June	ABS-CBN, 6/26/2019
Valenzuela City	P75 M		BM, 6/29/2019
Zambo peninsula	P60 M	Apr-June alone	UNTVweb, 7/12/2019
Tacloban, Leyte	P150 M	Confiscated Feb.	ABS-CBN, 7/23/2019
Zamboanga	P4 M	From Indonesia to Sulu	Navy seizes P4-M smuggled cigarettes off Zamboanga City, PNA, 10/1/2019
Villasis, Pang.	P206.6 M	Stamps, machines	BM, 10/12/2019
Zamboanga	P120 M	Jan-Oct 11	MB and Headtopics, 10/17/2019
Sulu	P300 M	From Malaysia	ABS-CBN, 10/29/2019
Manila	1.45 M sticks	Chinese-brand cigarettes	Smuggled cigarettes flood Manila, Tribune, 11/1/2019
Sulu	P95 M	BOC & Navy ops	BM, 11/6/2019
Nationwide	P2.67 B	Counterfeit cigarettes	BOC intensifies anti-smuggling drive in 2019, DOF, 1/27/2020

Curiously, the nationwide lockdown in 2020, mild or strict, has enticed the various smugglers and manufacturers of illegal, untaxed tobacco products in the country. And high supply is only possible if there is also high demand, people who still want to smoke even if their income has declined but they are buying the cheaper, smuggled products. Huge amounts of money are involved, smuggling incidence has surfaced from Sulu and Tawi tawi up to the Visayas, southern and northern Luzon.

The illicit trade has also modernized to bringing in cigarette-making and stamp-making machines allowing illicit domestic production to flourish.

Table 10: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2020			
Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Cabiao, N. Ecija	P1 B	Arrested 20 Chinese	ABS-CBN, 1/18/2020
Caloocan	P58 M	Counterfeit and smuggled	Authorities seize ₱58 million of fake, smuggled cigarettes, CNN, 1/29/2020
Zamboanga	P8 M	From Sulu	PDI, 4/16/2020
Zamboanga	P245.8 M	Destroyed	PDI, 5/22/2020
Zamboanga	P10.1 M	Destroyed	PDI, 5/27/2020
Pampanga	P30 M		Cigarette smuggling, by Iris Gonzales, PhilStar, 5/28/2020
Zamboanga	P109 M, 21.8 M sticks destroyed		
Nationwide	110 machines seized in Q1 2020		
Zamboanga	P55 M		Newsline, 6/1/2020
Manila	P17.4 M	P10 M tax avoid	PDI, 6/3/2020
Lanao del Sur	P6 M		PhilStar, 6/29/2020
Subic Port	P93 M	declared as LED lights	PDI, ABS-CBN 7/3/2020
GenSan	P8.9 M	From Indonesia	PNA, 7/7/2020
Davao Port	P107 M	P235 M July alone	PDI, 7/21/2020
Manila Port	P128 M		Stronger penalties vs cigarette smuggling pushed, Philstar, 7/27/2020
Naguilan, Isabela	P1.3 B	equipment, fake tax stamps, etc	

Table 10: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2020

Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Manila Port	P186.9 M		UNTVweb, 7/28/2020
Marilao, Bulacan	P80 M	Face masks, cigarettes	ABS-CBN, 8/6/2020
Nationwide (May 28-July 15)	P2.2 B	cig.-making machines, cigs from China	DOF, BWorld, 8/17/2020 Philstar, 8/18/2020
Cebu Port	P54.6 M	From China	Sunstar, 8/20/2020
Cebu Port	P76 M	June, fr China	PNA, 8/22/2020
Cebu Port	P92 M	From China	MB, 8/25/2020
Makati	P10 M	cigarettes, guns	PNA, 8/27/2020
Bocaue, Bulacan	P15.7 M		GMA, 8/28/2020
Manila Port	P36 M	P221+ M From China	Over P221-M smuggled cigarettes seized in 3 ports: BOC, PNA, 8/29/2020
Batangas Port	P64.4 M		
Subic Port	P121 M		
Nationwide	P3 B +	Jan-August	Cigarettes top list of smuggled goods, MT, 9/2/2020
	P360 M	August alone	
Cebu Port	P88.1 M	From China	CDN 9/2; PDI 9/4/2020
Jolo, Sulu	P3.2 + P50 M	50 M destroyed	PNA, 9/9/2020
Cagayan de Oro	P20.7 M	From China	PDI 9/10; GMA 9/12/2020
Zamboanga Port, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi	P195 M	cigarettes	Customs Port of Zamboanga Disposes Php 1.5B Worth of Cigarettes, Raw Materials and Fake Internal Revenue Stamps, BOC, GMA 9/12/2020
	P350 M	Materials for cig. Making	
	P1 B +	Fake tax stamps	
Zamboanga Port	P200 M	From Malaysia, Indon.	PIA, 9/14/2020
* Worldwide	\$40-\$50 B/yr	WB estimate	MB, 9/14/2020
Subic Port	P60 M	From China	PIA, 9/16/2020

Table 10: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2020

Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Manila Port/MICP	P219.6 M	Jan-July	GMA, 9/16/2020
	P186.9 M	July 24 alone	
Cag. de Oro Port	P50.7 M	Sept 18 shipment	ABS-CBN, 7/1/2021
Davao Port	P26 M		MB, 9/22/2020
Misamis Or. Port	P40 M	From China	PNA,GMA 9/22/2020
Malabon	P6.5 M	Warehouse raid	PDI, 9/27/2020
Cag. de Oro Port	P50 M	(May 14, June 9)	PDI, 10/6/2020
Porac, Pampanga	P70 M	BOC condemnation	GMA 10/10; MS 10/11/2020
Zambo. del Sur	P10.8 M	From Indonesia	GMA, PDI 10/12/2020
Cebu Port	P148 M	August alone	"NBI-Bacolod braces for crackdown on fake cigarettes", Sunstar, 10/20/2020
	P 88.1 M	Sept. 1st week	
Davao Port	P96.6 M	P50 M destroyed	
Zamboanga Port	P1,500 M+	Value destroyed	
Visayas-Mindanao	P2 B +	Sept 2019 to present	"P2-B smuggled, fake cigarettes seized in Vis-Min", Iloilo News, 10/21/2020
Porac, Pampanga	P21 M	Destroyed by BOC	ABS-CBN, 10/23/2020
Nationwide	P 16-P18 B/yr	Foregone taxes	PhilStar, 10/29/2020
Subic	P215 M	Cigs, veggies	PDI, 11/02/2020
Manila Port	P60 M	From China	PDI, 11/03/2020; Philstar 11/04/2020
Tawi tawi	P150 M	From Indonesia	PNA, 11/7/2020; Philstar 11/09/2020
Cebu Port	P374 M	July-Sept fr China	Cebu Daily News-PDI, 11/10/2020
Tawi tawi	P120 M	From Indonesia	MB, 11/12/2020; MS, UNTV, 11/13/2020
Basilan	P10 M	BOC and Navy ops	MB, 11/18/2020

Table 10: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2020

Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Nationwide	\$213.4 M	Taxes lost 2019	"Government lost \$213-million tax take to fake tobacco" BM, 12/01/2020
	P20.25 B	Fake cigs 2018	
ASEAN wide	\$3.3 B	Taxes lost 2019	
Zambo, BaSulTa	P183 M	Sept-Nov	PNA, 12/07/2020; PDI 12/08/2020
Cotabato	P15.6 M	From Basilan	PNA 12/09; MB 12/13/2020
Davao Port	P13.2 M	From Cotabato City	PIA 12/12; MT 12/13/2020
Nationwide	P5.05 B	19 CCBWs closed	DOF, 12/17/2020
Nationwide	P5.22 B	BOC seizures 2020	PDI 1/18, 1/19/2021
Nationwide	P5.77 B	Seizures 2020	MT, 2/17/2021

In March 1 of 2021, Cong. Joey Salceda, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, announced that the value of smuggled cigarettes is about P30 B a year. If the figure is correct, then the volume of illicit cigarettes should be high since their prices are low.

Table 11: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2021

Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Cavite PEZA	P60 M	Fr China to PEZA Cavite	PDI, PEZA 1/26/2021; MB 1/27/2021
Zambo. City	P7 M	From Basilan	ABS-CBN, 2/09/2021
Cag. de Oro Port	P125 M	From China	PDI, 2/18/2021
Tagoloan, Mis Or.	P50 M	From China	ABS-CBN 2/18, PDI 2/19/2021
Bataan	P260 M	Cigarettes and rice	PDI, 2/24/2021
Sulu	P17 M	From Indonesia	ABS-CBN, PDI, 2/25/2021
Limay, Bataan	P9 M	Truck in checkpoint	ABS-CBN, 2/26/2021
Orion, Bataan	P30 M	Cigs, cig making machines	ABS-CBN, 2/28/2021

Table 11: Reported tobacco smuggling in 2021

Place	Est. Value	Remarks	Source Report
Nationwide	P30 B/yr	Cong. Salceda est.	PDI, GMA, 3/1/2021
Manila/MICP	P45 M	From China	MS, PDI, 3/23/2021
Zamboanga Port	P50 M	Seized, destroyed	ABS-CBN, GMA, 4/14/2021
Zambo. City	P10.6 M	From Sulu	ABS-CBN, GMA, 4/16/2021
Zambo. City	P7.3 M	From Sulu	ABS-CBN, 4/29/2021
Zambo. City	P13 M	PNP, BOC ops	Sunstar, 5/4/2021
Tagoloan, Mis.Or.	P30 M	From China	MS, PDI, 5/25/2021
Subic Port	P66 M	Two shipments	PDI, 5/31/2021
Manila/MICP	P38 M	1,090 master cases	BOC, GMA, 6/13/2021
Tagoloan, Mis.Or.	P75 M	Destroyed in Bukidnon	ABS-CBN, 6/16/2021
Mabalacat, Pamp.	P300 M	Wendel criminal group	"P1.3-B fake cigarettes, materials seized in Pampanga" PNA, 6/25/2021
San Simon, Pamp.	P1.0 B	Cig making machines	
Zambo. City	P5.6 M	2 operations	MB, 6/29/2021
Nationwide	P759.9 M	Seizures Jan-May	BM, 6/29/2021
Cebu Port	P90 M	From China	ABS-CBN, 7/09/2021
Basilan	P35.2 M	From Sulu	PhilStar, 7/31/2021
Tagoloan, Mis.Or.	P50 M	2 container vans	PDI, 8/02/2021
Subic Port	P78 M	2 container ships	ABS-CBN, 8/03/2021
Zambo. City	P11.2 M	BOC and PNP operations	PNA, 8/06/2021
Subic Port	P48 M	From Cambodia	PIA, 8/16/2021

According to the World Bank, the global trade in illegal tobacco is already worth an estimated \$40 billion to \$50 billion each year.

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

As clearly demonstrated, the higher the taxes the more illegal tobacco trade, leaving consumers in more jeopardy. Laws that over-tax, even prohibit legal tobacco will encourage and generate illegal tobacco.

In this situation, the losers are (a) government finance department or ministry with lower than potential revenues, (b) legal tobacco companies with lower revenues, and (c) consumers who are tempted to patronize cheaper but illegal cigarettes.

The winners are (a) corrupt government officials who allow and protect smuggling in exchange for high monetary rewards, and (b) criminal gangs and terrorist groups engaged in this and related activities. And overall corruption in government increases, not decreases.

Going back to the three quotes at the opening page of this paper, the reworded Newtonian 3rd law of motion by von Mises and this author – for every government intervention and taxation, there is an equal opposite distortion – is confirmed.

If Cong. Joey Salceda's estimate of P30 B/year illegal tobacco in the country is correct, then the reported estimate of P16 to P20 B/year in foregone taxes is also correct. That is equivalent to the full year budget of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in 2020.

Instead of introducing another round of higher tobacco tax, Congress and the Executive would benefit from strictly implementing the existing tax laws and plug loopholes. To this end, controlling the proliferation of smuggled and other illicit products would go a long way. This will achieve three goals: (a) increase government revenues, (b) decrease corruption in government, and (c) deprive funding for criminals and terrorist groups.

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Dozens of news and media reports of tobacco smuggling in the country. See Annex.

Annex: Newspaper reports

2017:

Customs sets probe on P50-B smuggling

By Mary Grace Padin, February 12, 2017

<http://www.philstar.com/business/2017/02/12/1671223/customs-sets-probe-p50-b-smuggling>

Citing its records, Customs said the government loses P22.5 billion in revenues from oil smuggling and P16 billion from contraband cigarettes. Another P21 billion are lost from vehicle smuggling, according to data from Global Financial Integrity and the International Monetary Fund.

Cigarette smuggling gouges Asia's taxes, anti-smoking drive

TSUBASA YODA, Non staff writer November 13, 2017 16:10 JST

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Business-trends/Cigarette-smuggling-gouges-Asia-s-taxes-anti-smoking-drive2>

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines see billions in revenue go up in smoke.

2018:

JTI chief vows to help gov't stop cigarette smuggling

February 1, 2018

<https://ptvnews.ph/jti-chief-vows-help-govt-stop-cigarette-smuggling/>

JTI Philippines General Manager Manos Koukourakis said the government lost billions in revenues annually because of rampant illicit cigarette trade nationwide. He said that for every PHP1 billion in gross revenues "the government makes PHP800 million in taxes, excise tax & VAT excluding corporate income taxes."

The JTI Philippines chief said raising taxes on tobacco "will be disastrous for the legitimate tobacco industry", which he said, lost around 40 billion cigarettes in just five years" or from 110 billion in 2013 to 70 billion last year.

Cigarette smuggling on the rise – BIR

By: Ben O. de Vera, Julie M. Aurelio / 05:33 PM April 16, 2018

<https://business.inquirer.net/249290/cigarette-smuggling-rise-bir>

The Bureau of Customs also on Monday reported that it intercepted last week P18.5 million in fake cigarettes from China.

"Frankly, we have a proliferation of smuggling. So we created a task force to address that because our attention was called by big tobacco companies, Philip Morris and Japan Tobacco, that based on their investigation there are many smuggled cigarettes," Internal Revenue Commissioner Caesar R. Dulay told finance reporters.

Similar story:

Customs seizes cigarettes smuggled from China

APR 16, 2018 5:35 PM PHT

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/philippines-customs-cigarette-smuggling-china>

Rp 1.33b smuggled kretek cigarettes seized, 3 Indonesians nabbed in the Philippines

Edwin O. Fernandez, Wed, April 25, 2018

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2018/04/25/rp-133b-smuggled-kretek-cigarettes-seized-3-indonesians-nabbed-in-the-philippines.html>

Police in General Santos City seized on Tuesday night more than 5 million pesos (US\$95,600 or Rp 1.33 billion) worth of cigarettes smuggled in the country and arrested three undocumented Indonesian nationals. Morales said the contraband were loaded on four motorized boats from Indonesia and brought inside the country through the so-called "southern backdoor."

Nueva Ecija raid yields P200M worth of fake cigarettes, arrest of 17 Chinese

REA CU AUGUST 20, 2018

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2018/08/20/nueva-ecija-raid-yields-p200m-worth-of-fake-cigarettes-arrest-of-17-chinese/>

Also intercepted were fake cigarettes of assorted brands, six cigarette-making machines, cigarette raw materials and fake Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) tax stamps stacked inside three boxes.

Coast Guard confiscates P270K in smuggled cigarettes

Roel Pareño - September 20, 2018 - 7:43am

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2018/09/20/1853161/coast-guard-confiscates-p270k-smuggled-cigarettes>

Ramos said they boarded M/B Cutter Wave and discovered it was loaded with nine big boxes of smuggled cigarettes (from Malaysia).

Consumption of smuggled, fake cigarettes down 52% in '17

By: Ben O. de Vera / 05:13 AM November 12, 2018

<https://business.inquirer.net/260404/consumption-of-smuggled-fake-cigarettes-down-52-in-17>

"The Philippines experienced the sharpest decline in illicit consumption (down 51.8 percent) following a

fall in domestic illicit after the high-profile indictment of Mighty Corp. for tax fraud," Oxford Economics said. Last year, the volume of domestic illicit dropped by almost two-thirds to 3.6 billion cigarettes, it added.

P7-M smuggled cigarette shipment seized in Zamboanga

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. November 13, 2018, 8:56 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1053736>

the smuggled cigarettes were concealed at the cargo deck and believed to have come from Tawau, Sabah, a Malaysian state wherein the Philippines has dormant claims. The confiscated cigarettes consisted of 200 cases of banned tobacco products comprising of 150 cases of "LS" and 50 cases of Fort cigarettes with an estimated worth of PHP7 million.

Higit P2 bilyon ng sigarilyo na may pekeng stamp, nasamsam sa Pangasinan

ABS-CBN News Nov 29 2018 06:27 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/29/18/higit-p2-bilyon-ng-sigarilyo-na-may-pekeng-stamp-nasamsam-sa-pangasinan>

Ayon sa Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), higit P2 bilyon ang halaga ng operasyon ng pabrika ang dapat sana ay kinikita ng gobyerno.

2 fake cigarette factories fall

Orlan L. Mauricio December 02, 2018 at 10:00 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/281969>

Advincula estimated that the factory has been in operation for several years and had cheated the government of P2 billion in taxes a year, selling some P5 billion worth of cigarettes annually.

NBI: Raided factory top source of fake cigarettes

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:10 AM December 05, 2018

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1060004/nbi-raided-factory-top-source-of-fake-cigarettes>

BUGALLON, Pangasinan — The National Bureau of Investigation on Monday said the volume of raw materials and scale of production at an illegal cigarette factory here suggested it was supplying the whole country with fake cigarettes.

The factory was said to be churning out daily about 200 boxes, each with 500 packs of fake brand cigarettes. Since each cigarette pack carried a fake P35 tax stamp, losses in taxes could amount to P3.5 million daily, officials said.

Five Chinese nationals were among the factory workers arrested by the government team in Bugallon. In August, 17 Chinese were also involved when the Bureau of Customs raided a warehouse in Gapan City in Nueva Ecija province and confiscated fake cigarettes worth P200 million. The Gapan warehouse stored raw materials and equipment which could produce 400 boxes of cigarettes a day.

2019:

Higit P6.7 milyong 'pekeng' yosi nakumpiska sa Davao City

Bonna Pamplona, Feb 20 2019 07:59 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/20/19/higit-p67-milyong-pekeng-yosi-nakumpiska-sa-davao-city>

Nasa 7,000 kahon ng umano'y smuggled o pekeng sigarilyo ang nakumpiska.

Special Report: Government cracks down on cigarette smuggling, counterfeiting

Mary Grace Padin - March 4, 2019 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/03/04/1898507/special-report-government-cracks-down-cigarette-smuggling-counterfeiting>

In a position paper sent to Senate ways and means committee chairman Juan Edgardo Angara, FPI chairman Jesus Lim Arranza cited a study titled "Multi-Industry Illicit Trade Research Study" of the University of Asia and the Pacific, which found that the government's excise tax and VAT losses due to the illicit trading of cigarettes increased from **P2.6 billion in 2012 to P19.9 billion in 2014 and P17.9 billion in 2015**, the same period when the Sin Tax Reform Law was implemented.

Based on data from the Intellectual Property Office, the inter-agency National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights seized **P20.25 billion** worth of fake cigarettes and cigarette-making paraphernalia in 2018.

This accounted for 85.91 percent of the total value of seized fake products last year, which jumped almost threefold to P23.6 billion from P8.2 billion the previous year.

Moreover, data gathered by the private sector showed the amount of seized illicit cigarettes almost doubled to 157.03 million sticks in 2018 from 89.071 million in 2017. These were valued at P628.12 million, almost twice the P356.28 million worth of fake cigarettes confiscated the previous year.

Industry data also showed that the government seized P874.1 million worth of unaffixed cigarette tax stamps during the period.

The BIR, together with the NBI, also discovered fake cigarettes in a warehouse in Bugallon, Pangasinan during a raid in November last year. This operation led to the arrest of 28 Chinese and Filipinos working in the factory.

A total of 17 Chinese were also caught by the BOC manufacturing P200 million worth of fake cigarettes bearing the brands Marvel, Fortune, Jackpot, Champion and Mighty in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

Representatives from the BIR and the Philippine National Police infiltrated two warehouses in San Simon, Pampanga, yielding P10 million worth of cigarettes with fake tax stamps and cigarette-making equipment.

A total of eight cigarette-making machines worth P200 million were discovered in two warehouses located at Global Aseana Business Park and San Simon Industrial Park, both in Pampanga last January.

About P385 million worth of fake cigarettes, tax stamps, raw materials and machines were also seized early this month in Tacloban.

It was also estimated that tax losses due to illicit consumption fell by 46 percent to P9.4 billion from P17.4 billion in the previous year.

During a hearing conducted by the Senate ways and means committee, Philippine Tobacco Institute representative Carmen Herce cited Euromonitor International, which projects that further tax increases could increase the incidence of illicit cigarettes from 13.3 percent to 14.2 percent from 2019 to 2022, resulting in revenue losses of P14.2 billion to P16.8 billion.

P2-M halaga ng smuggled na yosi nasamsam sa Sulu

Jeffrey Hernaez Mar 10 2019 08:12 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/10/19/p2-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-yosi-nasamsam-sa-sulu>

Mahigit 2,000 kahon ng umano'y smuggled na sigarilyo, nasabat sa Zamboanga City

Noning Antonio, Apr 11 2019 12:18 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/11/19/mahigit-2000-kahon-ng-umanoy-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-zamboanga-city>

Ayon kay Bureau of Customs district collector Atty. Sigmunfreud Barte Jr, hindi bababa sa P50 milyon ang halaga ng mga nasabat na sigarilyo.

2 Chinese national, arestado sa pagbebenta ng pekeng sigarilyo

Jeffrey Hernaez, Apr 14 2019 11:02 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/14/19/2-chinese-national-arestado-sa-pagbebenta-ng-pekeng-sigarilyo>

Nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang 40 karton o 2,000 ream ng pekeng sigarilyo na nagkakahalaga ng P1 milyon.

BIR runs after fake cigarette maker in Pangasinan

REA CU APRIL 26, 2019

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/04/26/bir-runs-after-fake-cigarette-maker-in-pangasinan/>

... the liability assessed to total P3.4 billion, inclusive of increments. According to the bureau, Calugay's businesses has been operating since April 29, 2013...

2 nabbed for fake cigarettes

May 07, 2019 People's Journal

<https://archive.journal.com.ph/news/nation/2-nabbed-fake-cigarettes>

PANGASINAN Rep. Amado Espino Jr. and one of his alleged associates have been tagged by two of their purported employees in the sale and distribution of fake Marlboro and Philip Morris cigarettes in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The identification was made by Lawrence M. Ocampo and Renato M. Alonir, who were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in Taytay, Rizal last April 15, 2019 for alleged violation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 8293.

"Kami po ang tagahakot at hatid ng mga pekeng sigarilyo ng Marlboro at Philip Morris sa kalakhang Maynila at karatig bayan po nito," they said.

The two further stated that they were shocked to learn that Cong. Espino and Calugay sent some of their men to their families looking for them, demanding they explain why the two made statements to the NBI implicating them in the selling and distribution of fake cigarettes. They also stated that Espino's men made a threat to kill them.

Cigarette tax hike must be 'reasonable,' says Japan Tobacco PH boss

ABS-CBN News May 24 2019 11:06 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/05/24/19/cigarette-tax-hike-must-be-reasonable-says-japan-tobacco-ph-boss>

Will cigarette smuggling worsen with sin tax hike?

Ina Reformina, May 27 2019 09:32 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/05/27/19/will-cigarette-smuggling-worsen-with-sin-tax-hike>

Paglala ng smuggling sa sigarilyo, pinangangambahan

ABS-CBN News May 28 2019 01:24 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/05/28/19/paglala-ng-smuggling-sa-sigarilyo-pinangangambahan>

Senators address smuggling threat with cigarette tax hike: Gatchalian

ABS-CBN News May 29 2019 09:20 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/05/29/19/senators-address-smuggling-threat-with-cigarette-tax-hike-gatchalian>

Gov't intensifying crackdown on cigarette smuggling: finance official

ABS-CBN News Jun 05 2019 12:46 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/05/19/govt-intensifying-crackdown-on-cigarette-smuggling-finance-official>

Senate Bill No. 2233 raises excise taxes on cigarettes by P45 per pack by 2020, P50 per pack by 2021, P55 per pack by 2022, and P60 per pack by 2023. It also places a P10 tax for every 10 milliliters of vaping liquids.

Mahigit P20 milyong halaga ng smuggled na sigarilyo, nakumpiska sa Zamboanga City

RJ Rosalado, Jun 20 2019 10:15 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/20/19/mahigit-p20-milyong-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-nakumpiska-sa-zamboanga-city>

... higit 700 kahon na naglalaman ng smuggled na sigarilyo ang isinakay sa cargo vessel. Mula sa bansang Indonesia ang mga kontrabando at ipapasok sana sa Zamboanga City para ibenta.

P7-M halaga ng umano'y smuggled na yosi nasabat sa Zamboanga City

RJ Rosalado Jun 26 2019 07:36 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/26/19/p7-m-halaga-ng-umanoy-smuggled-na-yosi-nasabat-sa-zamboanga-city>

Mula Enero nitong 2019, humigit 2,500 na kahon na ng smuggled cigarettes ang nasabat ng BOC at ibang ahensiya sa Zamboanga peninsula at Basulta area, na umaabot na ng higit **P70 milyon** ang halaga.

Chinese among 6 nabbed for owning cigarette labeling, packaging units

REA CU JUNE 28, 2019

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/06/28/chinese-among-6-nabbed-for-owning-cigarette-labeling-packaging-units/>

...Valenzuela City, is valued at **P75 million**, an official of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said.

P1.2-M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Port of Zamboanga

Marje Pelayo 12 July 2019

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/p1-2-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-port-of-zamboanga/>

A total of 2,125 reams of smuggled cigarettes amounting to P1.2 million were confiscated at the port of Zamboanga on Wednesday (July 10).

The BOC cited that the agency already hauled **P60 million** worth of smuggled cigarettes just between April and June this year.

Customs destroy smuggled Ferrari sports car, P150-million worth of cigarettes

Jul 23 2019 01:06 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/23/19/customs-destroy-smuggled-ferrari-sports-car-p150-million-worth-of-cigarettes>

The bureau also destroyed a cigarette-making machine and fake cigarettes amounting to P150 million. The fake tobacco products were confiscated from a warehouse in Tacloban City in February.

Cigarettes smuggled in boxes of mangosteen seized in Zambo port

Chrisel Almonia, Jul 25 2019 04:29 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/25/19/cigarettes-smuggled-in-boxes-of-mangosteen-seized-in-zambo-port>

BOC destroys P2.3-M smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga City

Leizel Lacastesantos, Aug 14 2019 07:04 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/14/19/boc-destroys-p23-m-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga-city>

Mga makinang panggawa ng pekeng sigarilyo sinira ng BIR

Angelo Andrade, Aug 22 2019 08:37 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/22/19/mga-makinang-panggawa-ng-pekeng-sigarilyo-sinira-ng-bir>

Sa tantsa ng BIR, aabot sa P1.25 billion ang obligasyon ng mga manufacturers sa mga pekeng sigarilyo pa lang dahil sa kawalan ng tax stamps.

1,500 boxes of fake cigarettes, filter rods seized in Bacolod

Mark Gabriel Salanga Sep 13 2019 01:36 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/13/19/1500-boxes-of-fake-cigarettes-filter-rods-seized-in-bacolod>

BIR said cigarette packs which sell under P50 are usually fake since excise tax placed on cigarettes are P35. Jaminola said the manufacturer of the cigarettes may be penalized P140 million.

Authorities seize P900k worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga

Published September 22, 2019 3:10pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/708911/authorities-seize-p900k-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga/story/>

Operative intercepted 30 boxes of smuggled cigarettes at the Port of Zamboanga on Wednesday, September 18.

Navy seizes P4-M smuggled cigarettes off Zamboanga City

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. October 1, 2019, 8:47 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1081926>

Operatives of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) intercepted a shipment of some PHP4 million worth of smuggled cigarettes off this city.

P2.4M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga

Robie de Guzman • October 2, 2019

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/p2-4m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-zamboanga/>

Around 90 boxes of smuggled cigarettes estimated to be worth P2.4 million were seized in transit by the operatives of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at the Port of Zamboanga last Saturday (Sept. 28). Last September 18, around 30 cartons of assorted cigarettes estimated to be worth P900,000 were also seized at the Port of Zamboanga.

Smuggled na sigarilyo nasabat sa Zamboanga City

Leizel Lacastesantos Oct 11 2019 05:31 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/18/19/smuggled-na-yosi-nasabat-sa-zamboanga-city>

BIR raid yields P206.6M worth of fake cigarette tax stamps, printing machines

JOVELYN MOYA OCTOBER 12, 2019

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/10/12/bir-raid-yields-p206-6m-worth-of-fake-cigarette-tax-stamps-printing-machines/>

...in Villasis, Pangasinan.... fake internal revenue stamps worth P6.6 million, while the estimated worth of the 20 units of machines seized was placed at P200 million.

Smugglers continue to break in PH's backdoor to smuggle cigarettes

10/17/2019 6:30:00 PM

<https://headtopics.com/ph/smugglers-continue-to-break-in-ph-s-backdoor-to-smuggle-cigarettes-8999702>

It adds up to the current P120-million haul of smuggled cigarettes of the port under Barte's leadership... the intercepted cigarettes are a mix of locally-made and foreign-made, considering that some of the items bear foreign seals.

Smuggled na yosi nasabat sa Zamboanga City

Oct 18 2019 05:02 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/18/19/smuggled-na-yosi-nasabat-sa-zamboanga-city>

Navy seizes P300-million worth of smuggled cigarettes off Sulu

RJ Rosalado, Oct 29 2019 03:01 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/29/19/navy-seizes-p300-million-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-off-sulu>

The contraband was on board a Sulu-bound cargo vessel, M/L 3 Brothers, which came from Malaysia...

Smuggled cigarettes flood Manila

November 1, 2019 03:00 AM By Joshua Lao

<https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2019/11/01/smuggled-cigarettes-flood-manila/>

"The prevalence of illicit Chinese cigarettes in the Philippines is alarming," the BIR said. BIR Revenue Officer Remedio Advincula Jr., who led the strike team said the rampant supply of smuggled cigarettes is traced to the growing Chinese market in the country.

According to him, seized Chinese cigarette brands like Double Happiness, YunYan, Septwolves, Ligun and Changbaishan do not bear the necessary tax stamps and the required graphic health warnings.

"Filipinos don't patronize these brands, that's why I suspect they only cater to Chinese smokers who are here," Advincula explained.

Gov't to ask neighbors to help curb cigarette smuggling

By Ben O. de Vera / 04:35 AM November 01, 2019

<https://business.inquirer.net/282348/govt-to-ask-neighbors-to-help-curb-cigarette-smuggling>

Customs, naval task force seize P95-million smuggled cigarettes in Sulu

MANUEL CAYON NOVEMBER 6, 2019

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/11/06/customs-naval-task-force-seize-p95-million-smuggled-cigarettes-in-sulu/>

Authorities confiscate P1.2-M illicit cigarettes in Zamboanga seaport

By CNN Philippines Staff Published Dec 6, 2019 8:44:04 AM

<https://www.cnn.ph/regional/2019/12/6/smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-zamboanga-city.html>

Confiscated by government operatives Wednesday were 50 boxes of illicit cigarettes, with brand names Canon, Menthol, and Astro White, the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) said.

2020:

Customs bureau seizes P1-B worth of fake cigarettes in Nueva Ecija

ABS-CBN News Jan 18 2020 08:24 PM | Updated as of Jan 19 2020 12:32 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/18/20/customs-bureau-seizes-p1-b-worth-of-fake-cigarettes-in-nueva-ecija>

In a statement, the BOC said it joined police and local officials in retrieving 3 boxes with fake tax certification stamps, at least 15 cigarette-making machines, packing machines, filter-making machines, a mixer and a dryer, and raw materials.

The BOC said it also arrested 20 Chinese citizens allegedly involved in manufacturing counterfeit cigarettes, and 100 Filipinos believed to be behind the operations.

Smuggled Machines Destroyed

January 21, 2020

<https://www.tobaccoasia.com/manufacturing-news/smuggled-machines-destroyed/>

The machines – seven cigarette-making machines, one plastic recycling machine, one manual lifter, one generator set, and one generator cooling system – were seized last February 19 and forfeited last July 26 for violation of Section 1113 (f) and (l) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

The Port of Clark also destroyed two sets of cigarette manufacturing machines, one semi-automatic strapping machine, a plastic shredding facility, 145 cigarette master cases, packaging materials, and tax stamps the following day.

Kahon-kahong sigarilyong may pekeng tax stamps nasamsam sa CDO

Rod Bolivar, Jan 22 2020 06:22 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/22/20/kahon-kahong-sigarilyong-may-pekeng-tax-stamps-nasamsam-sa-cdo>

Ayon sa BIR, aabot sa higit P882 milyon ang excise tax deficiency ng mga manufacturer dahil sa paggamit ng pekeng BIR stamp.

BOC intensifies anti-smuggling drive in 2019

January 27, 2020

<https://www.dof.gov.ph/boc-intensifies-anti-smuggling-drive-in-2019/>

BOC anti-smuggling campaign in 2019, seizing P20.58 billion-worth of smuggled goods, mostly counterfeit goods, illegal drugs and tobacco products.

Of the seized goods last year, the BOC said it was able to apprehend P9.44 billion-worth of counterfeit products, P3.59 billion-worth of illegal drugs, and P2.67 billion worth of cigarettes and tobacco products—accounting for a combined value of P15.7 billion or three-fourths of its total haul for 2019.

Customs nets P20.58B in smuggled goods

By: Ben O. de Vera / 05:04 AM January 28, 2020

<https://business.inquirer.net/289146/customs-nets-p20-58b-in-smuggled-goods>

Troops seize 'smuggled' cigarettes in Zambo City

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. January 28, 2020, 7:55 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1092171>

Troops belonging to the Joint Task Force Zamboanga troops seized smuggled cigarettes worth around PHP90,000 in this southern port city.

Authorities seize ₱58 million of fake, smuggled cigarettes

By CNN Philippines Staff Published Jan 29, 2020 3:27:27 PM

<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/1/29/smuggled-cigarettes-in-Caloocan.html>

A BOC statement said 1,670 cases of suspected counterfeit and smuggled cigarettes were confiscated by Philippine Coast Guard, Caloocan police and Customs personnel on Tuesday in Barangay 168.

The illegally imported products with supposed brands Marvels, Fortune, D&B, Mighty and Jackpot were stored in nine trucks, BOC said.

Gov't steps up drive vs cigarette smuggling

By: Ben O. de Vera - Reporter / 05:26 AM January 30, 2020

<https://business.inquirer.net/289314/govt-steps-up-drive-vs-cigarette-smuggling>

Under Republic Act No. 11346, or the Tobacco Tax Law of 2019, cigarette excise rose to P45 a pack effective on Jan. 1, 2020. Cigarette taxes will further increase to P50 a pack in 2021, P55 in 2022 and P60 in 2023, to be followed by a 5-percent annual indexation from 2024 onwards. In a statement on Wednesday, the BOC said it intercepted in Caloocan City last Monday P58.45 million worth of smuggled counterfeit cigarettes.

Lawmen intercepts P2.4-M smuggled cigarettes

February 21, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1845322/Zamboanga/Local-News/Lawmen-intercepts-P24-M-smuggled-cigarettes>

LAWMEN have intercepted a shipment of P2.4 million worth of smuggled cigarettes mixed with dried fish in a remote area in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay, a police official said Friday, February 21.

Navy seizes Zamboanga City-bound contraband cigarettes from Sulu

By: Julie S. Alipala / 02:33 AM April 16, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1259377/navy-seizes-zamboanga-city-bound-contraband-cigarettes-from-sulu>

... 200 boxes of contraband cigarette,s with brands like Bravo and Fort... The commercial value of the contrabands is estimated to be around P8 million.

Cigarette smuggling up despite lockdown

By: Ben O. de Vera - Reporter / April 21, 2020

<https://business.inquirer.net/295224/cigarette-smuggling-up-despite-lockdown>

"the acquisition cost abroad of illicit whites rose from \$80 to \$150 per master case in February, as illicit traders scrambled to buy inventory in anticipation of supply-shortages due to the outbreak of COVID-19," the tobacco firms said.... Last week, the BOC said it intercepted P8.3 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga City.

Mahigit 200 kaha ng pekeng sigarilyo, nakumpiska sa Valenzuela

Arra Perez, May 01 2020 02:12 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/01/20/mahigit-200-kaha-ng-pekeng-sigarilyo-nakumpiska-sa-valenzuela>

P245.8-M worth of smuggled cigarettes destroyed in Zamboanga City

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 09:20 AM May 22, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1279221/p245-8-million-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-destroyed-in-zamboanga>

Confiscated smuggled cigarettes amounting to P245.8 million were destroyed in Zamboanga City, the Bureau of Customs reported on Friday. The cigarettes were crushed by a 40-ton forklift truck after being drenched in water inside the compound of the Bureau of Customs-Port of Zamboanga in Zamboanga City.

BOC seizes P10.1M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga

By: Katrina Hallare / 06:36 PM May 27, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1281970/customs-seize-p10-1m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga>

BOC said they intercepted the cigarettes, which most likely came from Malaysia or Indonesia, in an operation in Istambak, Barangay Lower Calarian on Tuesday.

Cigarette smuggling

EYES WIDE OPEN - Iris Gonzales - May 28, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/05/28/2016944/cigarette-smuggling>

The seized products are worth P30 million, according to estimates. But members of this government bureau tasked to crack down on smuggling were surprised to hear that two lawmakers intervened.

Apparently, the business park in Pampanga — where the warehouse is located — is owned by the lawmaker's friends. The lawmaker questioned the raid, insisting that there shouldn't be a raid at this time because of the nationwide quarantine.

After the raid, it was another lawmaker, a ranking member of the House of Representatives, who called the government agency's raiding team to urge them not to seize the illicit cigarettes.

"However, 110 machines were seized from illegal factories, 4.5 times more than the 24 machines seized in the first quarter of 2019. The 110 machines form 20 lines, with each line estimated to produce as much as three million sticks per day," the disclosure revealed.

The company said the industry's volume, which was estimated at 108.9 billion sticks in 2012, has already declined by 35 percent to an estimated 70.5 billion sticks in 2019. This is partly due to higher taxes and smuggling perhaps. The industry is estimated to have declined further by nine percent in the first quarter of 2020.

Last May 5, the Bureau of Customs in Zamboanga destroyed P245.8 million worth of smuggled cigarettes at Fast Cargo Logistics Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

The cigarettes were seized up to March — a total of 2,183 master cases, which contained around 21,830,000 sticks of cigarettes amounting to P109 million.

BOC confiscates P55-M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga port

June 1, 2020 by NewsLine Philippines

<https://newsline.ph/top-stories/2020/06/01/BOC-Intercepts-Php/>

Customs seizes P17.38M worth of fake cigarettes in Port of Manila

By: Cathrine Gonzales / 02:23 PM June 03, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1285552/customs-seizes-p17-38m-worth-of-fake-cigarettes-in-port-of-manila>

A container of fake Mighty and Marvels cigarettes estimated to be worth P17.38 million. The shipment consigned to Mvetisery Industrial Supply which arrived from China on May 22. Upon physical examination, the assigned Customs examiner assessed total duties and taxes amounting to P9.96 million.

BOC seizes millions of smuggled cigarettes in GenSan

By ROMMEL G. REBOLLIDO -JUNE 3, 2020 10:59 PM

<https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2020/06/boc-seizes-millions-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-gensan/>

The contraband came from Vietnam aboard MV Barry Trad that arrived at 10 a.m. at the Makar Wharf, according to port collector Elenita Abano.

She said they learned of the illegal shipment when they were informed by their head office after Vietnamese authorities informed the Interpol in Manila, which alerted the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

P2 milyong halaga ng pekeng sigarilyo nakumpiska sa Pagadian City

RJ Rosalado, Jun 05 2020 05:22 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/05/20/p2-milyong-halaga-ng-pekeng-sigarilyo-nakumpiska-sa-pagadian-city>

Smuggled cigarettes seized in Maguindanao

John Unson - June 29, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/06/29/2024355/smuggled-cigarettes-seized-maguindanao>

Authorities seized 100 boxes of cigarettes smuggled into this province from Malaysia with an estimated value of P600,000 on Saturday. Probers expressed belief the crewmembers could be the same persons behind a similar attempt in Lanao del Sur last month, which resulted in the seizure of P6 million worth of cigarettes.

P93-M smuggled cigarettes seized at Port of Subic

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 10:09 AM July 03, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1301175/p93-m-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-at-port-of-subic>

BOC said that on Wednesday, July 1, it seized, through the District Collection Port of Subic, three 40-foot containers containing the smuggled cigarettes, which were declared as LED lights.

P93 milyong halaga ng umano'y smuggled na sigarilyo, nasabat sa Port of Subic

Johnson Manabat Jul 03 2020 01:08 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/03/20/p93-milyong-halaga-ng-umanoy-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-port-of-subic>

P8.9-M worth of smuggled, fake cigarettes seized in GenSan

By Richelyn Gubalani July 7, 2020, 4:20 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1108199>

Police authorities confiscated around PHP8.9 million worth of smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes from Indonesia... the contraband was seized from a Chinese national identified as Zai Tian Shi... found at the house a total of 271 boxes of cigarettes composed of Gudang Baru and fake Mighty brand.

RM60k worth of smuggled Malaysian cigarettes left abandoned in The Philippines

By NST Business - July 16, 2020 @ 11:52am

<https://www.nst.com.my/business/2020/07/609011/rm60k-worth-smuggled-malaysian-cigarettes-left-abandoned-philippines>

KUALA LUMPUR: Probers are still clueless on the ownership of over RM60,000 (PHP700,000) worth of Malaysian cigarettes found abandoned in a secluded area in Barangay Curahab in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, in The Philippines early this week.

Philstar Global reported local officials in Datu Blah Sinsuat, a coastal town in Maguindanao, personnel of the 2nd Marine Battalion and the Philippine Navy also intercepted just three weeks ago approximately RM215,000 (PHP2.5 million) worth of Malaysian cigarettes on two pumpboats from Sulu.

Cigarettes seized in warehouse in Santiago City

17 July 2020

<https://pro2.pnp.gov.ph/index.php/news-press-releases/915-cigarettes-seized-in-warehouse-in-santiago-city>

Two businessmen to include a Chinese National were arrested in a successful raid in a warehouse of smuggled cigarettes in Santiago City, yesterday, July 16, 2020.

... confiscation of 81 boxes Marvel Filter King and 5 boxes Mighty Green fake cigarettes amounting to P2,580,000.

Over P107M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized at Port of Davao

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 08:52 PM July 21, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1310011/over-p107m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-at-port-of-davao>

... 1,205 boxes Astro Branded Cigarettes and 942 boxes of YS filter cigarettes were discovered and seized on July 14.... 942 boxes of YS filter cigarettes and 941 Fort Branded Cigarettes that were also seized on July 16.

Stronger penalties vs cigarette smuggling pushed

Paolo Romero July 27, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/07/27/2030840/stronger-penalties-vs-cigarette-smuggling-pushed>

"If you recall, when the law increasing the excise taxes on tobacco products was passed, we warned of a possible increase in illicit trade," Dominguez said last week, referring to Republic Act 11346 or the Tobacco Tax Law of 2019, under which cigarette excise tax increased to P45 per pack effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Last week, the BOC reported it has apprehended over P235 million worth of smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes from the Ports of Manila and Davao this month alone.

The BOC also reported that its agents raided and closed down an illegal cigarette-making factory in Naguilian, Isabela where they seized P1.3 billion worth of equipment, fake tax stamps, and other paraphernalia.

Over P186 million worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Manila Port

Robie de Guzman July 28, 2020

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/over-p186-million-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-manila-port/>

the BOC said around 6,249 master cases of Two Moon, Mighty, Marvel and D&B Cigarettes that are estimated to have the market value of P P186.9 million were found inside the containers upon physical examination of its personnel.

P186m in fake cigarettes seized

Joel E. Zurbano July 27, 2020 at 10:30 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/329782>

Another shipment of smuggled cigarettes seized

July 29, 2021

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1902353/Zamboanga/Local-News/Another-shipment-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized>

GOVERNMENT operatives have seized another shipment of smuggled cigarettes worth P2.9 million east of Zamboanga City...

P80-M halaga ng pekeng face masks, sigarilyo nakumpiska sa Bulacan

Johnson Manabat Aug 06 2020 01:22 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/06/20/p80-m-halaga-ng-pekeng-face-masks-sigarilyo-nakumpiska-sa-bulacan>

Nakuha rin sa warehouse ang 1,000 master cases ng mga sigarilyo, ayon sa Customs.

Customs confiscates P2.2 billion worth of smuggled cigarettes

August 17, 2020 / 8:52pm by Beatrice M. Laforga

<https://www.bworldonline.com/customs-confiscates-p2-2-billion-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes/>

BOC seizes P2.2-B-worth of smuggled cigarette-making machines, tobacco products during COVID quarantine period

August 17, 2020

<https://www.dof.gov.ph/boc-seizes-p2-2-b-worth-of-smuggled-cigarette-making-machines-tobacco-products-during-covid-quarantine-period/>

BOC seizes P2.2-B- worth of smuggled cigarette-making machines, tobacco products during COVID quarantine period

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has been relentless in its drive against the illicit tobacco trade even during the coronavirus pandemic, seizing a total of P2.2 billion-worth of smuggled cigarettes and other related paraphernalia in various ports from May 28 to July 15.

In a report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, the BOC said that recently seized items included an estimated P53 million-worth of cigarettes sneaked into the country from China through a suspected new smuggling scheme.

BOC confiscates P2.2 billion in smuggled cigarettes

Mary Grace Padin - August 18, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/08/18/2036005/boc-confiscates-p22-billion-smuggled-cigarettes>

(BOC) confiscated P2.2 billion worth of smuggled cigarettes and other related paraphernalia in various operations from May 28 to July 15.

P54.6-million cigarettes seized at Cebu port

August 20, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1867564/Cebu/Local-News/P546-millioncigarettes-seized-at-Cebu-port>

(BOC)-Port of Cebu has intercepted a total of 1,092 master cases of smuggled cigarettes with an estimated worth of P54.6 million on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

Reported also:

(1) Indonesia: **Philippine Cebu Customs Thwarts Cigarette Smuggling in Port of Cebu City, Philippines.**

September 4, 2020 - 8:09 am by Operator IMIC 2

<https://imic.bakamla.go.id/2020/09/04/philippine-cebu-customs-thwarts-cigarette-smuggling-in-port-of-cebu-city-philippines/>

(2) Port Calls: **BOC-Cebu seizes P55M in smuggled cigarettes**

August 21, 2020, <https://www.portcalls.com/boc-cebu-seizes-p55m-in-smuggled-cigarettes/>

(3) PNA: **P54-M smuggled cigarettes from China seized in Cebu**

By John Rey Saavedra and Carlo Lorenciana August 22, 2020, 2:55 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113068>

Customs officials intercepted a total of 1,092 master cases of cigarettes with an estimated value of PHP54.6 million inside a container van... from China that arrived at the Cebu International Port (CIP) on August 16.

Last June, BOC-Cebu also intercepted a **PHP76-million** shipment of smuggled "Mighty" and "Marvel" cigarettes from China consigned to Giomab Trading and was misdeclared as oval dish.

P92-million smuggled cigarettes imported under erring consignee seized at Port of Cebu

Published August 25, 2020, 9:43 PM by Betheena Unite

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/25/p92-million-smuggled-cigarettes-imported-under-erring-consignee-seized-at-port-of-cebu/>

Instead of the declared items, which are umbrellas, tables, cabinets, and chairs, Customs agents discovered a total of 1,839 master cases of cigarettes worth P92 million in two shipments from China.

BOC seizes P10-M smuggled cigarettes, firearms in Makati

By Ferdinand Patinio August 27, 2020, 5:12 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113612>

a storage establishment near Dian Street on Tuesday.

BOC seizes P15.7M worth of smuggled and fake cigarettes in Bulacan

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, August 28, 2020 4:30pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/753324/boc-seizes-p15-7m-worth-of-smuggled-and-fake-cigarettes-in-bulacan/story/>

BOC and Bocaue police raided the warehouse on August 25 and discovered 246 master cases of suspected smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes.

Over P221-M smuggled cigarettes seized in 3 ports: BOC

By Ferdinand Patinio August 29, 2020, 4:37 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113819>

This came after the apprehension of smuggled fake cigarettes estimated to be worth PHP36 million at the Port of Manila (POM) on Friday.

Another shipment of misdeclared cigarettes worth PHP64.4 million was intercepted at the Port of Batangas on August 27. The container which was said to contain plastic cabinets but housed 1,631 master boxes of

Mighty and Marvel cigarettes upon physical examination arrived at the said port from Guangdong, China on August 20.

On the other hand, the Port of Subic intercepted containers of cigarettes estimated to be worth PHP121 million last week.

P36M worth of fake cigarettes confiscated by Customs

Published August 29, 2020 8:51am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/753405/p36m-worth-of-fake-cigarettes-confiscated-by-customs/story/>

Some P15.7 million worth of smuggled and fake cigarettes were also confiscated by the BOC in a warehouse in Bocaue, Bulacan this month.

BOC intercepts P64.4-M worth of misdeclared cigarettes

Published August 29, 2020 3:46pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/753436/boc-intercepts-p64-4-m-worth-of-misdeclared-cigarettes/story/>

The Bureau of Customs–Port of Batangas intercepted P64.4 million worth of misdeclared cigarettes shipped from China's Guangdong province...

BOC intercepts P121M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Subic

Published August 29, 2020 10:37am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/753413/boc-intercepts-p121m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-subic/story/>

BOC intercepts P121M worth of smuggled cigarettes at Subic port

By: Joanna Rose Aglibot / 12:15 PM August 30, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1328878/boc-intercepts-p121m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-at-subic-port>

BOC in Subic port said it seized four 40-footer containers from China and Hong Kong on Aug. 22.

BOC Subic foils smuggle of cigarettes

posted August 31, 2020 at 10:30 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/332926>

The Bureau of Customs Port of Subic intercepted on August 22 4x40' containers of cigarettes estimated to be worth P121 million in market value.

The 4x40' containers arrived at the Port of Subic last August 22 from China and Hong Kong.. this is the first time that the BOC has seized cigarettes concealed in a refrigerated container van,

Cigarettes top list of smuggled goods

By William Depasupil, TMT September 2, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/02/news/national/cigarettes-top-list-of-smuggled-goods/762436/>

Customs Assistant Commissioner and concurrent spokesman Vincent Philip Maronilla on Tuesday said unscrupulous importers paid as much as P3 million per 40-footer container of cigarettes in exchange for its facilitation and fast release at the Customs ports.

"Cigarettes have replaced rice and sugar [as the most smuggled goods]. Cigarettes are the new rice and sugar... "For a P6-million investment for a shipment of cigarettes, the importer can sell it at the local market for at least P15 million." Maronilla explained that a 40-footer container contained at least 1,200 boxes of cigarettes, which were sold for P15,000 each at the local market or a total of P18 million.

The surge in cigarette smuggling was brought about by the enactment into law of Republic Act 11346, which raises the excise tax on tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Locally manufactured cigarettes costs more than P100 per pack, while smuggled cigarettes are sold at only one-fourth of the price.

Maronilla said the smuggled cigarettes usually came from Cambodia and then transhipped to a port in China before being shipped to the Philippines.

From January to August 2020, Customs records showed that **more than P3 billion** worth of smuggled cigarettes have been seized in different ports. For the month of August alone, the BoC recorded seven interceptions of illegal cigarettes worth at least **P360 million**.

BOC Port of Cebu intercepts cigarette smuggling attempt

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio |September 02,2020 - 08:02 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/337558/boc-port-of-cebu-intercepts-cigarette-smuggling-attempt>

(BOC) Port of Cebu intercepted once again two containers of smuggled cigarettes with an estimated street value of P88.1 million.

BOC seizes P88.1M worth of smuggled cigarettes from China

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 11:43 AM September 04, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1331156/boc-seizes-p88-1m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china>

BOC Port of Cebu foils another cigarette smuggling attempt

By BOC Published on September 4, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1052242>

The Port of Cebu intercepted another two containers of smuggled cigarettes with an estimated street value of **Php88.1 Million**. The smuggled cigarettes from China arrived at the Port on 08 and 13 August 2020 transported in separate shipments declared to contain umbrella and various home furniture.

BOC destroys smuggled cigarettes in Jolo

By Salvador Santiago September 9, 2020, 6:28 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1114894>

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has destroyed some PHP3.2 million worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in series of anti-smuggling campaign in Jolo, Sulu.

Recently, the BOC has destroyed more than PHP50 million worth of smuggled cigarettes that have been stored at the warehouse in the city.

P20.7M in smuggled cigarettes shredded in Cagayan de Oro

By: Jigger J. Jerusalem / 10:21 PM September 10, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1333945/p20-7m-in-smuggled-cigarettes-shredded-in-cagayan-de-oro>

John Simon, BOC district collector, said the contraband consisted of 2,150 reams or 188,824 pieces of foreign cigarettes with brands that included Union, Bravo, Famous, Farstar, Septwolves, YS, San Marino and Cannon. The contraband came from China and other Asian countries and entered through the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Customs destroys P20M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Cagayan de Oro

Published September 12, 2020 11:30am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/755304/customs-destroys-p20m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-cagayan-de-oro/story/>

A total of 18,000 reams of smuggled cigarettes were destroyed at the Digama Warehouse and Destruction Facility in Barangay Bayabas... The goods were seized by the BOC at the Iligan subport, the Ozamiz subport and the Mindanao Container Terminal.

CUSTOMS PORT OF ZAMBOANGA DISPOSES Php 1.5B WORTH OF CIGARETTES, RAW MATERIALS AND FAKE INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS

Posted on September 12, 2020

<https://customs.gov.ph/customs-port-of-zamboanga-disposes-php-1-5b-worth-of-cigarettes-raw-materials-and-fake-internal-revenue-stamps/>

The Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of Zamboanga led the destruction of some PHP195 million worth of smuggled cigarettes and PHP350 million worth of raw materials for cigarette-making on September 10, 2020 at Fast Cargo Logistics Warehouse, Brgy. Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

Moreover, Php 1B worth of fake internal revenue stamps used in cigarette cases was turned over to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for proper investigation and disposal.

BOC disposes of P1.5-B in smuggled cigarettes, fake revenue stamps

Published September 12, 2020 3:47pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/755329/boc-disposes-of-p1-5-b-in-smuggled-cigarettes-fake-revenue-stamps/story/>

The Bureau of Customs-Port of Zamboanga oversaw the disposal of P195 million worth of smuggled cigarettes and P350 million worth of raw materials for cigarette-making at a logistics warehouse in Zamboanga City's Barangay Baliwasan.

Meanwhile, P1-billion worth of fake internal revenue stamps used in cigarette cases were also turned over to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for proper investigation and disposal.

P200-M smuggled cigarettes from Malaysia, Indonesia destroyed

By Jayson R. Aucensillo Published on September 14, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1053039>

<https://hotnews-channel.com/f/ph-p200-m-smuggled-cigarettes-from-malaysia-indonesia-destroyed>

Japan Tobacco asks gov't to impose on tougher penalties against cigarette smugglers

posted September 13, 2020 at 07:20 pm by Julito G. Rada

<https://www.manilastandard.net/business/biz-plus/334043/japan-tobacco-asks-gov-t-to-impose-on-tougher-penalties-against-cigarette-smugglers.html>

"If you see the factories these illicit makers are using, you will be surprised how they treat their products and where they store them. We have done tests on these products, and they have been found to contain animal feces, plastic materials, dirt and high levels of lead," Freda said.

JTI flags growing cigarette smuggling amid pandemic

by Chino S. Leyco September 14, 2020, 10:00 PM

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/14/jti-flags-growing-cigarette-smuggling-amid-pandemic/>

Based on the JTI report, covering 50 countries including the Philippines, illicit cigarette traders are now capitalizing on dwindling buying power of consumers, particularly in countries with high tax regimes.

The JTI report, independently verified by Intrinsic Insight Ltd, also noted "a strong presence" of tobacco smugglers in the Philippines. According to the World Bank, the global trade in illegal tobacco is already worth an estimated **\$40 billion to \$50 billion each year**.

Smuggled cigarettes and gasoline confiscated in Bataraza

Sep 14, 2020 Jayra Joyce Taboada

<https://palawan-news.com/smuggled-cigarettes-and-gasoline-confiscated-in-bataraza/>

The Rio-Tuba detachment of the 2nd Special Operations Unit-Maritime Group (2nd SOU-MG) in Bataraza recently apprehended a declared total of over P300,000 worth of smuggled cigarettes and gasoline...

The items were confiscated in two separate instances — September 8 and 9. The smuggled items were believed to have come from the Malaysian province of Kudat near Balabac.

BOC-Port of Subic seizes P60 million worth of smuggled cigarettes

By BOC Published on September 16, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1053297>

Last September 5 and 6, 2020, shipments consigned to BWFIC TRADING arrived at the Port of Subic allegedly containing Steel Wire Mesh from China.

MICP disposes of P120-M worth of smuggled, fake cigarettes

Published September 19, 2020 11:10pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/756316/micp-disposes-of-p120-m-worth-of-smuggled-fake-cigarettes/story/>

The Manila International Container Port (MICP) disposed of four 40-foot containers of smuggled and fake cigarettes, valued at P120 million, at a Porac-Pampanga condemnation facility.

The cigarettes were part of the **P219.6 million** worth of apprehensions the MICP made in 2020, with the biggest haul being the July 24 apprehension of 6,249 master cases of undeclared cigarettes valued at P186.9 million.

P26-M smuggled cigarettes declared as plastic cups seized in Port of Davao

Published September 22, 2020, 1:17 PM by Betheena Unite

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/22/p26-m-smuggled-cigarettes-declared-as-plastic-cups-seized-in-port-of-davao/>

Instead of the declared plastic cups, the shipment was found to contain a total of 980 master cases of cigarettes bearing different brands such as More, Mighty, D&B, and Marvel cigarettes.

P40-M smuggled cigarettes seized in MisOr port

By Jigger Jerusalem September 22, 2020, 9:59 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1116246>

Imported cigarettes from China valued at PHP40 million were apprehended by the Bureau of Customs-10 (BOC-10) on Sept. 17.

Project Crocodile is an information-sharing scheme between customs administration of member-countries notifying each other if there are movements of suspicious cigarette shipments.

P66M worth of cigarettes in illegal shipments seized at Davao, CDO ports — Customs

Published September 22, 2020 4:39pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/756668/p66m-worth-of-cigarettes-in-illegal-shipments-seized-at-davao-cdo-ports-customs/story/>

the BOC said the shipment in Davao with 980 master cases of cigarettes worth P26 million was declared as containing plastic cups.

Meanwhile, the Port of Cagayan de Oro, through its CIIS, seized smuggled cigarettes with an estimated value of P40 million at Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) in Tagoloan town. The shipment, which arrived from China on September 17...

P6.5M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Malabon warehouse

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 03:50 PM September 27, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1340771/p6-5m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-malabon-warehouse>

... a warehouse in Barangay Tugatog in Malabon City on September 23. The bureau said that on inspection of the warehouse, 196 master cases of illicit cigarettes of various brands with an estimated value of P6.5 million were found.

Smugglers of fake cigarettes shift to manufacturing

Published October 1, 2020, 12:43 PM by Nonoy Lacson

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/01/smugglers-of-fake-cigarettes-shift-to-manufacturing/>

BOC destroys P50M in smuggled cigarettes, strips consignees of import licenses

By: Jigger J. Jerusalem / 06:46 PM October 06, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1344368/boc-destroys-p50m-in-smuggled-cigarettes-strips-consignees-of-import-licenses>

The first cigarette shipment arrived last May 14 and was declared as office furniture, consigned to Fernfreight Enterprises. The second shipment arrived on June 9 and was declared as disposable cups, consigned to Dong Yin Industrial Suppliers.... both consignees have already been stripped of their accreditation as importers.

MICP condemns P70-M worth of seized cigarettes

By TED CORDERO, October 10, 2020 6:11pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/759310/micp-condemns-p70-m-worth-of-seized-cigarettes/story/>

The condemnation was conducted this October at the GREENLEAF Waste Disposal Facility located in Porac, Pampanga and was completed through shredding of the cigarettes to ensure that no further use can be gained from it.

Smuggled cigarettes

October 11, 2020 at 08:24 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/336505>

The Bureau of Customs-Manila International Container Port facilitates the condemnation of P70 million worth of seized smuggled cigarettes in Porac, Pampanga.

Customs seizes P10.8M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga

October 12, 2020 3:38pm By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/759482/customs-seizes-p10-8m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga/story/>

Acting District Collector Segundo Sigmundfreud Barte Jr. said this is the first seizure of this bulk coming from a transshipment aboard a wooden motorized banca in Pagadian.

P10.8M smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga del Sur

By: Leah Agonoy / 03:16 PM October 12, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1346765/p10-8m-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-zamboanga-del-sur>

Gov't drive against illicit cigarette trade shows connection between companies

INQUIRER.net / 12:10 PM October 20, 2020

<https://business.inquirer.net/310019/govt-drive-against-illicit-cigarette-trade-shows-connection-between-companies>

Following information that GB-BEM and GB Global are affiliated companies with common shareholders and officers and that illegal Two Moon cigarettes were prevalently sold around Central Luzon, the same BIR-NBI Composite Team conducted an inspection of the factory of GB Global on July 29, 2020.

The BOC said non-documented Chinese nationals were operating the machines when the raid was conducted. It was also reported that several Filipino factory workers were allegedly prevented from going out of the facility.

NBI-Bacolod braces for crackdown on fake cigarettes

TERESA D. ELLERA October 20, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1874141/Bacolod/Local-News/NBI-Bacolod-braces-for-crackdown-on-fake-cigarettes>

In Cebu, the BOC hauled in a total of **P148 million** in illegal cigarettes during August alone, followed by the interception of two containers filled with cigarette contraband worth **P88.1 million** in the first week of September.

In Mindanao, BOC teams intercepted some **P96.6 million** worth of illegally imported cigarettes in the port of Davao while destroying **P50 million** worth of illegal cigarettes in Cagayan de Oro, both happening in the first week of October.

Seizures were also recently conducted by law enforcement units in the port of Zamboanga where **P1.5 billion** of illegal cigarettes including raw materials were destroyed.

P2-B smuggled, fake cigarettes seized in Vis-Min

Iloilo News October 21, 2020

<https://iloilonews.ph/news/p2-b-smuggled-fake-cigarettes-seized-in-vis-min/>

About P2 billion worth of smuggled and fake cigarettes have been seized by authorities since September last year in a renewed anti-smuggling campaign.

The report is based on data culled by Japan Tobacco International, which called on law enforcers in Visayas and Mindanao to intensify their anti-smuggling campaign against contraband cigarettes that are reportedly being shipped into the cities of Bacolod, Iloilo, and Tacloban through Cebu ports.

Aabot sa P21-M halaga ng smuggled na sigarilyo, sinira ng Bureau of Customs

Johnson Manabat October 23 2020 10:00 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/23/20/aabot-sa-p21-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-sinira-ng-bureau-of-customs>

Umabot sa 2,305 reams ng mga ilegal at smuggled na sigarilyo ang dinurog ng mga tauhan ng BOC sa Porac, Pampanga.

Aabot sa kabuuang P21 milyon ang halaga ng mga kontrabando.

Tobacco firm warns of more cigarette smuggling

Gregg M. Rubio (The Freeman) - October 25, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2020/10/25/2052168/tobacco-firm-warns-more-cigarette-smuggling>

In Cebu, the Bureau of Customs hauled a total of **P148 million** in illegal cigarettes in August alone followed by the seizure of two containers filled with cigarette contraband worth **P88.1 million** in the first week of September.

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Aabot sa P21-M halaga ng smuggled na sigarilyo, sinira ng Bureau of Customs

Johnson Manabat, ABS-CBN News Posted at Oct 23 2020 10:00 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/23/20/aabot-sa-p21-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-sinira-ng-bureau-of-customs>

Umabot sa 2,305 reams ng mga ilegal at smuggled na sigarilyo ang dinurog ng mga tauhan ng BOC sa Porac, Pampanga.

Aabot sa kabuuang P21 milyon ang halaga ng mga kontrabando.

The stolen economy: Of shenanigans and smugglers

EYES WIDE OPEN - Iris Gonzales (The Philippine Star) - October 29, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/10/29/2052955/stolen-economy-shenanigans-and-smugglers>

The yearly losses from smuggling could be anywhere from P50 billion to P80 billion, according to the government, although there's no way to accurately estimate the figure.

Some cigarette smugglers are so big that law enforcers found interlocking ties – common shareholders – among companies that were subject of recent raids. This shows that they are operating as full-time shenanigans, a syndicate of sorts.

Cigarette smuggling is estimated to cost the government around P16 billion to P20 billion in yearly revenues.

P215M worth of smuggled cigarettes, vegetables destroyed

By: Joanna Rose Aglibot / 01:34 PM November 02, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1355408/p215m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-vegetables-destroyed>

Subic: BOC on Sunday said a total of 5,810 master cases of illegal and counterfeit cigarettes with various brands like Fortune, Jackpot, Mighty, Two Moon, D&B, Seven Stars, Union, and Marvels were crushed and shredded.

BOC intercepts P60M worth of smuggled cigarettes

INQUIRER.net / 11:21 AM November 03, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1355807/boc-intercepts-p60m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes>

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has intercepted P60 million worth of smuggled cigarettes through the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

A total of 500 cases and 1,198 boxes of smuggled cigarettes from China were found in containers imported by Ocean World Enterprises on September 30.

BOC seizes P60 million smuggled cigarettes

Lawrence Agcaoili - November 4, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/11/04/2054375/boc-seizes-p60-million-smuggled-cigarettes>

The cigarettes, allegedly imported by Ocean World Enterprises, were intercepted at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on Sept. 30... The 1,198 boxes of cigarettes from China were declared to be cartons, furniture and bags, among others.

Navy seizes P150-M smuggled cigarettes off Tawi-Tawi

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. November 7, 2020, 4:17 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121080>

...the wooden-hull vessel, M/L Nur 1... was found to be loaded with some 3,000 master cases of undocumented cigarettes with an estimated market value of PHP150 million.

The boat came from Tarakan, Indonesia, and was en route to a private wharf in Indanan, Sulu.

P150 million smuggled cigarettes seized

Roel Pareño (The Philippine Star) - November 9, 2020 - 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/11/09/2055498/p150-million-smuggled-cigarettes-seized>

At least P150 million worth of smuggled cigarettes from Indonesia were seized by the Philippine Navy in the waters off Tawi-Tawi on Friday. The motorlaunch came from Tarakan, Indonesia and was headed to a private wharf in Indanan, Sulu, Adaci said.

BOC Port of Cebu destroys P374 M worth of smuggled cigarettes

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio|November 10,2020 - 06:03 PM

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/350056/boc-port-of-cebu-destroys-p374-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes>

The eight containers of smuggled counterfeit cigarettes were apprehended in joint anti-smuggling operations of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), X-Ray Inspection Project Team (XIP), and the Assessment Division.

The BOC seized these illegal cigarettes in various interceptions on July, August, and September 2020, shipped in mostly from China.

Smuggled cigarettes seized in Lanao Sur

By Noel Punzalan November 11, 2020, 9:00 am

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1121426>

Some 17 boxes of undocumented cigarettes worth PHP250,000 were seized by Marine and police troopers manning a checkpoint in Picong, Lanao del Sur.

P120-M smuggled cigarettes allegedly from Indonesia intercepted in PH backdoor

Published November 12, 2020, 5:22 PM by Betheena Unite

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/12/p120-m-smuggled-cigarettes-allegedly-from-indonesia-intercepted-in-ph-backdoor/>

BOC recently intercepted a shipment of smuggled cigarettes worth P120 million in Tawi-Tawi.

Cigarettes held in Indanan, Sulu

posted November 13, 2020 at 11:05 pm by Vito Barcelo

<https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/339462>

BOC-Zamboanga operatives to conduct an operation on the ship M/L Nur 1, which arrived in Indanan, Sulu, from Indonesia.

Customs' anti-smuggling operation resulted in the seizure of more than 3,000 boxes of undocumented cigarettes estimated to be worth P120 million.

Customs seizes P120-M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Tawi-Tawi

Robie de Guzman • November 13, 2020

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/customs-seizes-p120-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-tawi-tawi/>

...from Indonesia en route to Indanan, Sulu.

Contraband cigarettes worth NT\$70 million seized in Kaohsiung

11/16/2020 05:15 PM

<https://focustaiwan.tw/society/202011160016>

The 1 million packs of untaxed cigarettes stored in two 40-foot containers were snatched by customs officers at the Port of Kaohsiung on Nov. 13, Kaohsiung Customs said.

The goods, declared as "stretch film" (stretch wrap), were loaded at the Port of Guangao in China's Guangdong Province and were destined for Subic Bay in the Philippines via the Port of Kaohsiung, the agency said.

BOC, Maritime cops seize smuggled cigarettes in Zambo

By Salvador Santiago November 17, 2020, 7:47 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1122092>

Lawyer Segundo Sigmundfreud Barte Jr., BOC-Zamboanga District collector... said the boat yielded some 300 sacks of cigarettes of various brands, all taken to the BOC warehouse for proper inventory.

P10-million smuggled cigarettes seized off Basilan

Published November 18, 2020, 1:59 PM by Nonoy Lacson

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/18/p10-million-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-off-basilan/>

About 335 master cases of imported and smuggled tobacco products worth approximately P10 million were seized by operatives of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NavForWem) off the coast of Basilan province and Zamboanga City on late Tuesday night.

Marine unit intercepts second shipment of smuggled cigarettes

Roel Pareño (Philstar.com) - December 1, 2020 - 2:33pm

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/12/01/2060722/marine-unit-intercepts-second-shipment-smuggled-cigarettes>

Marines and police personnel seized smuggled cigarettes worth an estimated **P3 million** late Monday in separate operations in Zamboanga City and in Ipil town, Zamboanga Sibugay province.

Police also seized 137 boxes of assorted smuggled cigarette brands with an estimated value of **P1.5 million** pesos in Ipil town, Zamboanga Sibugay late Monday afternoon.

Government lost \$213-million tax take to fake tobacco

By Elijah Felice Rosales December 1, 2020

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/01/government-lost-213-million-tax-take-to-fake-tobacco/>

An advocacy paper, titled "Tackling Illicit Trade in Asean," reported the Philippines last year lost \$213.4 million in taxes to the sale of contraband tobacco. The country recorded the fifth highest value of revenue losses from counterfeit cigarettes in Southeast Asia, and accounted for up to 6 percent of the region's total of \$3.32 billion.

Citing Euromonitor data, the report said Malaysia suffered the largest tax leakage from the inflow of illicit cigarettes at \$1.38 billion, followed by Indonesia's \$1.17 billion, Vietnam's \$289.9 million and Thailand's \$226.5 million.

The paper estimated 7.93 billion sticks of fake cigarettes circulated in the Philippine economy last year. The \$213-million tax loss was computed based on the price of the most sold brand (MSB) per 1,000 sticks, at \$43, and the rate slapped on the MSB, at 62.6 percent.

In 2018 fake goods confiscated by the interagency National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) jumped nearly threefold to P23.6 billion, from P8.2 billion in 2017, to post its all-time high since its formation in 2008. Counterfeit cigarettes reached **P20.25 billion** to account for the lion's share of the haul.

Last year the Bureau of Customs captured a total of P9.44 billion of fake items, of which P2.67 billion came in the form of cigarettes and tobacco products.

The size of the counterfeit market in Southeast Asia reached \$35.9 billion in 2018, according to data from the United Nations. Aside from the \$3.3-billion tax losses on smuggled cigarettes, the region squanders \$2.6 billion to fake medicines and \$2.5 billion to illegal wildlife trade annually.

BOC-Zambo destroys P183-M smuggled cigarettes

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. December 7, 2020, 5:57 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1124010>

...assorted cigarettes were seized in separate anti-smuggling operations since September this year in the region and in the Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa) provinces.

Customs bureau destroys contraband cigarettes worth P183M in Zamboanga City

By: Julie S. Alipala / 04:15 PM December 08, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1369401/customs-bureau-destroys-contraband-cigarettes-worth-p183m-in-zamboanga-city>

Entry of smuggled cigarettes in Cotabato monitored

By Noel Punzalan December 9, 2020, 2:48 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1124208>

On Monday, authorities also intercepted an estimated **PHP15-million** worth of smuggled cigarettes loaded on a motorboat along Tamontaka River in Barangay Kalanganan.

... some 500 boxes of smuggled cigarette items that allegedly came from Basilan.

Marines seize P15.6-million smuggled cigarettes in Cotabato

Published December 13, 2020, 5:45 PM by Nonoy Lacson

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/13/marines-seize-p15-6-million-smuggled-cigarettes-in-cotabato/>

Adaci said the Marine soldiers intercepted M/B Alshameem, a jungkung watercraft owned by Saddam H Ahalul that was loaded with 432 boxes of smuggled cigarettes worth more than P15 million on December 6.

Port of Davao seizes P13.18M worth of smuggled cigarettes

By BOC Published on December 12, 2020

<https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1061557>

432 boxes of smuggled cigarettes last December 7, 2020 in Cotabato City.

BOC seizes smuggled cigarettes

By William B. Depasupil December 13, 2020

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/13/news/regions/boc-seizes-smuggled-cigarettes/809404/>

MORE than **P13 million** worth of smuggled cigarettes were intercepted over the weekend by Bureau of Customs (BoC) operatives at the Port of Davao. Seized by customs authorities on board a motorized boat were 432 boxes of various brands of cigarettes.

Coast Guard intercepts smuggled cigarettes in Jolo Island, Sulu

Published: 16 December 2020

<https://coastguard.gov.ph/index.php/news/news-2013/11-news/3798-coast-guard-intercepts-smuggled-cigarettes-in-jolo-island-sulu>

(PCG) has intercepted three crew members aboard a "junkong" type motorbanca used in smuggling cigarettes with an approximate market value of **Php 1.5 million** (including the motorbanca) at vicinity waters between Bangas Island and Jolo Island, Sulu at around 08:30 p.m. on 15 December 2020.

BOC files 70 cases vs 244 smuggling suspects, orders closure of 19 warehouses

December 17, 2020

<https://www.dof.gov.ph/boc-files-70-cases-vs-244-smuggling-suspects-orders-closure-of-19-warehouses/>

... another 40 members of customs common bonded warehouses (CCBW's) were also closed down... the BOC was able to inspect 151 CBW's and 249 members of CCBW's from Jan. 1 to Dec. 4, 2020.

BOC seized an estimated P9.52 billion-worth of smuggled goods, of which over half were illicit tobacco products... BOC apprehended **P5.05** billion-worth of smuggled cigarettes and other tobacco products from various ports.

Authorities seize P1.6-million smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga City

Published December 18, 2020, 10:09 AM by Nonoy Lacson

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/18/authorities-seize-p1-6-million-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga-city/>

Police and military authorities intercepted 53 master cases of smuggled cigarettes, estimated to be worth P1.6 million, that were loaded in a mini truck and bound for Zamboanga Sibugay province.

Marines seize P1.4-M smuggled cigarettes in Maguindanao

By Edwin Fernandez December 31, 2020, 4:37 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1126046>

Marine troopers intercepted the contraband inside an Isuzu Elf cargo truck at a checkpoint Wednesday in Barangay Kidama, Matanog, Maguindanao... the smuggled goods were being escorted by armed men... allegedly members of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), based on their identification cards.

2021:

Cigarettes make up half of smuggled items in 2020 amid pandemic, says BOC

By: Ben O. de Vera / 04:27 PM January 18, 2021

<https://business.inquirer.net/315966/cigarettes-make-up-half-of-smuggled-items-in-2020-amid-pandemic-says-boc>

DOF) said that out of the P9.75 billion in smuggled goods which the BOC seized in 2020, 53.5 percent in terms of value or **P5.22-billion** worth were tobacco and cigarettes.

The tobacco tax further rose this year to P50 per pack effective Jan. 1, from P45 a pack last year, under Republic Act (RA) No. 11346 or the Tobacco Tax Law of 2019.

Smuggled tobacco products cornered half of apprehended goods in 2020

By: Ben O. de Vera / 04:04 AM January 19, 2021

<https://business.inquirer.net/315986/smuggled-tobacco-products-cornered-half-of-apprehended-goods-in-2020>

Department of Finance (DOF) said that out of the P9.75 billion in smuggled goods that the BOC apprehended in 2020, 53.5 percent in terms of value, or P5.22 billion, worth were tobacco and cigarettes.

Combatting illicit trade

PUBLISHED : 18 JAN 2021 AT 12:30

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2052711/combating-illicit-trade>

In Asean, the counterfeit goods market was worth \$35.9 billion in 2018, according to a paper published by the EU-Asean Business Council (EU-ABC).

Although Asean nations except Indonesia are signatories to the WHO Convention on Tobacco Control, none are parties to the protocol on international cooperation and information sharing between organisations and customs offices.

P60M worth of smuggled cigarettes from China seized

Tina G. Santos / 04:47 AM January 26, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1388194/p60m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china-seized>

Manila...The BOC said the shipment was bound for the Philippine Economic Zone Authority zone in Cavite.

PEZA Chief thanks BOC for timely apprehension of smuggled cigarettes NOT allowed among PEZA Importations

26 January 2020

<http://www.peza.gov.ph/index.php/press-release/167-peza-chief-thanks-boc-for-timely-apprehension-of-smuggled-cigarettes-not-allowed-among-peza-importations>

On 18 January 2021, the Manila International Container Port (MICP) apprehended two-by-forty-foot (2x40') containers containing undeclared cigarettes allegedly bound to the First Cavite Industrial Estate (FCIE) Special Economic Zone.

PEZA probes cigarette smuggling

by Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat January 27, 2021, 7:00 AM

<https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/27/peza-probes-cigarette-smuggling/>

P7-M halaga ng smuggled na sigarilyo nasabat sa Zamboanga City

Leizel Lacastesantos Feb 09 2021 07:51 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/09/21/p7-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-zamboanga-city>

... higit sa 100 kahon ng sigarilyo na umano'y smuggled o ipinuslit nang walang kaukulang dokumento.

Nasa loob ng container van ang mga sigarilyo na isinakay sa isang barko galing sa Isabela, Basilan papunta sa Zamboanga City.

Customs confiscates P15 M worth of goods in Paco, Manila

By: Cathrine Gonzales / 10:17 AM February 11, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1394598/customs-confiscates-p15-m-worth-of-goods-in-paco-manila>

According to BOC, MICP personnel found reams of cigarettes, food items, medicines, liquor, cell phones, cell phone accessories and power banks from the storage facility.

Philippines Declares War on Smuggling

ILLICIT TRADENEWS THIS WEEK February 17, 2021

<https://tobaccoreporter.com/2021/02/17/philippines-declares-war-on-cigarette-smuggling/>

In 2020, the BOC seized PHP5.77 billion (\$119.138 million) worth of illicit cigarettes—more than half of the PHP10.63 billion worth of smuggled goods intercepted by the bureau in 2020. The agency recorded 997

seizures from January 2020 to December 2020. Of the number, 204 seizure cases were for smuggled cigarettes and tobacco products.

PH Customs declares 'war' vs cigarette smuggling

William B. Depasupil February 17, 2021

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/17/latest-stories/breakingnews/ph-customs-declares-war-vs-cigarette-smuggling/842142>

Total estimated value of seized cigarettes reached P5.774 billion or more than half of the total P10.629 billion worth of smuggled goods intercepted by the bureau in 2020.

P125-M in smuggled cigarettes seized in Misamis Oriental port following tip by China

By: Jigger J. Jerusalem / 06:00 PM February 18, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1397392/p125-m-in-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-misamis-oriental-port-following-tip-by-china>

first shipment came in three shipping containers detected by the Customs police at the Mindanao Container Terminal sub-port last week. The second shipment arrived on Feb. 14, after a stopover at the ports of Manila and Davao. It was subjected to a spot check on Feb. 16.

BOC seizes P50M worth of cigarettes declared as furniture from China

By: Cathrine Gonzales / 09:54 AM February 19, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1397600/boc-seizes-p50m-worth-of-cigarettes-declared-as-furniture-from-china>

BOC Port of Cagayan de Oro, through its Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) intercepted two container vans... arrived on February 14 at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

P50 milyong halaga ng smuggled yosi na idineklarang 'furniture' nasabat

PJ dela Peña Feb 18 2021 06:07 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/18/21/p50-milyong-halaga-ng-smuggled-yosi-na-idineklarang-furniture-nasabat>

Kalahating milyong pisong pekeng sigarilyo, nasabat sa Makati

Jekki Pascual Feb 20 2021 04:51 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/20/21/kalahating-milyong-pisong-pekeng-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-makati>

Bataan cops intercept smuggled cigarettes

By: Greg Refraccion / 03:56 PM February 24, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1399628/bataan-cops-intercept-smuggled-cigarettes>

...boxes of undocumented cigarettes unloaded from a cargo ship in Orion town. The smuggled cigarettes were bound for Novaliches in Quezon City, investigators said.

P260-M in smuggled cigarettes, rice seized in Bataan

By: Ben O. de Vera / 07:02 PM February 24, 2021

<https://business.inquirer.net/318425/p260-m-in-smuggled-cigarettes-rice-seized-in-bataan>

This year, cigarette excise rose to P50 per pack from P45 a pack in 2020 under Republic Act (RA) No. 11346 or the tobacco tax law of 2019.

PH Navy seizes P17M in cigarettes smuggled into Sulu

By: Frances G. Mangosing - 12:49 AM February 25, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1399879/ph-navy-seizes-p17m-in-cigarettes-smuggled-into-sulu>

360 boxes of contraband. It came from Indonesia and was bound for Cotabato City.

P17.3 milyong halaga ng smuggled na sigarilyo nasabat sa Sulu

Liezal Lacastesantos / Feb 25 2021 12:57 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/25/21/p173-milyong-halaga-ng-smuggled-na-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-sulu>

Aabot sa mahigit 300 karton ng smuggled na sigarilyo ang nasabat ng mga sundalo sa isang fishing boat sa bayan ng Kalingalan Caluang, Sulu noong Martes. Galing umano ang mga sigarilyo sa Indonesia at dadalhin sana sa Cotabato City.

Customs says smuggling up due to pandemic

By: Ben O. de Vera - 05:20 AM February 26, 2021

<https://business.inquirer.net/318509/customs-says-smuggling-up-due-to-pandemic>

The BOC earlier said it seized P10.63 billion worth of smuggled items last year, of which more than half or P5.77 billion were imported cigarettes and tobacco products.

Tinatayang P9M halaga ng pekeng sigarilyo, nasabat sa Bataan

Gracie Rutao / Feb 26 2021 11:10 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/26/21/tinatayang-p9m-halaga-ng-pekeng-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-bataan>

Nasa 460 master cases ng Marvels, D&B, Mithy and Tomon cigarettes ang nasa loob ng truck.

P30M halaga ng mga pekeng sigarilyo nakumpiska sa mga raid sa Bataan

Gracie Rutao / Feb 28 2021 01:13 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/28/21/p30m-halaga-ng-mga-pekeng-sigarilyo-nakumpiska-sa-mga-raid-sa-bataan>

...warehouse sa Orion, Bataan noong Biyernes, kung saan nakuha nila ang mga cigarette-making machine at materyales sa paggawa ng sigarilyo na nagkakahalaga ng P20 milyon.

PH losing P30B annually due to cigarette smuggling — Salceda

By: Neil Arwin Mercado / 02:56 PM March 01, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1401419/fwd-bir-boc-peza-told-crack-down-on-cigarette-smugglers>

Salceda also said that the law should also be enforced in ecozones being used as avenues for illicit trade.

"It is not enough that PEZA cooperates with BIR. You have ecozone police. You have the mandate to enforce the law in ecozones," Salceda said.

P30B lost due to cigarette smuggling, says Salceda

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, March 1, 2021 3:30pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/777839/p30b-lost-due-to-cigarette-smuggling-says-salceda/story/>

"I want a crackdown on the illicit cigarette trade. We are losing P30 billion annually due to this from the laxity of enforcement," Salceda, chairman of the House committee on ways and means, said in a hearing.

Gov't loses P30 billion a year to cigarette smuggling

Nestor Corrales / 04:40 AM March 02, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1401690/govt-loses-p30b-a-year-to-cigarette-smuggling>

The lawmaker invoked congressional oversight powers to have the BIR reverse Revenue Regulation No. 9-2015, which exempted cigarette manufacturers from tax stamps for export and instead required them to have unique identification codes.

P45M smuggled cigarettes from China seized

Tina G. Santos / 05:16 AM March 23, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1410186/p45m-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china-seized>

The shipment, which was consigned to JDR General Merchandise arrived at MICP on March 15 from Shenzhen, China.

P45m smuggled cigarettes seized

Joel E. Zurbano and Maricel V. Cruz / March 22, 2021 at 11:30 pm by

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/350150/p45m-smuggled-cigarettes-seized.html>

P4M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga City

Inquirer Mindanao / 07:18 PM March 28, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1412319/p4m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-zamboanga-city>

... 108 cases of imported cigarettes bearing the brands of San Marino and Bravo were seized aboard the MB Aljabar and MB Almalyn, two boats that recently arrived through the backdoor with neighboring Malaysia or Indonesia.

Tobacco sector bucks plan to hike tax stamp prices

By: Ben O. de Vera / 04:05 AM March 29, 2021

<https://business.inquirer.net/320265/tobacco-sector-bucks-plan-to-hike-tax-stamp-prices>

Philippine Tobacco Institute (PTI) said it opposed APO Production Unit Inc.'s plan to jack up the cigarette tax stamp cost from 15 centavos at present. This year, cigarette excise tax rose to P50 a pack from P45 last year as mandated under Republic Act No. 11346, or the Tobacco Tax Law of 2019.

Excise rates slapped on e-cigarettes, vapes and alcoholic drinks also increased effective January 2021 under RA 11467 signed by President Duterte in 2020.

Customs destroys P50-M worth of smuggled cigarettes at Zamboanga Port

Published April 14, 2021 8:30pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/783757/customs-destroys-p50-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-at-zamboanga-port/story/>

"The seized cigarettes were crushed by payload equipment in an outdoor yard, soaked with used oil to prevent recycling, dispersed with water by firemen, and disposed of in the sanitary landfill in Brgy. Salaan," the BOC said.

P50-M worth of smuggled cigarettes destroyed in Zamboanga City

Leizel Lacastesantos Apr 14 2021 12:11 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/14/21/p50-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-destroyed-in-zamboanga-city>

P10.6-M halaga ng sigarilyo tinangkang ipuslit sa Zamboanga City

ABS-CBN News Apr 15 2021 10:23 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/15/21/p106-m-halaga-ng-sigarilyo-tinangkang-ipuslit-sa-zamboanga-city>

Customs seizes P10.6M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga City

By TED CORDERO April 16, 2021 11:34am

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/783986/customs-seizes-p10-6m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga-city/story/>

departing from Jolo, Sulu, en route to Zamboanga City and was allegedly carrying more than 300 cases of smuggled cigarettes.... having an estimated value of P10.6 million.

BOC files smuggling raps vs. cigarette, agri products traders

By Ferdinand Patinio April 19, 2021, 6:06 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1137282>

The first smuggling case is against the registered owner of Bianmantina in Pasay City for illegal importation and sale of various assorted cigarettes worth over PHP1.5 million on December 16, 2020.

PCG seizes P2.8M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Zamboanga Sibugay

Robie de Guzman • April 19, 2021

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/pcg-seizes-p2-8m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-in-zamboanga-sibugay/>

Warehouse of 'fake' cigarettes busted in Pangasinan

By: Yolanda Sotelo - 05:50 PM April 23, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1422999/warehouse-of-fake-cigarettes-busted-in-pangasinan>

... in Alaminos City, Pangasinan... The fake cigarettes cost P4.5 million in tax losses,

P7M in cigarettes smuggled from Indonesia seized in Zambo

By: Julie S. Alipala - 08:00 PM April 29, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1425426/p7m-in-cigarettes-smuggled-from-indonesia-seized-in-zambo>

The cigarettes bore brands like Cannon, Champion, New Far Gold and New Far Green. It had markings that indicate these were manufactured in the United States.

Smuggled cigarettes worth P7.3M seized in Zamboanga City

Leizel Lacastesantos Apr 29 2021 10:10 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/29/21/smuggled-cigarettes-worth-p73m-seized-in-zamboanga-city>

The boat came from the province of Sulu and was loaded with 205 cases of undocumented cigarettes.

Police, Customs seize P13-M smuggled cigarettes

May 04, 2021

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1893629/Zamboanga/Local-News/Police-Customs-seize-P13-M-smuggled-cigarettes>

police, together with Bureau of Customs (BOC) operatives, inspected and seized 372 master cases of smuggled cigarettes of assorted brands like New Berlin, Royal, Union, Tradition, Fort, and New Far with an estimated worth of P13,020,000.

Gov't losing billions for health spending due to smuggling, illegal manufacture of cigarettes—NBI

By: Leah D. Agonoy - 02:24 PM May 21 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1434819/govt-losing-billions-for-health-spending-due-to-smuggling-illegal-manufacture-of-cigarettes-nbi>

Irvin Ho of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) revealed that from May to December 2020, smuggled cigarettes that could have netted the government some P3 billion were seized in Zamboanga Peninsula and the Bangsamoro regions.

BOC seizes P30M-worth of smuggled cigarettes from China in Misamis Oriental

By: John Eric Mendoza - 03:32 PM May 25, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1436524/boc-seizes-p30m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china-in-misamis-oriental>

... came from China and arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, last May 20...

Customs seizes P30m smuggled cigarettes in Misamis Oriental

Vito Barcelo May 25, 2021 at 10:10 pm

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/355452/customs-seizes-p30m-smuggled-cigarettes-in-misamis-oriental.html>

BOC-Subic foils smuggling of fake cigarettes worth P66M

01:03 AM May 31, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1439081/boc-subic-foils-smuggling-of-fake-cigarettes-worth-p66m>

Two shipments of smuggled cigarettes worth P66.2 million were intercepted by agents of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in the Port of Subic last May 28.

Both shipments underwent physical examination as witnessed by the representatives from JTI and PMFTC which yielded to the discovery of various fake cigarettes bearing the brands Marvels Menthol, Marvels Filter, Two Moon Filter, Two Moon Menthol, Fort Menthol 100's, Mighty Menthol, Champion and Jackpot.

Customs seizes P4-M cigarettes declared as paper hand towels

Published June 6, 2021 2:47pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/790428/customs-seizes-p4-m-cigarettes-declared-as-paper-hand-towels/story/>

BOC-MICP Seizes Php 38 Million Of Smuggled Cigarettes

Posted on June 13, 2021

<https://customs.gov.ph/boc-micp-seizes-php-38-million-of-smuggled-cigarettes/>

The examination revealed the presence of 1,090 master cases of cigarettes with brands such as Marvel, Mighty and Astro having an estimated value of Php 38.1 Million.

Customs seizes P38-M smuggled cigarettes

Published June 13, 2021 3:30pm

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/791373/customs-seizes-p38-m-smuggled-cigarettes/story/>

(BOC) seized P38 million worth of smuggled cigarettes at the Manila International Container Port (MICP)... some 1,090 master cases of cigarettes were seized on Friday, June 11.

P38 million worth of smuggled cigarettes from China seized

Tina G. Santos / 04:31 AM June 14, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1445619/p38-m-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china-seized>

P75-M halaga ng smuggled cigarettes na dumating sa Misamis Oriental sinira

Posted at Jun 16 2021 03:25 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/16/21/p75-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-cigarettes-na-dumating-sa-misamis-oriental-sinira>

Nasa P75 milyong puslit na sigarilyo ang sinira ng Bureau of Customs sa bayan ng Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

P1.3-B fake cigarettes, materials seized in Pampanga

By Zorayda Tecson June 25, 2021, 8:13 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145001>

...Mabalacat, Pampanga... associated with the Wendel Criminal Group engaged in the distribution of counterfeit and smuggled cigarettes in Central Luzon... valued at PHP300 million.

follow-up operation... in San Simon... about PHP1 billion.

BOC-seized goods add P4.43B to govt coffers

BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS JUNE 29, 2021

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/29/boc-seized-goods-add-%e2%82%a4-43b-to-govt-coffers/>

Apart from fake products, the bureau has also confiscated P864.44-million worth of general merchandise, illegally imported tobacco products (**P759.89 million**)...

P5.6-M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized from 2 operations in Zamboanga City

by Liza Abubakar-Jocson June 29, 2021, 6:00 AM

<https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/29/p5-6-m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-from-2-operations-in-zamboanga-city/>

3 firms face raps over P87-million worth of smuggled goods

Jul 01 2021 10:36 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/01/21/boc-raps-smuggling-goods-onions-cigarettes>

Also charged was Denian Dry Goods Trading for alleged misdeclaration of cigarettes worth **P50.7 million** on Sept. 18, 2020 at the Port of Cagayan de Oro.

PCG, BOC seize smuggled cigarettes off Zamboanga City

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. July 9, 2021, 3:13 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146528>

Joint Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) operatives have arrested four suspects and seized an estimated PHP2.1 million worth of smuggled assorted brands of cigarette off this city.

Mahigit P90 milyong 'pekeng' sigarilyo sinira sa Cebu

Johnson Manabat Jul 09 2021 03:32 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/09/21/90-milyong-pekeng-sigarilyo-cebu>

Nasabat ang mga pekeng sigarilyo sa Port of Cebu nitong nakalipas na buwan ng Hunyo at dumating sa bansa sa dalawang magkahiwalay na shipments mula sa China.

Noong nakaraang taon, walong shipments ng counterfeit cigarettes ang winasak na rin sa Cebu na nagkakahalaga ng P374 milyon.

Halos P1.2-M umano'y smuggled, pekeng sigarilyo nasabat sa Zambales

Jekki Pascual Jul 14 2021 07:23 AM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/07/14/21/halos-p12-m-umanoy-smuggled-pekeng-sigarilyo-nasabat-sa-zambales>

Na-intercept ng mga pulis ang 2 van sa Zambales-Tarlac Road. Huminto naman ang mga van at pagbukas, nakita ng mga operatiba ang kahon-kahon ng mga sigarilyo. Walang maipakitang papeles ang 4 na sakay ng 2 van.

P3.5M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Zamboanga City

Marje Pelayo • July 16, 2021

<https://www.untvweb.com/news/p3-5m-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-zamboanga-city/>

The said watercraft was manned by four crew members and bound for mainland Zamboanga. It was transporting a total of 100 master cases of King Perfect cigarettes with a total estimated value of P 3.5 million.

10 nabbed, P2-M smuggled cigarettes seized in Palawan

By Celeste Anna Formoso July 29, 2021, 12:22 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1148642>

...in a raid at Barangay Rio Tuba in Bataraza town.

P35.2 million smuggled cigarettes seized off Basilan

Roel Pareño July 31, 2021 | 12:00am

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/07/31/2116423/p352-million-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-basilan>

"Based on initial investigation, the watercraft came from Sulu and the contraband was intended for delivery to Zamboanga City," Adaci said.

In Northern Mindanao, BOC destroys P50M smuggled cigarettes from China

Jigger R. Jerusalem / 04:30 AM August 02, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1467465/in-northern-mindanao-boc-destroys-p50m-smuggled-cigarettes-from-china>

The contraband, earlier declared by the importer as pieces of office furniture, arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal port in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, in two 40-foot container vans on Sept. 18 last year and was finally destroyed at a facility in Barangay Mantibugao, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, on July 28.

P78-M halaga ng smuggled at pekeng sigarilyo, nasamsam sa Subic

Gracie Rutao Aug 03 2021 09:44 PM

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/03/21/p78-m-halaga-ng-smuggled-at-pekeng-sigarilyo-nasamsam-sa-subic>

Kaagad na nag-isyu ng warrant of seizure and detention laban sa mga nabanggit na pagpapadala para sa paglabag sa National Tobacco Administration (NTA) Memorandum Circular No. 03, serye ng 2004; Resolution ng NTA Board No. 079-2005; Seksyon 155 ng R.A. 8293 (Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines in relation to Section 1113 (f) of Republic Act 10863 o ang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

MORE THAN P500,000 WORTH OF FOREIGN CIGARETTES SMUGGLED INTO BASILAN WERE INTERCEPTED BY THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

Posted by Jerome Porras | Aug 4, 2021

<https://dabigcnews.org/2021/08/04/more-than-p500000-worth-of-foreign-cigarettes-smuggled-into-basilan-were-intercepted-by-the-philippine-coast-guard/>

The cigarettes were purportedly transported into Mindanao via the Tawi-Tawi or Sulu oceans from Indonesia or Malaysia.

THE ILLICIT CIGARETTE TRADE IN MALAYSIA: DOES CIGARETTE TAX MATTER?

August 04, 2021

<https://www.ateneo.edu/aps/asog/news/tobacco-webinar>

On July 30, 2021, The Ateneo School of Government through its project Advancing Tobacco Taxation in Southeast Asia (ATTSEA), funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), spearheaded a webinar entitled "The Illicit Cigarette Trade in Malaysia: Does Cigarette Tax Matter?"...

At the end of the presentation, the need to advocate for taxation as a means to lessening cigarette use and to conduct further research on these issues were raised.

P11.2-M smuggled cigarettes seized anew off Zambo City

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. August 6, 2021, 3:12 pm

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1149601>

This came a day after the same team of lawmen consisting of 2nd Zamboanga City Mobile Force Company (2ZCMFC) and BOC operatives seized some PHP4.5 million worth of smuggled cigarettes here.

PH Coast Guard: P625,000 worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Basilan

By: Daniza Fernandez - 02:16 PM August 06, 2021

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1469986/ph-coast-guard-p625000-worth-of-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-basilan>

BOC-Subic seizes P48 Million of fake and smuggled cigarettes

By BOC August 16, 2021

<https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2021/08/16/boc-subic-seizes-p48-million-of-fake-and-smuggled-cigarettes>

the shipment which was suspected to originate from Cambodia...

The examination revealed the presence of 995 master cases of cigarettes with brands such as Mighty, Fortune, Two Moon and Marlboro and was estimated to have a value of P48 Million.

Lower House official: Illicit cigarette trade alarming

Ben Rosario September 13, 2021, 4:25 PM

<https://mb.com.ph/2021/09/13/lower-house-official-illicit-cigarette-trade-alarming/>

House Deputy Speaker and Ilocos Sur Rep. Deogracias Victor Savellano on Monday, Sept. 13 appealed for a more sustained and stronger government efforts in addressing the illicit cigarette trade in many parts of the country.

According to him the excise tax revenues from tobacco products grew nearly five times more from the P32 billion in 2012 to P148.5 billion in 2020.



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