

ESA SOTHO PHOTOBOOK 2022



EDITORIAL - Photo Contest 2022

Another year, another photo book! Customs has continued to affirm its resilience in the heart and heart of COVID-19 as evidenced by the photo submissions by members in this year's contest. Again, matters related to compliance and enforcement take centre stage, reaffirming the critical role of Customs in protecting the society. Amidst the pandemic, threats related to security continued to exist, and our administrations continued in their alertness, pressing breaks on the way of illicit trade within and across our borders.

As you dig in, join Angola's match with Liquidated Ants and see Comoro's grow with Intelligence Quotient. Perennial winners, Kenya, jumped in with Hopping Heroine as the Runaway Chicken were caught by Lesotho. Lest you forget, this contest was named Sotho Contest in honour of Lesotho which hosted the first of its kind in 2016. Marvel at Madagascar's Untapped Wealth and see Rum-running in the Warm Heart of Africa, Malawi. Look through the hawk-eyes of Mauritius' X-ray Vision as you enter Rwanda's Wholesome Warehouse. South Africa extinguished the Chained Smoke as the weighty Wheaty Weighbridge bulked large. Meanwhile, the Pearl of Africa, Uganda, Smoked Out illicit cigars, Zambia showcased its Kazungula Connection's connectivity as their friendly neighbours Zimbabwe showed off their new-look Beitbridge's Upgraded Connection.

Congratulations to the eventual winners Mauritius, voted overwhelmingly by the Governing Council. The X-ray Vision carried their first ever self-confession by a drug swallower. An incoming passenger suspected of having swallowed drug pellets was confronted with the X-Ray images of the newly acquired body scanner of MRA Customs. Kenya came second with a consignment declared as skipping ropes on transit from the town of Busia to Holland. Upon verification and preliminary tests, the consignment was found to contain heroin. Madagascar's Untapped Wealth came third showcasing their precious stones which are being exported illegally.

These photos sure go a long way in sharing best practices and experiences that bolster our efforts in trade facilitation and economic integration, efficient revenue mobilization and customs, security, enforcement and compliance, professionalism and partnerships.

Enjoy.



LARRY LIZA

DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND - ESA Sotho Photo Contest



The World Customs Organization, East and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Capacity Building, launched the **Annual ESA 'Sotho photo'** Contest which calls for Members to submit their 'best' photos that tell a Customs' story. These photos are then displayed and voted for during the meeting of the region's Directors' General, the Governing Council, which is held annually. This contest was christened 'Sotho' in honour of the nation and people of Lesotho, which hosted the first photo contest in May 2016. Further, we hope that this contest will boost our Members' submission of photos for the WCO Annual Photo Competition.

This book is a consolidation of all the photos submitted by members for the 2022 contest.

1. ANGOLA - Liquidated Ants



"We would describe the photograph as Ant smuggling fuel, a very common *modus operandi* at our borders, which translates into changing car bodies and three-wheel motorcycles, tourist seats and adapted compartments in trucks.

It is commonly used by border residents or individuals whose main activity is to transport goods with a commercial character across borders. Its operation is carried out repeatedly: smugglers cross borders several times (hence the name ant) and transfer the fuel to larger capacity containers, usually small cisterns or plastic tanks of up to 5,000 liters or more, located a few kilometers from the border perimeters."

2. COMOROS - Intelligence Quotient



A professional aptitude test for Customs auxiliaries.

In accordance with the Comorian Customs Code, in particular, its Article 115 stipulates "Obtaining the approval of auxiliaries in Customs is also conditioned by the success of an anonymous aptitude test organized by the Union of Chamber of Commerce and Industry the Comoros".

3. KENYA - Hopping Heroin



On 1st April 2022, at around 1000hrs, a Multi-Agency team at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) intercepted one consignment declared as skipping ropes. The parcel was in transit from Busia, Kenya to Holland.

Upon verification and preliminary tests, the consignment was found to contain heroin weighing approximately 420 grams.

4. LESOTHO - Runaway Chickens



This picture depicts the confiscation of two truckloads of underdeclared poultry.

5. MADAGASCAR - Untapped Wealth



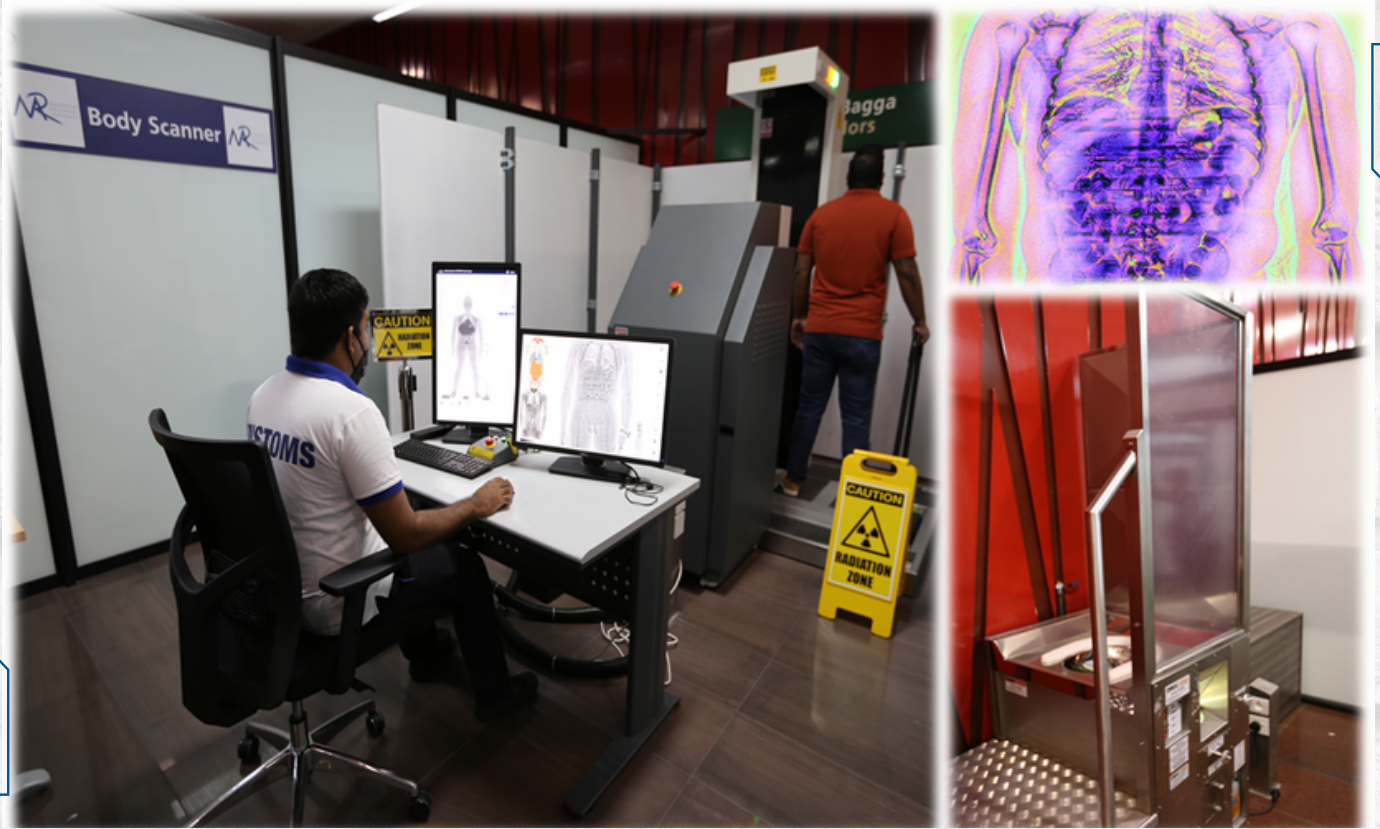
With a subsoil rich in non-renewable mineral resources of significant value, Madagascar does not benefit from its wealth. Precious stones from Madagascar's subsoil are labeled as coming from other countries because they are exported illegally, and gold trafficking is making international headlines. As a result, the Malagasy Customs authorities cannot absolve themselves of their responsibility for the security of the country, as in the case of the eight containers of undeclared gemstones and industrial stones seized recently.

6. MALAWI - Rum-running



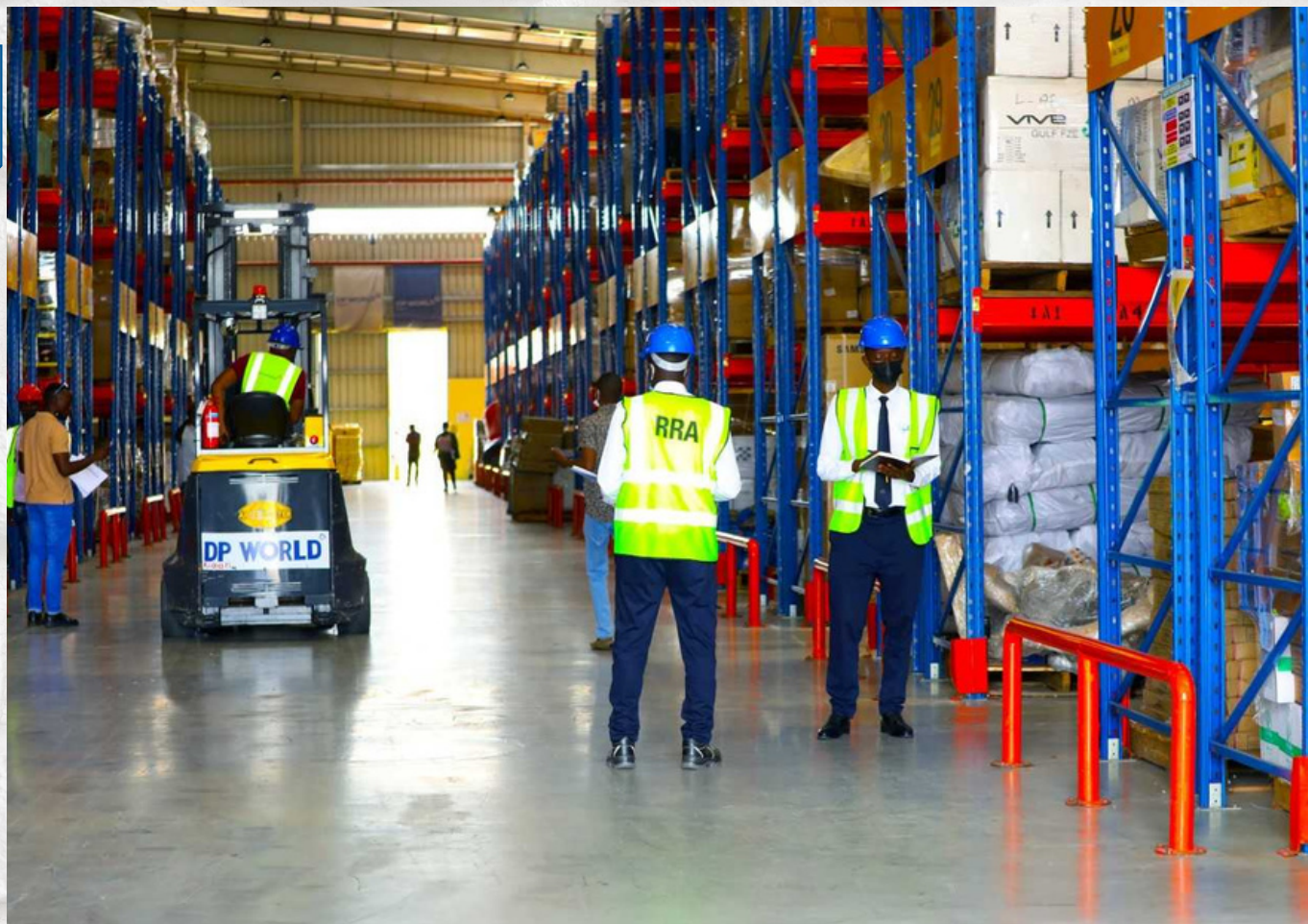
Picture of a truck that smuggled alcohol.

7. MAURITIUS - X-ray Vision



Technology helps in the first ever self-confession by a drug swallower in Mauritius. An incoming passenger suspected of having swallowed drug pellets, was confronted with the X-Ray images of the newly acquired body scanner of MRA Customs. The images visibly showed around 60 pellets inside his body, leaving the passenger no choice but to confess to having swallowed the same intending to introduce the dangerous drugs into Mauritius. Another innovative tool –the “Drug Loo”, has also been acquired for the safe and hygienic recovery of the drug pellets without contaminating the evidence and compromising the chain of continuity of evidence.

8. RWANDA - Wholesome Warehouse



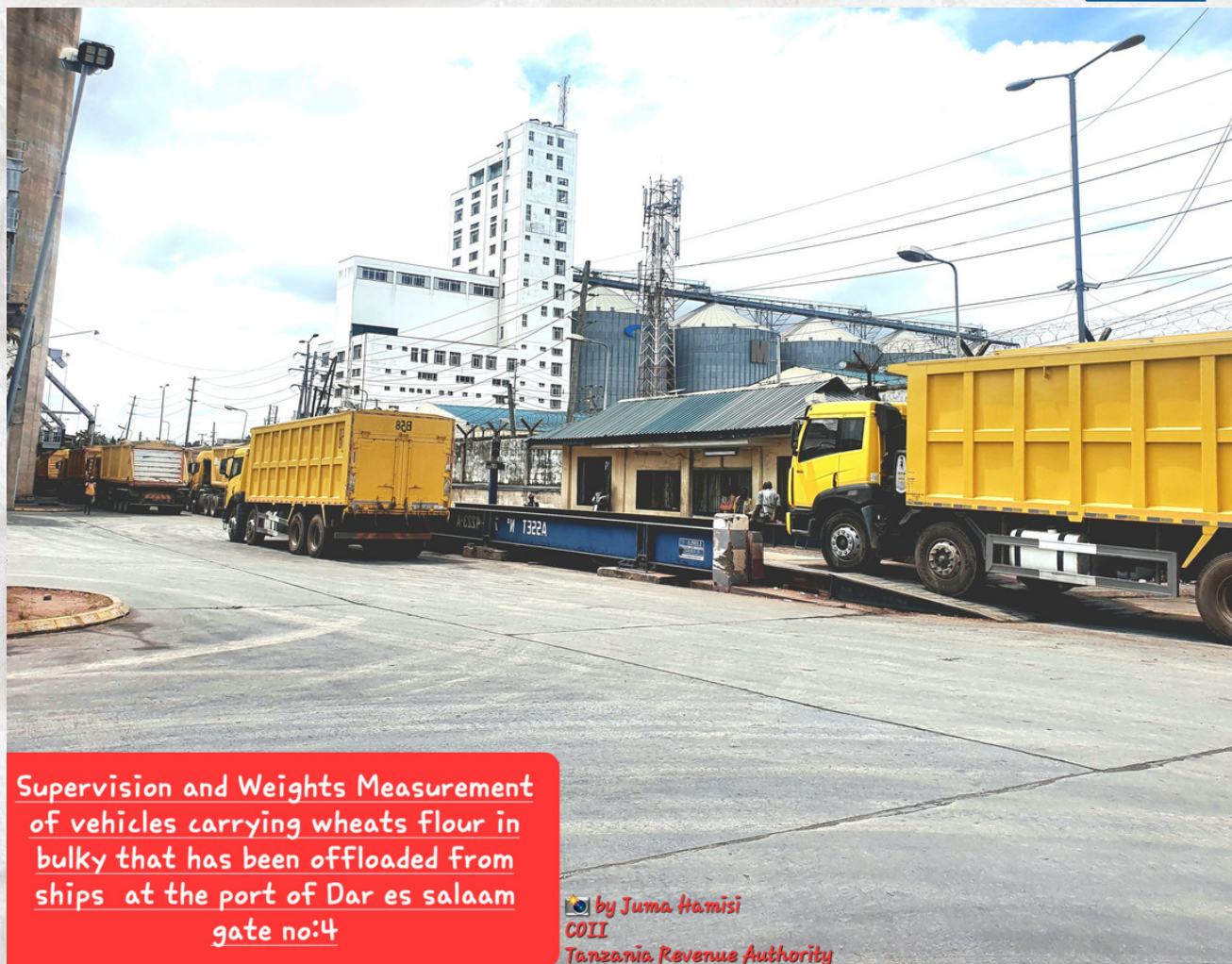
To promote trade facilitation, Rwanda extended bonded warehouses and this picture shows the inside of a newly opened biggest inland cargo handling facility, "Dubai Port World/ Kigali Logistics Platform" in Kigali city at Masaka Hill. It is a one-stop shop logistics hub, built in 50,000 square metres which offers container handling, cold chain, and bonded warehouses. With modern warehouse equipment, customs officers are verifying imported cargo to assess duties and taxes.

9. SOUTH AFRICA - Chained Smoke



Illicit cigarettes are a huge challenge for the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Significant proliferation of illicit cigarettes is fuelled by the current status where the illicit cigarettes have now become an alternative to the regular brands because the illicit cigarettes are much cheaper than the regular brands. In the previous financial year, SARS seized illicit cigarettes worth more than R230 million.

10. TANZANIA - Wheaty Weighbridge



Supervision and Weights Measurement of vehicles carrying wheat flour in bulk, that has been offloaded from ships at the port of Dar es Salaam.

11. UGANDA - Smoked Out



The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) destroyed an estimated UGX. 1.2bn worth of illicit cigarettes at the Luweero Industries Limited, a subsidiary of the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) in Nakasongola district.

The Commissioner Customs Department, Mr. Abel Kagumire representing the Commissioner General, presided over the destruction exercise for illicit cigarettes intercepted within Uganda.

12. ZAMBIA - Kazungula Connection



Botswana - Zambia Bilateral IT Connectivity working session held in Livingstone in April, 2022.

13. ZIMBABWE - Upgraded Connection



Zimbabwe's new look Beitbridge Border Post Terminal recently upgraded to expedite trade and travel.



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