


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P2 54

S E N A T E

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 227

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Family relationships are an important backbone of Filipino Society. In time of adversity and prosperity, the family has always held a central role in the development of the Filipino individual. Unfortunately, during the past several years saw the massive outflow of Filipino Citizens to other countries such as: Saudi Arabia, Italy, United States of America, and Singapore. The people leave their families in their native land to seek greener pastures in more developed countries overseas. After getting accustomed to the culture and way of life of their country of employment, a lot of these Filipinos adopt their host country's citizenship. However, their cultural, economic, and family links to the Philippines remain the same.

This bill aims to grant indefinite non-immigrant visas to former natural-born citizens of the Philippines, their spouses and descendants. The measure will surely encourage Filipino Immigrants to continue the links they have with their native country. It is just right for our nation to provide such privilege to our overseas compatriots since, in a way, government has failed them in providing opportunity for a decent life in the Philippines. Furthermore, we can not discount the fact that overseas Filipinos have contributed immensely to the growth of our country through their regular dollar remittances. In times of the "Asian currency crisis" this advantage has been the envy of our Southeast Asian neighbours.

If we are willing to provide foreign entities with such a privilege to encourage investment, why can't we accord natural-born citizens with such a courtesy.

In view of the above, the approval of this bill is requested.


SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
**GRANTING INDEFINITE NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO FORMER NATURAL-
BORN CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES, THEIR SPOUSES AND
DESCENDANTS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to liberalize and
2 simplify the granting of non-immigrant visas to former natural-born citizens, their
3 spouses and descendants and to encourage them to engage in business and to
4 invest in the country.

5 **SEC. 2.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any former natural-born
6 citizen of the Philippines or his spouse and descendants who want to reside in
7 the Philippines shall be granted non-immigrant visas by the diplomatic or
8 consular officers for an indefinite period subject, however, to periodic review by
9 the President of the Philippines as the demands of national security or interest
10 may warrant, and taking into consideration the policy of this Act.

11 **SEC. 3.** The visas granted under this Act shall entitle the former natural-
12 born citizen, his spouse and descendants to leave and enter again the country
13 without the need of securing any departure or re-entry permit or other
14 administrative requirements save that which may be required of citizens of the
15 Philippines who may leave and re-enter the country.

1 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of Justice shall , in consultation with the
2 Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation, promulgate such rules and
3 regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

4 **SEC. 5.** Any law which is inconsistent with any of the provisions of this
5 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
8 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,