

**[BOC CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 1-
2012, January 12, 2012]**

**STRENGTHENING THE RUN AFTER THE SMUGGLERS (RATS)
GROUP UNDER THE REVENUE COLLECTION AND MONITORING
GROUP (RCMG) AND INTENSIFYING ITS ROLE IN THE ANTI-
SMUGGLING EFFORTS OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

*Adopted: 12 January 2012
Date Filed: 24 January 2012*

Pursuant to the mandate of the Revenue Collection Monitoring Group under Executive Order No. 127 and the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 to administer legal requirements of the Bureau of Customs consistent with the mandate of the Bureau of Customs to prevent and suppress smuggling and other frauds under Section 602 paragraph (b) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended and making it more responsive to the intensified anti-smuggling thrusts of the government.

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To ensure the successful prosecution of cases filed pursuant to the intensified anti-smuggling efforts of the government;
- 1.2 To ensure that criminal, civil and/or administrative proceedings, where warranted, are immediately instituted on every apprehension for violation of customs laws, rules and/or regulations;
- 1.3 To ensure proper coordination among customs enforcers, collectors, and other concerned government units duly authorized by the Commissioner to enforce customs laws, rules and regulations as far as investigation and eventual filing of cases are concerned;
- 1.4 To have a centralized database of all cases investigated and/or prosecuted by the Bureau.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- 2.1 To coordinate the activities of the RATS Group, a Secretariat is hereby constituted which shall be composed of the

following teams:

- 2.1.1 Case evaluation Team;
 - 2.1.2 Profiling Team; and
 - 2.1.3 Prosecution/Litigation Team;
- 2.2 In view thereof, the deputy Commissioner, RCMG, as Head of RATS is hereby directed to form the composition of the Secretariat immediately.
- 2.3 In the exigency of the service and to effectively achieve the objectives of this Order, additional members and/or technical and administrative support staff shall be drawn from other BOC offices and assigned to the RATS Group upon request of the deputy Commissioner RCMG subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Customs.

3. FUNCTIONS OF RATS GROUP

- 3.1 Conduct investigation/profiling, including gathering of evidence against Customs personnel, importers, brokers, and other persons suspected to be involved in smuggling activities;
- 3.2 Investigate, recommend to the Commissioner and initiate the filing of criminal cases against Customs personnel, importers, brokers and other individuals with the department of Justice and monitor the progress thereof.
- 3.3 develop a database of information obtained relative to smuggling activities, including information on BOC personnel suspected or reported of being involved in smuggling activities;
- 3.4 Conduct research and monitoring on critical areas of smuggling utilized by smugglers in their modus operandi (eg. warehousing, consumption, transshipment etc.) and establish a database of all shipments alerted, apprehended, abandoned, forfeited, etc.;
- 3.5 Conduct trainings designed to enhance the program's capacity to effectively target, profile, evaluate, and litigate cases against trade law violators;
- 3.6 Recommend, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, internal rules in case building/profiling, monitoring, investigation of cases of smuggling, customs fraud and other violations of customs and allied laws;