It has come to the attention of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that there is a proliferation of numerous fake tax clearance certificates being utilized by unscrupulous persons to perpetrate a scam in order to extort money from the unsuspecting importers/recipients of parcels from abroad.

The *modus operandi* starts upon receipt of an email by prospective victims informing them that their parcel has already reached the Philippine transit port and that the same is on hold awaiting for the payment of some airport taxes. Per email, payment should be made only to the said courier who undertakes to deliver the parcel to the victim’s doorstep within the day.

After the victim has paid the required amount of the alleged airport taxes, the latter will again receive an email accusing him of money laundering and that the alleged “Surveillance Department” of the BIR has placed on hold their consignment pending payment of a certain amount representing 12% of the Philippines’ official tax ratio of the total fund detected by the alleged “Ultra-Sensitive Scan report.” A fake BIR Tax Clearance issued to the victim is also sent thru email demanding payment of the amount due as indicated therein.

All importers and others concerned are hereby informed that the BIR does not issue tax clearance requiring taxpayers to pay 12% of the Philippines’ official tax ratio of the total fund detected by the alleged “Ultra-Sensitive Scan report.” The public is hereby advised to visit the BIR website [www.bir.gov.ph/index.php/tax-clearance/released-tax-clearance.html](http://www.bir.gov.ph/index.php/tax-clearance/released-tax-clearance.html) for verification of authenticity of the tax clearance being issued by the BIR. Any tax clearance not listed/posted in the BIR website are deemed to have originated from an illegal source.

Issued this 6th day of May, 2019.

Quezon City, Metro Manila.

CAESAR R. DULAY
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

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