



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

سفارة جمهورية الفلبين

MANAMA

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO.

AAV-020-2016

07 August 2016


SUBJECT: Complaints on Balikbayan Boxes

To All Filipinos in Bahrain,

The Philippine Embassy wishes to provide information regarding an advisory from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) concerning reports of unreleased *balikbayan* boxes. The Bureau explained that:

"Under Customs Memorandum Order No. 79-90 or the Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Entry of Non-Commercial Inbound Consolidation Shipments from Filipino Abroad and based on Customs practices and procedures, once the cargo arrives in the Philippines, the local consolidator or courier shall file the necessary documents with the BOC shall then assess the duties and taxes and the local consolidator or courier shall pay for them, after which, the goods shall be released and the local courier shall deliver the goods to the intended recipients. However, there are instances when the local consolidator does not pay the duties and taxes which causes the balikbayan boxes to remain unreleased.

The BOC reported that it is currently reviewing its existing procedures to ensure the timely release of the packages to their intended recipients. The BOC likewise expressed its assurances that it is exercising utmost care in handling these packages.


ALFONSO A. VER
Ambassador



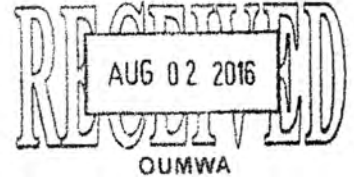


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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
1099 Manila

19 July 2016

MR. RICARDO M. ENDAYA
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Pasay, Metro Manila



Mr. Endaya:

This refers to your letter dated 11 July 2016, regarding the concerns raised by several Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) relative to their balikbayan boxes supposedly remaining in the custody of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Under *Customs Memorandum Order No. 79-90* or the *Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Entry of Non-Commercial Inbound Consolidation Shipments from Filipino Abroad* and based on Customs practices and procedures, once the cargo arrives in the Philippines, the local consolidator or courier shall file the necessary documents with the BOC. The BOC shall then assess the duties and taxes and the local consolidator or courier shall pay for them, after which, the goods shall be released and the local courier shall deliver the goods to the intended recipients. However, there are instances when the local consolidator does not pay the duties and taxes which causes the balikbayan boxes to remain unreleased.

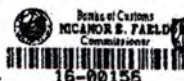
We have referred your letter to the Informal Entry Divisions of Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port (MICP) for appropriate action.

Moreover, the BOC is currently reviewing the existing procedures as provided above, to ensure the timely release of the packages to their intended recipients. We are aware of the efforts made by our OFWs to send these tokens of love to their families, and we would like to assure them, through your office, that we are exercising utmost care in handling their packages.

We hope this clarifies the matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,


NICANOR E. FAELDON
Commissioner



JUL 20 2016