

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 26 P3 2019

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2019

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE


A Philippine passport is an official document of identity and nationality issued to Filipinos intending to travel or sojourn in foreign countries. It gives the bearer the right to receive the protection and assistance of the diplomatic and consular offices of the Republic of the Philippines abroad. Without a passport, departure would be illegal and entry to other countries, difficult and impossible. Being a proclamation of Filipino citizenship, it is superior to all other official documents. As such, it is accorded the highest respect by its holder that to do damage to its integrity and validity is deemed a *serious crime that is penalized accordingly.*

But like any document, a passport may be tampered with and its contents and its supporting documents spurious, forged or falsified. The Department of Foreign Affairs' statistical data of "fake passport cases" recommended as look-out list for cancellation and prosecution enumerates these instances: a) proliferation of tampered / "baklas" / photo-substituted passports; b) assumed identity; c) declared lost / cancelled passport intercepted by the Bureau of Immigration; d) unclaimed / abandoned Passports at foreign embassies; e) Intercepted passports mailed to US; f) misrepresentation of civil status; g) discrepancy in date; h) submission of spurious / fake documents; i) fake immigration stamps; i) use of stolen passports; and j) double passports.

With the continuing cases of offenses relating to the issuance, possession, use, suspension and revocation of passports, there is an insistent need to amend Republic Act No. 8239, or the Philippine Passport Act of 1996.

These amendments are necessary 1) to simplify the passport documentation requirements and processes before the Office of Consular Affairs, DFA 2) to add grounds for its amendment, suspension and revocation; 3) to rally for the issuance of passports using tamper proof and the latest data encryption technology, as far as practicable; and 4) to provide stiffer penalties against the perpetrators of the proliferation of "fake passports," among others.

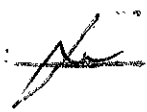
Far these, I urge my colleagues to consider the immediate passage of the bill.

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA  
Senator

10 JUL 26 P3:43

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2019

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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AN ACT  
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996"  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8239, otherwise known as the  
2 "*Philippine Passport Act of 1996*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3  
4 "**SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.*** The people's constitutional right to travel is  
5 inviolable. Accordingly, the government has the duty to issue passport **USING**  
6 **TAMPER PROOF AND LATEST DATA ENCRYPTION TECHNOLOGY**  
7 **AS MUCH AS PRACTICABLE** or any travel document to any citizen of the  
8 Philippines or individual who complies with the requirement of this Act. The right  
9 to travel may be impaired only when national security, public safety, or public  
10 health requires. To enhance and protect the unimpaired exercise of this right, only  
11 minimum requirements for the application and issuance of passports and other  
12 travel documents shall be prescribed. Action on such application and the issuance  
13 shall be expedited."

14  
15 **SEC. 2.** Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

16  
17 "**SEC. 5. *Requirements for the Issuance of Passport.*** No passport shall be issued  
18 to an applicant unless the Secretary or his duly authorized representative is  
19 satisfied that the applicant is a Filipino citizen who has complied with the  
20 following requirements:

21  
22 X X X  
23

1            “[b) The birth certificate duly issued or authenticated by the Office of the Civil  
2 Registrar General: Provided, however, That if the birth of the applicant has not  
3 been registered yet, or if his birth certificate is destroyed, damaged, or not  
4 available due to other causes, he shall apply for delayed registration of his birth  
5 with the Office of the Civil Registrar General which shall issue to said applicant a  
6 certification of pending application for delayed registration of birth attaching  
7 thereto a copy of an accomplished certificate of live birth. Such certification and  
8 the accomplished certificate of live birth shall be sufficient to support an  
9 application for passport in addition to other papers which the Department may  
10 require from the applicant;]”.

11  
12            **“B) THE APPLICANT’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN SECURITY PAPER**  
13 **ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO) OR A**  
14 **CERTIFICATE TRUE COPY OF THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED**  
15 **BY THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR AND DULY AUTHENTICATED**  
16 **BY THE NSO: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE APPLICANT WAS**  
17 **BORN BEFORE 1960 OR HIS BIRTH HAS NOT BEEN REGISTERED**  
18 **YET AND HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS DESTROYED, DAMAGED, OR**  
19 **NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO OTHER CAUSES, HE / SHE SHALL APPLY**  
20 **FOR DELAYED REGISTRATION OF HIS /HER BIRTH WITH THE**  
21 **LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR WHERE HE WAS BORN; PROVIDED,**  
22 **FURTHER, THAT THIS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A JOINT**  
23 **AFFIDAVIT OF TWO (2) DISINTERESTED PERSONS OF AGE WHO**  
24 **HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPLICANT;**

25  
26            “[c) In the absence of a birth certificate, a baptismal certificate for those who are  
27 members of a Christian religious organization or similar or equivalent certificate  
28 issued by a non-Christian religious group, attesting to the applicant’s having been  
29 admitted to such religious group or sect at an early age and where it is indicated  
30 that the applicant is a Filipino citizen, which should be accompanied by a joint  
31 affidavit by two (2) persons who have personal knowledge of the applicant and of  
32 such age as to credibly state the applicant’s date and place of birth, citizenship,  
33 and names of parents: Provided, That Filipinos who do not believe in any religion  
34 and whose parents for any reason failed to have the said applicant baptized shall  
35 be exempted, from the baptismal certificate requirement: Provided, further, That  
36 in lieu thereof, the applicant shall execute an affidavit to that effect duly  
37 corroborated by affidavit of at least two (2) persons of good reputation who  
38 personally know such fact;]”

1       **“C) IF THE APPLICANT WAS BORN IN OR AFTER 1960 AND HIS / HER**  
2       **BIRTH CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN DESTROYED, DAMAGED OR IS**  
3       **NOT AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR AND THE**  
4       **OFFICE OF THE CML REGISTRAR GENERAL DUE TO OTHER**  
5       **CAUSES, HE / SHE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO FILE FOR LATE**  
6       **REGISTRATION OF BIRTH WITH THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR:**  
7       ***PROVIDED*, THAT THIS PROVISION WILL NOT PREVENT LATE**  
8       **REGISTRANTS BORN BEFORE 1960 FROM APPLYING FOR LATE**  
9       **REGISTRATION OF BIRTH,**

10  
11       **“[d) In case of a woman who is married, separated, divorced or widowed or whose**  
12       **marriage has been annulled or declared by court as void, a copy of the certificate**  
13       **of marriage, court decree of separation, divorce or annulment or certificate of**  
14       **death of the deceased spouse duly issued and authenticated by the Office *of* tile**  
15       **Civil Registrar General: *Provided*, That in case of a divorce decree, annulment or**  
16       **declaration of marriage as void, the woman applicant may revert to the use of her**  
17       **maiden name: *Provided*, further, That such divorce is recognized under existing**  
18       **laws of the Philippines;**

19  
20       **“D) THE APPLICANT'S VOTER'S ID OR AFFIDAVIT DULY ISSUED BY**  
21       **THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN THE LOCALITY WHERE THE**  
22       **APPLICANT IS A REGISTERED VOTER IF THE APPLICANT IS**  
23       **ALREADY EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE**

24  
25       **“[e) In the case of naturalized citizens, a certified copy of the naturalization certificate;**  
26       **or a certified naturalization certificate of husband or parent duly issued, and**  
27       **authenticated by the Office of the Civil Registrar General if citizenship is claimed**  
28       **through naturalization of spouse or parent;]**

29  
30       **“E) A MARRIED WOMAN WHO OPTS TO ADOPT THE SURNAME OF**  
31       **HER HUSBAND MUST PRESENT AN AUTHENTICATED COPY OF**  
32       **HER MARRIAGE CONTRACT PROVIDED, THAT A MARRIED**  
33       **WOMAN WHO IS WIDOWED, DIVORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
34       **ARTICLE 26 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS AMENDED BY**  
35       **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY**  
36       **CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 1988, OR WHOSE MARRIAGE IS**  
37       **ANNULLED OR DECLARED BY A COURT OF LAW AS VOID, AND**  
38       **WHO OPTS TO REVERT TO THE USE OF HER MAIDEN NAME MUST**

1           **PRESENT THE AUTHENTICATED DEATH CERTIFICATE OF HER**  
2           **SPOUSE, OR AN AUTHENTICATED COPY OF THE DIVORCE**  
3           **DECREE OR COURT DECREE OF ANNULMENT;**

4  
5           “(f) For an applicant who has not reached the age of majority, an affidavit of consent  
6           from a parent as indicated in the passport application if the minor is traveling  
7           with either parent, and a clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and  
8           Development, if the minor is traveling with a legal guardian or a person other  
9           than a parent;]

10          “(F) **IN THE CASE OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS, A COPY OF THE**  
11          **NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE, DULY REGISTERED BY LOCAL**  
12          **CIVIL REGISTRAR AND AUTHENTICATED BY THE OFFICE OF**  
13          **THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL PROVIDED, THAT IN CASE OF**  
14          **DERIVATIVE NATURALIZATION, THE APPLICANT SHALL BE**  
15          **REQUIRED TO PRESENT A COPY OF THE NATURALIZATION**  
16          **CERTIFICATE OF HIS PARENT OR SPOUSE DULY ISSUED AND**  
17          **AUTHENTICATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CML REGISTRAR**  
18          **GENERAL;**

19  
20          “(g) If the applicant is an adopted person, the duly certified copy of court order of  
21          adoption, together with the original and amended birth certificate duly issued  
22          and authenticated by the Office of the Civil Registrar General shall be  
23          presented: *Provided*, That in case the adopted person is an infant or a minor or  
24          the applicant is for adoption by foreign parents, an authority from the  
25          Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be required *Provided;*  
26          *further*, That the adopting foreign parents shall also submit a certificate from  
27          their embassy or consulate that they are qualified to adopt such infant or minor  
28          child;]

29  
30          “(G) **APPLICATIONS FILED BY MINOR PASSPORT APPLICANTS MAY**  
31          **BE PROCESSED ONLY UPON THE PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF**  
32          **EITHER PARENT PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF A PERSON**  
33          **OTHER THAN THE MINOR’S PARENTS FILES THE APPLICATION,**  
34          **A SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY (SPA) DULY EXECUTED BY**  
35          **EITHER PARENT MUST BE PRESENTED FOR THIS PURPOSE;**  
36          **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT MINOR APPLICANTS TRAVELING**  
37          **WITH EITHER PARENT MUST PRESENT THE PASSPORT OF HIS**  
38          **TRAVELING COMPANION; PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IF HE IS**

1 NOT TRAVELING WITH EITHER PARENT, AN AFFIDAVIT OF  
2 SUPPORT AND CONSENT FROM EITHER PARENT MUST BE  
3 SUBMITTED;  
4

5 “H) IF THE APPLICANT IS AN ADOPTEE OF FOREIGN PARENTS UNDER  
6 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8043, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “INTER-  
7 COUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 1995,” THE CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
8 OF A DECREE OF ABANDONMENT OF CHILD, THE DEATH  
9 CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD’S PARENTS, OR THE DEED OF  
10 VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT EXECUTED BY EITHER PARENT  
11 AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD SHALL BE PRESENTED:  
12 PROVIDED, THAT THE AUTHENTICATED BIRTH CERTIFICATE,  
13 THE PLACEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE FORMAL  
14 ENDORESEMENT OF THE CHILD TO THE INTER-COUNTRY  
15 ADOPTION BOARD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
16 AND DEVELOPMENT MUST *ALSO* BE PRESENTED;  
17

18 “[h)] (I) In case of discrepancy between the applicants name in the birth certificate and  
19 in any other PUBLIC OR private document[s], the former shall prevail over the  
20 latter unless by operation of law or through court order, the applicant is  
21 permitted to use A name other than what is officially recorded in the Civil  
22 Register; and  
23

24 “(j) If the applicant is a government **OFFICIAL OR** employee, the travel authority  
25 issued by the head of department, agency or office [may] **SHALL ONLY** be  
26 required [only if said applicant] **IF HE** is applying for A **DIPLOMATIC OR**  
27 an official passport.”  
28  
29

30 **SEC. 3.** Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
31

32 “**SEC. 6. Application.** The application [may] **MUST** be filed by **ANY OF THE**  
33 **FOLLOWING:**  
34

- 35 a) The applicant himself or herself; or  
36 b) The parent or legal guardian on behalf of an applicant who is below the age of  
37 majority [.I, A **SENIOR CITIZEN, OR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM**

1 ANY DISABILITY WHICH IMPAIRS HIS / HER MEANS OF  
2 COMMUNICATION, OR"

3  
4 "C) A TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY DULY ACCREDITED WITH  
5 THE DEPARTMENT.

6  
7 "In case of first time applicants, the applicant must present himself / herself in  
8 person to prove that he or she is the same person and of the age claimed in the  
9 application form. In case of renewal the application may be filed by any  
10 licensed travel agency duly accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs:  
11 *Provided*, That the agent shall be responsible for the authenticity or bona fide  
12 of the supporting documents being presented to meet the requirements for the  
13 application of passports.]"

14  
15 "IN CASE OF FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS, HE / SHE MUST  
16 PRESENT HIMSELF / HERSELF IN PERSON TO PROVE THAT HE  
17 / SHE IS THE SAME PERSON AND OF THE AGE CLAIMED IN THE  
18 APPLICATION FORM. THIS REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED  
19 WHEN THE APPLICANT IS NOT MORE THAN EIGHT (8) YEARS  
20 OLD, OR AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD, OR MENTALLY OR  
21 PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED.

22  
23 "IN CASE OF A PASSPORT APPLICATION FILED BY A  
24 RECRUITMENT OR TRAVEL AGENCY DULY ACCREDITED BY  
25 THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE AGENT SHALL  
26 BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE  
27 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SECURED AND PRESENTED BY THE  
28 AGENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION  
29 OF PASSPORTS.

30  
31 "THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE  
32 ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED IN THE  
33 SUPPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FORMULATED  
34 TO ENFORCE THIS LAW."

35  
36 SEC. 4. Section 7, subsections (a) and (b) of the same Act is hereby amended to  
37 read as follows:

1           “**SEC. 7. Types of Passports.** The Secretary or the authorized representative or  
2 consular officer may issue the following types of passports:

3  
4           “a) Diplomatic [passport] **PASSPORTS** [for persons imbued] **SHALL BE**  
5 **ISSUED TO PERSONS** with diplomatic status or are on a diplomatic mission  
6 such as:

7  
8           “1. The President and former Presidents of the Republic of the

9           “2. The Vice-president and former Vice-presidents of the Republic

10          “3. The **INCUMBENT** Senate President and the Speaker of the House of  
11           Representative

12          “4. The **INCUMBENT** Chief Justice of the Supreme Court **AND INCUMBENT**  
13           **ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE**  
14           **PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS;**

15          “5. The [Cabinet Secretaries,] **INCUMBENT SECRETARY**, [and the]  
16           Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Foreign  
17           Affairs;

18          “6. **INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS;**

19          “7. [6. Ambassadors, Foreign Service Officers of all ranks in the career  
20           diplomatic service. Attaches, and members of their families] **THE**  
21           **INCUMBENT SECRETARIES OF ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF**  
22           **THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH;**

23          “8. [7. Members of the Congress when on official mission abroad or as delegates  
24           to international conferences] **AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND**  
25           **PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES;**

26          “9. [8. The Governor of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* and delegates to  
27           international or regional conferences when on official mission or accorded full  
28           powers by the President; and] **CHIEFS OF MISSION, FOREIGN**  
29           **SERVICE OFFICERS OF ALL RANKS IN THE CAREER**  
30           **DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, INCLUDING DESIGNATED**  
31           **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ATTACHES AND**  
32           **DESIGNATED ATTACHES FROM ATTACHED AGENCIES OF THE**  
33           **GOVERNMENT;**

34          “10. [9. Spouses and unmarried minor children of the above mentioned officials  
35           when accompanying or following to join them in an official mission abroad.]  
36           **FORMAR AMBASSADORS EXTRAORDINARY AND**  
37           **PLENIPOTENTIARIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**



1           **AND FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS WITH THE RANK**  
2           **OF CHIEFS OF MISSION;**

3           “11. THE INCUMBENT GOVERNOR OF THE *BANGKO SENTRAL NG*  
4           *PILIPINAS;*

5           “12. **OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL**  
6           **CONFERENCES ACCORDED FULL POWERS BY THE PRESIDENT**  
7           **AND**

8           “13. **SPOUSE AND UNMARRIED MINOR CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE-**  
9           **MENTIONED OFFICIALS, WHEN ACCOMPANYING OR**  
10           **FOLLOWING THEM IN AN OFFICIAL MISSION ABROAD.**

11           “The President of the Philippines and the Secretary of the Department of Foreign  
12           Affairs may grant diplomatic passports to officials and persons other: than those  
13           enumerated herein who are on official mission abroad *AM)* **ARE GRANTED**  
14           **FULL POWERS BY THE PRESIDENT.**

15  
16           “b) Official [Passport] **PASSPORTS** [to be] **SHALL BE** issued to all  
17           government officials and employees on official trip abroad but who are not on a  
18           diplomatic mission [or delegates to international or regional conferences] **or** not  
19           have been accorded diplomatic status such as:

20  
21           “1. **INCUMBENT** Undersecretaries [and], Assistant Secretaries **of** the  
22           Cabinet other than the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Associate Justices **OF**  
23           **THE COURT OF APPEALS** and other members of the Judiciary [,] [members  
24           of the Congress] and all other government officials and employees traveling on  
25           [official business and] official time;

26  
27           “2. [Staff officers and employees **of** the Department **of** Foreign Affairs  
28           assigned to diplomatic and consular posts and officers and representatives of  
29           other government departments and agencies assigned abroad] **PAST SENATE**  
30           **PRESIDENTS AND SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE OF**  
31           **REPRESENTATIVES;**

32  
33           “3. [Persons in the domestic service and household members of officials  
34           assigned to diplomatic or consular posts] **RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICES AND**  
35           **ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT;**

36  
37           “4. [Spouses and unmarried minor children of the officials mentioned above  
38           when accompanying **or** following to join them.] **STAFF OFFICERS AND**

1 EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
2 ASSIGNED TO DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR POSTS AND OFFICES  
3 AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
4 ASSIGNED ABROAD, “

5  
6 “5. PERSONS IN THE DOMESTIC SERVICE AND HOUSEHOLD  
7 MEMBERS OF OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO DIPLOMATIC OR  
8 CONSULAR POSTS NOT EXCEEDING TWO (2); AND

9  
10 “6. SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN OF THE INCUMBENT  
11 OFFICIALS MENTIONED ABOVE, WHEN ACCOMPANYING OR  
12 FOLLOWING TO JOIN THEM”

13  
14 SEC. 5. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

15  
16 “SECTION. 8. *Grounds for Denial, Cancellation or Restrictions.* - The  
17 application for a passport may be denied, cancelled or restricted only on the  
18 following grounds:

19  
20 “a.) Denial Passport

21  
22 “1. [On orders of the court, after due notice and hearing, to hold the departure of  
23 an applicant because of a pending criminal case] **FAILURE OF THE**  
24 **APPLICANT TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS TO**  
25 **SUPPORT THE PASSPORT APPLICATION,**

26  
27 “2. When so requested by the **PARENT** [natural] or legal guardian, if the  
28 applicant is a minor;

29  
30 “3. [When the applicant has been found to have violated any of the provisions of  
31 this Act] **ON ORDERS OF THE COURT, AFTER DUE NOTICE AND**  
32 **HEARING, TO WITHHOLD THE PROCESSING OF A PASSPORT;**

33  
34 “4. **WHEN THE APPLICANT IS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE;**

35  
36 “5. **WHEN THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN CONVICTED BY FINAL**  
37 **JUDGMENT OF A CRIMINAL OFFENSE,**

1           “6. [Such other disqualification under existing laws.] **VIOLATION BY THE**  
2           **APPLICANT OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT**  
3           **NO. 8299, AS AMENDED;**

4  
5           “7. **UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE SECRETARY WHEN HE DEEMS**  
6           **IT NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR**  
7           **PUBLIC SAFETY;**

8  
9           “8. **CANCELLATION OF APPLICANT’S PASSPORT UNDER SECTION 8 (b)**  
10           **HEREOF; AND**

11  
12           “9. **SUCH OTHER DISQUALIFICATIONS UNDER EXISTING LAWS.**

13  
14  
15           **“b) Cancellation OF PASSPORT**

16  
17           “1. **When the holder is a fugitive from justice;**

18  
19           “2. **When the holder has] HAD been convicted BY FINAL JUDGMENT of a**  
20           **criminal offense: Provided, That [the passport may be restored after service of**  
21           **sentence] HE BECOMES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A NEW**  
22           **PASSPORT AFTER A GRANT OF PROBATION, SERVICE OF**  
23           **SENTENCE, GRANT OF CONDITIONAL OR ABSOLUTE PARDON,**  
24           **OR ISSUANCE OF AN AMNESTY, [or]**

25  
26           “3. **W h e n a passport was acquired fraudulently or, tampered with.] UPON**  
27           **FINDING BY THE SECRETARY OR HIS AUTHORIZED**  
28           **REPRESENTATIVE OR CONSULAR OFFICER OR UPON**  
29           **RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU**  
30           **OF IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION THAT A PASSPORT HAS**  
31           **BEEN ACQUIRED THROUGH FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION**  
32           **OR HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH SUBSEQUENT TO ITS RELEASE**  
33           **OR ISSUANCE; OR**

34  
35           “4. **UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE SECRETARY WHEN HE DEEMS**  
36           **IT NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR**  
37           **PUBLIC SAFETY.**

1  
2 “c) **ISSUANCE OF Restricted PASSPORTS**

3  
4 “1. When the country of destination is in a state of political instability AND  
5 [which] could pose a danger to the Filipino traveler;

6  
7 “2. When [diplomatic ties have been fractured or severed] **THE COUNTRY OF**  
8 **DESTINATION HAD SEVERED DIPLOMATIC TIES** with the  
9 Philippines;

10  
11 “3. When the country of destination is subject to travel restriction by government  
12 policy, enforcement [of] action by the United Nations, or **IS** in a state of war  
13 I.];”

14  
15 “4. **WHEN TRAVEL HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY A COMPETENT**  
16 **COURT OR BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO A**  
17 **SPECIFIED DESTINATION ONLY; AND**

18  
19 “5. **WH E N THE APPLICANT’S SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS APPEAR**  
20 **INADEQUATE TO ESTABLISH FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP AND THE**  
21 **TRAVEL IS FOR URGENT MEDICAL REASONS AS CERTIFIED BY**  
22 **A PHYSICIAN, OR TO ATTEND TO A SERIOUSLY ILL**  
23 **IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WITHIN THE SECOND DEGREE**  
24 **OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY.”**

25  
26  
27 **SEC. 6.** Section LO of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

28  
29 “**SEC. 10. *Validity.*** - Regular passports issued under this Act shall be valid for a  
30 period of five (5) years: *Provided, however,* That the issuing authority may limit  
31 the period of validity to less than five (5) years whenever [in the national  
32 economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary]  
33 **THE SECRETARY DEEMS THAT NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC**  
34 **SAFETY OR PUBLIC HEALTH SO REQUIRES OR WHENEVER THE**  
35 **APPLICANT’S SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS APPEAR INADEQUATE**  
36 **TO ESTABLISH FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP AND THE TRAVEL IS FOR A**  
37 **COMPELLING REASON AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE**  
38 **DEPARTMENT** *Provided, finally,* That a new passport may be issued to replace

1 one which validity has expired [, the old passport being returned to the holder  
2 after cancellation].“

3  
4 **“THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE TEN (10)YEAR VALIDITY**  
5 **PASSPORTS TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS**  
6 **ACT, AS AMENDED: PROVIDED, THAT NO SUCH PASSPORT SHALL**  
7 **BE ISSUED TO ANY INDIVIDUAL UNDER TWENTY (20) YEARS OLD.**

8  
9 **“DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED**  
10 **TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVALIDATION BEFORE EACH**  
11 **DEPARTURE OF THE HOLDER.“**

12  
13  
14 **SEC. 7.** Section 14 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as  
15 follows:

16  
17 **“SEC. 14. *Amendments.* - A passport may be amended at the request of the**  
18 **holder for any [lawful purpose, but such amendment should be approved by the**  
19 **Secretary or his duly authorized diplomatic or consular officers.] OF THE**  
20 **FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

21  
22 **“A) AMENDMENTS OF A WOMAN’S NAME DUE TO MARRIAGE; OR**

23  
24 **“B) AMENDMENT OF A WOMAN’S NAME DUE TO DEATH OF**  
25 **SPOUSE, ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE OR ISSUANCE OF A DIVORCE**  
26 **DECREE GRANTED BY A FOREIGN COURT CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE**  
27 **26 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
28 **NO. 227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE**  
29 **PHILIPPINES OF 1988.”**

30  
31 **“AMENDMENT MAY NOT BE MADE DUE TO ERROR IN SCRIPTING**  
32 **OR DISCREPANCY IN THE PERSONAL DATA OF THE HOLDER.**

33  
34 **“C) AMENDMENTS BY ORDER OF A COMPETENT COURT AND/OR**  
35 **PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9048.**

36  
37 [“Diplomatic and official passports shall be submitted for revalidation before each  
38 departure of the holder.]”

1  
2 **SEC. 8.** Section 16 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3

4 **“SEC. 16. Fees.** - Reasonable fees shall be collected for the processing, issuance,  
5 [extension] **EXTENSIONS**, amendment **or** replacement of a lost passport and the  
6 issuance of a Travel Document as may be determined by the Department:  
7 **Provided, however,** That any fee shall not be increased more than once every  
8 three (3) years.”  
9

10  
11 **SEC. 9.** Section 17 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 17. Passport Revolving Fund.** - The Department may charge a  
13 **REASONABLE** service fee [of not more than Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P250)]  
14 for such service rendered to applicants relating to the processing and issuance of  
15 passports requiring special consideration, waiver **or** issuance beyond regular  
16 office hours. The service fees received by the Department under this section shall  
17 constitute a revolving fund to be called the “Passport Revolving Fund” which may  
18 be utilized by the Department for the improvement of its passporting and consular  
19 services and other Department services except travel transportation allowances  
20 and expenses.  
21

22 “The setting up, use and disbursement of funds shall be subject to review,  
23 accounting and auditing rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit and  
24 will be subject to an annual review by Congress, but the Secretary will submit a  
25 report on the, disbursement of the fund every six (6) months to both the Senate  
26 and the House Committees on Foreign Relations.  
27

28  
29 **SEC. 10.** Section 19, subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the same Act are  
30 hereby amended and a new subsection to be designated as subsection (F) is hereby added  
31 to read as follows:  
32

33 **“SEC. 19. Offenses and Penalties.** - A passport, being a proclamation of [the]  
34 citizenship of a Filipino, [is a document that] is superior to all other [official]  
35 documents [.I, [As such]. AND AS SUCH, [it] should be accorded the highest  
36 respect by its holder [that to do damage to its integrity and validity is a serious  
37 crime that should be penalized accordingly’]. **ANY ACT PREJUDICIAL TO ITS**

1           **INTEGRITY IS A GRAVE CRIME OF SECURITY AGAINST THE**  
2           **STATE AND SHOULD BE PENALIZED ACCORDINGLY.**

3  
4           **a. *Offenses Relating to Issuance Is/; Penalties.*** -Any person who

5  
6           “1. Acting or claiming to act in any capacity or office under the Republic of the  
7           Philippines, without lawful authority, **ACCEPT PASSPORT**  
8           **APPLICATIONS**, grants, issues or verifies any passport or travel document  
9           to any or for any person whomsoever, **OR IS CAUGHT SELLING IN**  
10           **WHATEVER CAPACITY PASSPORT APPLICATION FORMS, OR**  
11           **LOST OR STOLEN PASSPORTS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS** shall  
12           be punished by a fine of not less than [Fifteen Thousand pesos (P15,000)]  
13           **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000)** nor more than [Sixty  
14           thousand pesos (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS**  
15           **(P75,000)** and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX**  
16           **(6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [six (6) **TWELVE!** (12)  
17           years; or

18  
19           “2. Being a diplomatic or consular official authorized to grant, issue, amend or  
20           verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, amends or verifies  
21           any such passport to any or for any person not owing allegiance to the  
22           Republic of the Philippines, whether citizen or not, shall be punished by a  
23           fine of not less than [Fifteen thousand pesos (P 15,000)] **TWENTY-FIVE**  
24           **THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000)** nor more than [*Sixty* thousand pesos  
25           (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P75,000)** and  
26           imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND**  
27           **ONE (1) DAY** but not more than [*six (6)*] **TWELVE (12)** years and upon  
28           conviction, be **PERPETUALLY** disqualified from holding [appointive]  
29           public office; **AND**

30  
31           “3. Being a diplomatic or consular officer knowingly and willfully grants and  
32           issues to, amends or certifies to the authenticity of any passport or travel  
33           document for any person not entitled thereto, or knowingly and willfully  
34           issues more than one passport to any person except as provided for in this Act  
35           shall be punished by a fine of not less than [Fifteen thousand pesos (P  
36           15,000)] **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000)** nor more than  
37           [Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS**  
38           **(P75,000)** and imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6)**

1           **YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [six (6) **TWELVE** (12) years  
2           and upon conviction, be **PERPETUALLY** disqualified from holding  
3           [appointive) public office.

4  
5           **“b) Offenses Relating to False Statements: Penalties.** - Any person who willfully  
6           and knowingly:

7  
8           **“1.** Makes any false statement in any application for passport with the intent to  
9           induce or secure the issuance of a passport under the authority of the  
10          Philippine Government, either for his own use or the use of another, contrary  
11          to this Act or rules and regulations prescribed pursuant hereto shall be  
12          punished by a fine of not less than [Fifteen thousand pesos (P 15,000)]  
13          **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS** (P25,000) nor more than [Sixty  
14          thousand pesos (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS**  
15          (P75,000) and imprisonment of not less than [three (3) years] **SIX (6)**  
16          **YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** nor more than [ten (10)] **TWELVE (12)**  
17          years; or

18          **“2.** Uses or attempts to use any passport which was secured in any way by reason  
19          of any false statements, shall be punished by a fine of not less than [Fifteen  
20          thousand pesos (P 15,000)] **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS**  
21          (P25,000) nor more than [Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-**  
22          **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS** (P75,000) and imprisonment of not less than  
23          [three (3) years] **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY**, but not more than  
24          [ten (10) **TWELVE (12)** years [; or]. **AND**

25  
26          **“3.** Travel and recruitment agencies whose **OFFICERS**, agents, liaison officers  
27          or representatives are convicted of offenses relating to false statements shall  
28          in addition to the fines and penalties above mentioned have their license  
29          revoked with all deposits, escrow accounts or guarantee funds deposited or  
30          made as a requirement of their business forfeited in favor of the government  
31          [without prejudice to the officials of the branch office or of the agency being  
32          charged as accessories to the offense and upon conviction barred from  
33          engaging in the travel or recruitment agency business]. **IN THE EVENT**  
34          **THAT AN AGENT, LIAISON OFFICER OR REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
35          **THE TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY IS CONVICTED, HE**  
36          **SHALL BE BARRED FROM ENGAGING IN THE TRAVEL OR**  
37          **RECRUITMENT AGENCY BUSINESS.**





1  
2 “4. Defaces or destroys a Philippine passport, shall be punished by a fine of not  
3 less than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) nor more than One hundred and  
4 fifty thousand pesos (P150,000) and imprisonment of not less than six (6)  
5 years nor more than fifteen (15) years.  
6

7 “TRAVEL AND RECRUITMENT AGENCIES WHOSE OFFICERS, AGENTS,  
8 LIAISON OFFICERS OR REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONVICTED OF  
9 OFFENSES RELATING TO IMPROPER USE SHALL BE BARRED FROM  
10 ENGAGING IN THE TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY BUSINESS.  
11

12 “e) *Offenses Relating to Multiple Possession: Penalties.* - No person or individual  
13 may hold more than one valid passport, except as provided for in Section 7  
14 hereof, and any individual who possesses more than one unexpired passport  
15 shall, for every unexpired passport found in his possession, be punished by a  
16 fine of not less [Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000)] **TWENTY-FIVE**  
17 **THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000)** nor more than [Sixty thousand pesos  
18 (P60,000)] **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P75,000)** and  
19 imprisonment of not less than [eighteen (18) months] **SIX (6) YEARS AND**  
20 **ONE (1) DAY** [but not] **NOR** more than [six (6)] **TWELVE (12) years:**  
21 Provided, That the maximum fine and imprisonment shall be imposed by the  
22 court if he attempts to use or actually uses an unexpired passport which is not  
23 in his name.  
24

25 “In case any of the offenses prohibited in this Act constitutes a violation of the  
26 Revised Penal Code and the penalty imposed in said Code is heavier than that  
27 provided in this Act, the latter shall be imposed.  
28

29 “F) *OFFENSES RELATING TO FORGERY OF VISAS, PERMITS AND*  
30 *OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENTS: PENALTIES.* – ANY PERSON WHO:  
31

32 “1. **KNOWINGLY FORGES, COUNTERFEITS, ALTERS, OR FALSELY**  
33 **MAKES ANY IMMIGRANT OR NON-IMMIGRANT VISA, PERMIT,**  
34 **BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD (ARC),**  
35 **OR OTHER DOCUMENT PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE OR**  
36 **REGULATION FOR ENTRY INTO OR AS EVIDENCE OF**  
37 **AUTHORIZED STAY OR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES**  
38 **OR ELSEWHERE, OR USES, ATTEMPTS TO USE, POSSESSES,**

1 OBTAINS, ACCEPTS, OR RECEIVES ANY SUCH VISA, PERMIT,  
2 BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT  
3 CARD, OR OTHER DOCUMENT PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE OR  
4 REGULATION FOR ENTRY INTO OR AS EVIDENCE OF  
5 AUTHORIZED STAY OR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES  
6 OR ELSEWHERE, KNOWING IT TO BE FORGED,  
7 COUNTERFEITED, ALTERED, OR FALSELY MADE, OR TO HAVE  
8 BEEN PROCURED BY MEANS OF ANY FALSE CLAIM OR  
9 STATEMENT, OR TO HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE PROCURED BY  
10 FRAUD OR UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE  
11 USE OF FORGED, COUNTERFEITED, ALTERED, OR FALSELY  
12 MADE VISA, PERMIT, BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN  
13 REGISTRATION CARD, OR OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENT SHALL  
14 BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF KNOWLEDGE: OR

15  
16 "2. EXCEPT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
17 FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICES,  
18 KNOWINGLY POSSESSES ANY BLANK PERMIT, OR ENGRAVES,  
19 SELLS, BRINGS INTO THE PHILIPPINES, OR HAS IN HIS  
20 CONTROL OR POSSESSION IN ANY PLATE OR IN THE  
21 LIKENESS OF A PLATE DESIGNED FOR THE PRINTING OF  
22 PERMITS, OR MAKES ANY PRINT, PHOTOGRAPH, OR  
23 IMPRESSION IN THE LIKENESS OF ANY IMMIGRANT OR  
24 NONIMMIGRANT VISA, PERMIT OR OTHER DOCUMENT  
25 REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO THE PHILIPPINES OR  
26 ELSEWHERE, OR HAS IN HIS POSSESSION A DISTINCTIVE  
27 PAPER WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
28 FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE PRINTING OF SUCH VISAS,  
29 PERMITS, OR DOCUMENTS SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A FINE OF  
30 NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000)  
31 NOR MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P75,000)  
32 AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN THREE (3) YEARS,  
33 BUT NOT MORE THAN TEN (10) YEARS: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE  
34 PERSON WHO FORGES, COUNTERFEITS, ALTERS OR FALSELY  
35 MAKES ANY IMMIGRANT OR NON-IMMIGRANT VISA, PERMIT,  
36 BORDER CROSSING CARD, ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD, OR  
37 OTHER ENTRY DOCUMENT SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A FINE OF  
38 NOT LESS THAN SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P75,000)

1 NOR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS  
2 (P200,000) AND IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6)  
3 YEARS NOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN (15) YEARS FOR EACH VISA  
4 OR ENTRY DOCUMENT.”

5  
6  
7 SEC. 11. Section 20 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

8  
9 “SEC. 20. *Suspension / REVOCATION of Accreditation.* - [Any duly  
10 accredited travel or recruitment agent or agency which violates the prescription  
11 on application for passport under Section 6 hereof shall have such accreditation  
12 suspended without prejudice to civil, criminal ‘of administrative sanctions  
13 including revocation of its license to operate.] **DULY ACCREDITED TRAVEL  
14 OR RECRUITMENT AGENCIES ARE ALLOWED THE PRIVILEGE TO  
15 TRANSACT BUSINESS, WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON THE BASIS OF  
16 TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. FOR THE EXERCISE OF THIS  
17 PRIVILEGE, TRAVEL AND RECRUITMENT AGENCIES SHALL BE  
18 REQUIRED TO SECURE ACCREDITATION FROM THE  
19 DEPARTMENT.**

20 “**ANY TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY WHICH VIOLATES  
21 ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL HAVE ITS ACCREDITATION  
22 SUSPENDED OR REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
23 SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES TO BE  
24 FORMULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT. SUCH SUSPENSION OR  
25 REVOCATION OF ACCREDITATION SHALL BE WITHOUT  
26 PREJUDICE TO CIVIL SERVICE OR CRIMINAL SANCTIONS  
27 AGAINST THE AGENCY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES.**

28  
29 “The [mere] submission of spurious, forged or falsified documents supporting a  
30 passport application by any duly accredited travel or recruitment agency shall be  
31 *prima facie* evidence that the said travel or recruitment agency is the author of  
32 such forgery or falsification: **PROVIDED, THAT THE SPURIOUS, FORGED  
33 OR FALSIFIED DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IS SECURED BY THE  
34 TRAVEL OR RECRUITMENT AGENCY IN BEHALF OF ITS CLIENT.**”

35  
36 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and  
37 regulations deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
38 modified accordingly.

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**SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect immediately following its complete and full publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*