



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

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Guam Customs Delegation Returns from Palau Following Study Visit on Automated Customs Data Management System

BARRIGADA, Guam – A team of representatives from the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) returned from Palau this week, following a study visit with members of the Palau Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) on their customs operations and successful implementation of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) Nov. 18-21.

CQA continues its pursuit to modernize antiquated agency processes through the acquisition and application of the ASYCUDA as its official customs management system through collaborations with the 38th Guam Legislature, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Oceania Customs Organisation, and other key partners.

CQA has relied on paper-based documentation for decades and is eager to migrate to this computerized system to efficiently document, process, and assess information amid an evolving customs landscape and in alignment with international standards. The ASYCUDA is now a key tool in more than 100 countries around the world.

“Use of the ASYCUDA platform will enable us to effectively and sustainably accept submissions of required customs documents and capture vital data to manage trade facilitation and interdict threats with improved security, record accessibility, revenue tracking, risk assessment, and other advanced capabilities” said Acting CQA Director and Chief of Customs Vincent Perez. “This type of capacity building is highly necessary for more precise threat detection and the targeted enforcement needed to keep our community safe.”

CQA appreciates the warm welcome and insightful opportunity for knowledge exchange with Palau's BCBP, a critical step toward digital transformation and modernization for stronger customs enforcement in Guam and across the Pacific.

Furthermore, CQA thanks Sen. Jesse Lujan, oversight chairperson for the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities, and Federal and Foreign Affairs for his introduction

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of Bill 234-38, which mandates the adoption of the ASYCUDA and authorizes formal agreements with UNCTAD for the system's implementation and maintenance.

CQA also expresses gratitude to the bill's nine co-sponsors, Senators Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Vincent Borja, Christopher Dueñas, William Parkinson, Joe S. San Agustin, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao, Shelly Calvo, Frank Blas Jr., and Sabrina Salas Matanane.

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