

2019

ESA Photobook

World Customs Organization East & Southern Africa Region Regional Office for Capacity Building

Sotho Photo Contest

A collection of photographs that tell Customs stories



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Background

The World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building, launched the **Annual ESA 'Sotho photo' Contest**. This called for Members to submit their 'best' photos to be displayed and voted for during the meeting of the region's Directors General, the Governing Council, annually. This contest was christened 'Sotho' in honour of the nation and people of Lesotho, which hosted the first photo contest in the region during Governing Council in May, 2016. We also hoped that this contest will further boost our Members' submission of photos for the WCO Annual Photo Competition.

Meanwhile, all the photos submitted form part of the **'ESA Sotho photo Book, a collection of photos that tell Customs stories'**.

Editorial



Larry Liza
Director

It is our pleasure to present to you the fourth edition of the World Customs Organization East and Southern Africa Regional Office for Capacity Building (WCO **ESA ROCB**) **ESA Sotho photo Book, a collection of photos that tell Customs stories**. This edition features the photos submitted by Members for this year's ESA Sotho Photo competition which was held during the 24th ESA Governing Council in Gaborone, Botswana in May 2019.

For the 2019 contest, we received photos from 15 out of our 24 Members countries, with Kenya winning the contest, for the third year in a row! followed by Zambia and Mauritius. We are pleased to share with you Angola's *Coked Out*, Botswana's *Coughed Out*, Burundi's *Let's Get High*, Comoros' *Presidential Nobility*, Kenya's *Heroine Girl*, Lesotho's *Frozen*, Madagascar's *Boxed Baby Turtles*, Malawi's *Musky Marijuana Perfume*, Mauritius' *Sniffing Nixie*, Rwanda's *Intoxicated Drive*, Seychelles' *Faithful Service*, South Africa *Crushing Victory*, Uganda's *Motor Crossed*, Zambia's *Epic Ride* and Zimbabwe's *Rolled Sleeves*.

Congratulations to the winners and all the Members for sharing their stories with us and the world at large. Enjoy!

Sotho Photo 2019 Contest Winner

KENYA

For the third year running Kenya won the ESA Sotho Photo Contest by a landslide having submitted this photo showing Heroine intercepted by Kenya Customs Officials at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport concealed in wooden art/sculptures. The consignment was destined for Greece.



Heroine GIRL!!!!



Sotho Photo 2019 Contest 1st Runner Up

ZAMBIA

ZRA Customs officers use the ox-cart to get to the place where two trucks carrying smuggled alcoholic beverages were parked before they could proceed to their destination.



Sotho Photo 2019 Contest 2nd Runner Up

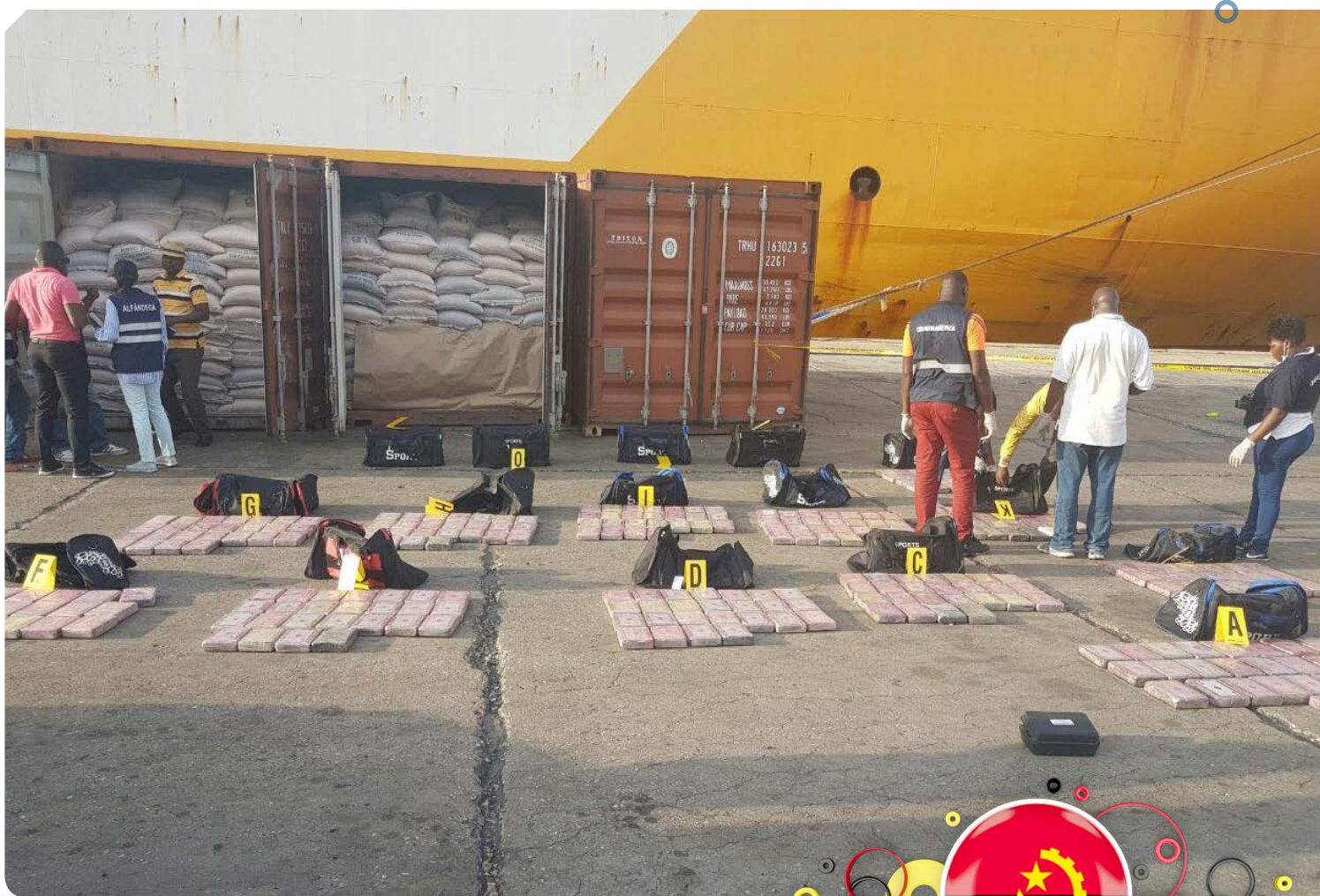
MAURITIUS

Enforcement of Customs laws at the border to combat smuggling, illicit entry of drugs and money laundering with the use of sniffer dogs and Non-Intrusive Inspection tools such as scanners.



Angola

Coked OUT!!



Seizure of approximately 500 Kgs cocaine concealed in a shipment of wheat flour in the Port of Luanda by Customs inspection.

Botswana

Coughed OUT!



Proliferation of unlawful importation of restricted drugs and other medicaments remains a great concern for Botswana. Employment of risk based controls and use of modern technology by Customs have however proven to be very effective and bearing notable success in Customs efforts to curb illicit activities. The picture depicts a recent seizure of illegally imported cough syrup, concealed inside a passenger vehicle. Over 500 bottles of the medicine were discovered in concealed compartments on the vehicle.

Burundi

Let's get HIGH!!



By using the NIK System, Burundi Customs is now enabled to test nature of drugs. This picture shows a passenger caught with 3kg of heroin at Bujumbura International Airport on 20 March 2019 from Brazil.

Comoros

Presidential NOBILITY!



*F*amily picture of Directors General & commissioners of customs of African Union members, during the 10th meeting of the African Union Sub-committee of Directors General of Customs, Moroni-Comoros.

Among the high personalities, the President of the Union of Comoros, H.E. Mr. Azali Assoumani, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organisation, Dr Kunio Mikuriya and the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Ambassador Albert Muchanga.



Kenya

Heroine GIRL!!!!



Heroine intercepted by Kenya Customs Officials at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport concealed in wooden art/ sculptures. The consignment was destined for Greece.





Lesotho

FROZEN!



Lesotho Revenue Authority Frontier Services Staff Opening Border Post Gates, Sani Pass, some 2,876m above sea level.





Madagascar

Boxed Baby TURTLES!



JANUARY, APRIL 2019

**THE MALAGASY CUSTOMS
STRENGTHENED ITS FIGHT
AGAINST TURTLES
TRAFFICKING**

- January, the 18th: 118 baby turtles was found by malagasy custom agents hided within a handmade malagasy crafts packages. The turtles was meant to be sent to Hong Kong.
- April, the 22nd: 05 turtles was found by malagasy custom agents hided within a handmadecraft wooden boat. The turtles was meant to be sent to Bangkok



Malawi

Musky Marijuana PERFUME!



Malawi Customs intercepts 339.1kg of Cannabis

On 23rd December 2018, Malawi Customs officers on a night patrol seized a consignment of drugs called Cannabis Sativa. The consignment originated from Kasungu in Malawi and was being exported to Mozambique through uncharted route. The smuggler was using a Mini bus to transport the goods and he sprayed large amounts of perfume as a concealment to deal away with the smell of Cannabis.

Officers stopped the consignment and decided to conduct physical examination based on risk indicators pertaining to the route used (uncharted route not usually used) and use of a mini bus on lower grade road. Officers got suspicious of the conveyance and decided to stop the mini bus and conduct physical inspection. Upon opening the door of the minibus, Officers were welcomed with a strong smell of a perfume. Nevertheless, the Officers went ahead to open one of the bags that were inside the min Bus. Cannabis leaves in raw form was revealed. 12 Bags of Cannabis weighing 339.1kg were intercepted. This led to the arrest of the owner of the goods and an imposition of a fine on the owner of the mini bus for conveyance. The interception of illicit drugs is an affirmation of Malawi Customs commitment to the protection of the general public from hazardous goods and facilitation of legitimate trade.



Mauritius

Sniffing NIXIE!



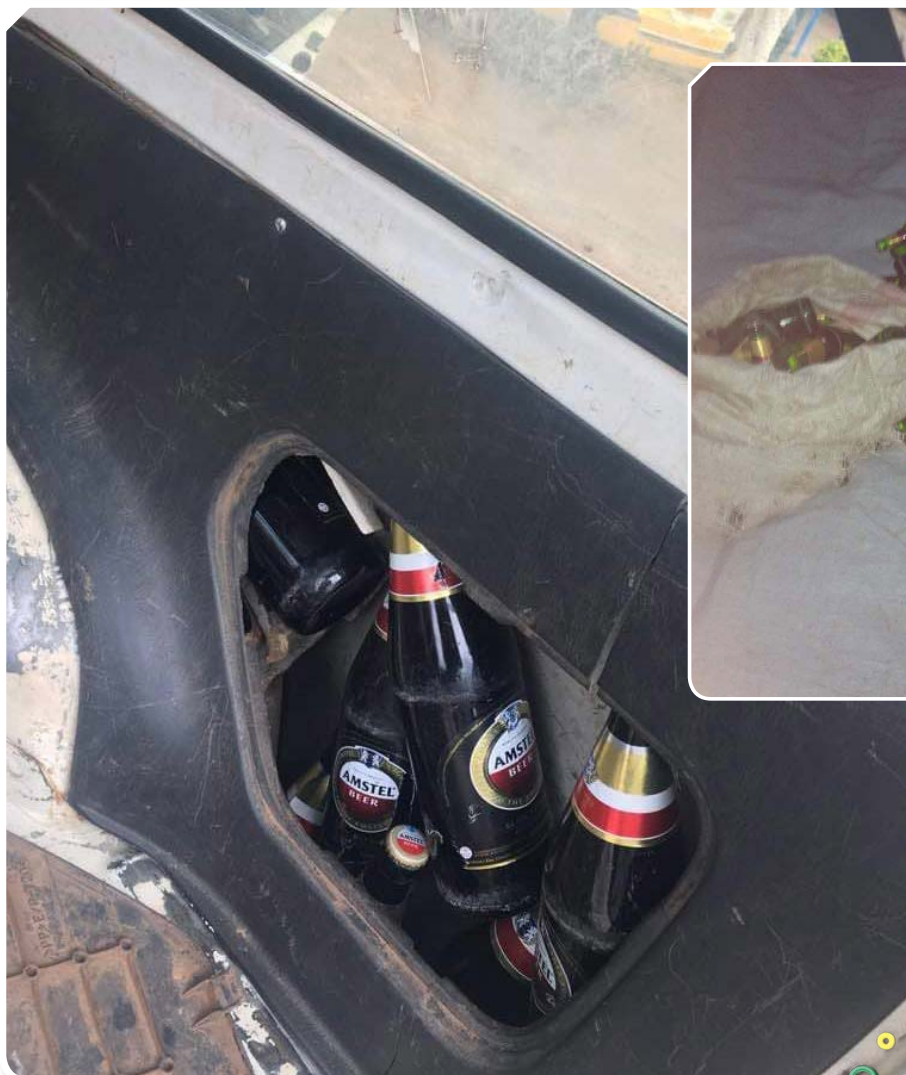
Enforcement of Customs laws at the border to combat smuggling, illicit entry of drugs and money laundering with the use of sniffer dogs and Non-Intrusive Inspection tools such as scanners.

In January 2019, 25.5 kg of gold ingots worth MUR 38.7 Million and currencies equivalent to around MUR 2.6 Million were found in the possession of two passengers who were in-transit from Madagascar.

In April 2019, a container of personal effects from Italy was scanned and various anomalies were found. Upon examination, 1003 bottles of whisky and 30 bottles of wine were found which did not tally with the quantity declared in the Customs Bill of Entry. The consignment was also subject to sniffing by K9 dog 'Nixie' who reacted positively to the presence of illicit drugs. Further verifications revealed the presence of 30 kg of Hashish amounting to MUR 91 Million concealed in a decorative column and other objects.

Rwanda

Intoxicated DRIVE!



The photo shows cartons of alcohol that was seized during an operational activity at the border of Ruhwa between Rwanda and Burundi. Regular passengers conducting cross border trade have come up with smuggling techniques of concealment of consumed items commonly traded among the two countries.

The smugglers use passenger vehicles to smuggle these items as illustrated in the pictures.



Seychelles

Faithful SERVICE!



One of the customs officers receiving her certificate from the outgoing Commissioner General, Mr. Ronald Cafrine. A total of 68 employees, who have been in service for 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years and 40 years were rewarded with a certificate and a token of appreciation.

Seychelles Revenue Commission celebrated its long service award ceremony on the 4th May 2019, at the Coral Strand Hotel. The ceremony was organized to reward the dedicated long service staff members to encourage and congratulate them for their loyalty, dedication and hard work.



South Africa

Crushing VICTORY!



South African Customs Executive: Enforcement, Patrick Moeng and Acting Chief Officer: Customs and Excise, Beyers Theron at the crushing of several illegal vehicles in Durban, South Africa in November 2018. In the 2018/19 financial year, SARS confiscated 275 illegal cars and trucks for various contraventions and these were then forfeited to the state after following proper legal processes. Many of these have since been destroyed under Customs supervision.

The importation of second-hand imported vehicles is restricted into South Africa. Before the vehicles can be imported into South Africa, the client needs to obtain an import permit from the International Trade Administration Commission and a Letter of Authority from the National Regulator of Compulsory Specification. Previously, the seized second hand imported vehicles were sold at Customs auction for export, but these vehicles invariably found their way back into South Africa. This has an impact on the local vehicle manufacturing industry, which contributes about 7.5% to the country's gross domestic product. This important industry is hugely impacted by the unfair competition imposed by the influx of second hand vehicles. The South African Revenue Service has thus taken a harder stance on non-compliance in this area.

Uganda

Motor CROSSED!



The role of Customs enforcement is to effectively protect society and secure the collection of legally due revenue by fighting against cross-border crimes. One of the methods used is coordinated intelligence based operations against smugglers.

In the photo, URA Custom's enforcement officers are in a crackdown operation against unregistered motorcycles at Oraba town. Oraba is located 570 kilometers northeast of Kampala, at the South Sudan – Uganda – DRC trip-point in the West Nile sub-region of Uganda.

The porous border has created a problem of smuggling, especially of motorcycles which are otherwise supposed to pay taxes and registration fees. Without registration, such motorcycles can pose a security threat on top of causing revenue loss to the government and creating unfair advantage over genuine tax payers.

Customs officers often face violent resistance but with the backup from Uganda Peoples Defense Forces, the situation is appropriately managed.

Zambia

Epic RIDE!



Sikongo in Zambia, has sandy terrain which makes the un-gazetted routes impassable. Besides the various challenges, commitment to better results has been the major driver of ZRA customs officers in curbing smuggling and sealing all loopholes of tax evasion.

In this particular operation, ZRA Customs officers had to use the ox-cart to get to the place where the two trucks carrying smuggled alcoholic beverages were parked before they could proceed to their destination being Lusaka, which is further inland.

Zimbabwe

Rolled SLEEVES!



Zimbabwe Revenue Authority Commissioner Customs and Excise, Mr Happias Kuzvinzwa, with Regional Manager Beitbridge and Regional Manager Region 2 participating in the National Clean Up Campaign at Beitbridge Border Post.

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